The Imperial University: Academic Repression and Scholarly Dissent

Seminar with editors Piya Chatterjee and Sunaina Maira

Thursday, April 23, 2015
12:00pm
Andrews Conference Room, 2203 Social Sciences & Humanities Bldg.

The Imperial University (University of Minnesota Press, 2014) addresses the ways in which political protest and intellectual dissent in the US academy are increasingly being met with repressive tactics by administrators, politicians, and the police—from militarized responses to student protestors and the profiling of Muslim and Arab American students to the denial of tenure and dismissal of politically engaged faculty. This volume brings together scholars, including some who have been targeted for their open criticism of U.S. foreign policy and settler colonialism, to explore the policing of knowledge by explicitly linking the academy to the broader politics of militarism, racism, nationalism, and neoliberalism that define the contemporary imperial state.

The seminar will be based on discussion of the introduction of the book and engagement with faculty and students. The reading is available on www.mesa.ucdavis.edu

Piya Chatterjee is Backstrand Chair and Professor of Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Scripps College. She is a historical anthropologist by training and author of A Time for Tea and co-editor (with Parama Roy and Manali Desai) of States of Trauma: Gender and Violence in South Asia. Chatterjee has worked with rural women workers in eastern India to organize antiviolence literacy campaigns and programs and has also served on the National Collective of INCITE: Women of Color Against Violence.

Sunaina Maira is Professor of Asian American Studies at UCD. Her books include Desis in the House: Indian American Youth Culture in New York City and Missing: Youth, Citizenship, and Empire After 9/11. Maira’s recent publications include Jil [Generation] Oslo: Palestinian Hip Hop, Youth Culture, and the Youth Movement. Her new book project is a study of South Asian, Arab, and Afghan American youth in Silicon Valley and cross-ethnic coalitions focused on civil and human rights in the War on Terror.