



## **Exploring India identities through the colonial relationship.**

**September 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, Cádiz.**

We invite seminar proposals on the complexities of Indian identities viewed through the lens of the colonial relationship. Whilst one may argue that post-independence is a more fitting term through which to view India's current global position, one cannot ignore Britain's colonial past. Keeping this in mind, the spirit of the seminar is to bring together contrasting viewpoints generated by the colonial and the post-colonial world relationship. Niall Ferguson's *How Britain Made the Modern World* and Sashi Tharoor's *Inglorious Empire: What the British Did to India* are two very contrasting narratives that bookend colonisation and its effects. Within this frame, we invite discussions on nuanced ways of looking at the complexities of the colonial relationship. The focus of the seminar is multidisciplinary: cinema, history, literature, sociology, and other fields of research can be used as a methodological starting point. Below is a guideline for possible topics that the seminars might focus upon. Other areas of interest are also welcome so as to broaden avenues of debate.

### **Class and caste.**

Ways in which colonialism reconfigured relationships of class and caste within the Indian sub-continent.

### **Colonialism and gender.**

An exploration of gender relationships, both past and present, within the sub-continent viewed through the colonial lens.

### **Colonialism and Partition**

The roles colonial politics played in the Partition of Bengal and the Punjab.

### **Indianness and whiteness.**

An exploration of Asian identity vis-a-vis the category of white. The ways in which the colonial administration helped configured this relationship, both within the sub-continent and in the diaspora.

### **India and indenture.**

The creating of a diasporic identity in East Africa, Mauritius, the Caribbean, Fiji, etc through the colonial practice of indenture. The question of in-betweenness as regards autochthonous and settler communities.

### **The Desi community in the US.**

The possible links between a colonial past and this community's self-image in the US.

Please send your seminar proposals to: [maurice.oconnor@uca.es](mailto:maurice.oconnor@uca.es)