

LECTURE

Emotional Histories of India in the Second World War

Mon 27 May 2024

17:00 hours s.t.

Centre for British Studies
Mohrenstr. 60, 10117 Berlin

Dr Diya Gupta

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In 1940s India, revolutionary and nationalistic feeling surged against colonial subjecthood and imperial war. Two-and-a-half million men from undivided India served the British during WWII, while three million civilians were killed by the war-induced Bengal Famine, and Indian National Army soldiers fought against the British for Indian independence.

This lecture uses the lens of emotions as a way of unearthing the troubled and contested roles of Indian men and women during wartime, exposing the personal as political. Photographs, letters, memoirs, novels, poetry and philosophical essays, in both English and Bengali languages are looked at, to recover a complex range of emotions felt by Indians in service and at home during the war. Seen through Indian eyes, this conflict no longer remains the 'good' war.

Educated at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India, University of Cambridge and King's College London, UK, Dr Diya Gupta is a literary and cultural historian interested in how visual culture, life-writing and literature respond to war. She is currently Lecturer in Public History at City, University of London, and was formerly Past & Present Fellow: Race, Ethnicity and Equality in History at the Royal Historical Society and the Institute of Historical Research.

Her first book, *India in the Second World War: An Emotional History* (Hurst Publishers & OUP, 2023), recovers and assesses an emotional history of undivided India during WWII.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Großbritannien-Zentrum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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Register at: events.gbz@hu-berlin.de

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