



FRIDAY 20th SEP

3:00 - 5:00pm

**VENUE: Dept of Sociology
University of Delhi**

RSVP: Tila Kumar

tilasocio@yahoo.com / 99683 73848

Antisemitism and the Contemporary Temptation of Conspiracy Fantasy



David Hirsh

Senior Lecturer

Goldsmiths

University of London

Each new manifestation of anti-Jewish ideology begins with a critique of the old one. Antizionism facilitates a slippage from a largely Jewish critique of Jewish nationalist aspiration into an uncompromising hostility to an actually existing nation state. From a way of thinking about Israel and Palestine, it tends to coalesce as an '-ism', a worldview, an ideology. Antisemitisms have always positioned the Jews at the centre of all that is bad in the world; antizionism tends to do something similar. This paper looks at diverse critiques of Israel in their material and social contexts, it looks at their actualisation in living social movements. It looks at how what has been presented as the 'Jewish Question', a question premised on the exceptionalism of Jews, has always obscured the antisemitism question, a question about the construction of 'the Jews' as exceptional. The paper goes on to look at how temptations to conspiracy fantasy are finding opportunities today in the 'new populisms', both left and right.

David Hirsh is a senior lecturer at Goldsmiths, University of London

His first book was 'Law Against Genocide: Cosmopolitan Trials'

His latest book, 'Contemporary Left Antisemitism' is an analysis of this global phenomenon with a particular focus on the UK

