



Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

invites you to the

Dr. Rajyashree Khushu-Lahiri Annual Memorial Lecture, 2024



Lineages of Indian Feminist Thought Exploring a Historical Moment

by

V. Geetha

6 pm, Friday February 16, 2024

Lecture Hall 8



Late Dr. Khushu-Lahiri, an illustrious alumna of IIT Kanpur, obtained her PhD in English under the supervision of Professor R. K. Gupta. Her brilliant academic career is marked by a number of awards and recognitions including the Fulbright Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Minnesota, USA, UGC Postdoctoral Fellowship, Associateship at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla and the British Council Grant at Oxford University. Dr Khushu-Lahiri started her teaching career in St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad. In 2006, she joined the department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Roorkee, and later in 2011, she moved to IIT Ropar where she headed the department of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Prof. Somdeb Lahiri instituted *Dr. Rajyashree Khushu Lahiri Memorial Lecture Series* that is conducted by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences.



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In this talk I look at an important conjuncture in the making of contemporary feminist thought in India: between the late 1960s and the mid-1990s. These momentous decades saw Indian feminists mark new directions in their understanding of the social totality, as they grappled with diverse movements on the ground, and, equally, with notions of gender justice that these foregrounded. Two important thinkers wrote their observations and arguments into path-breaking essays and books – Gail Omvedt, from the early 1970s and Uma Chakravarti from the early 1980s went beyond established truisms to do with feminism and opened up a vast and new terrain of ideas that continue to be relevant today. I look at crucial aspects of their thought worlds, and the conditions in which these were constituted.

V. Geetha is a feminist historian, writer and publisher who writes in English and Tamil on caste, education, labour and gender. Her published work includes *Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar and the Question of Socialism in India*; *Undoing Impunity: Speech after Sexual Violence*; *Gender; Patriarchy*; and *Towards a Non Brahmin Millennium: from Iyothee Thass to Periyar* (co-authored with S. V. Rajadurai). She is currently editorial director, Tara Books (www.tarabooks.com).