



Department of Asian & Asian
American Studies
&
Charles B. Wang Center
present a lecture by

John Stratton Hawley
Barnard College, Columbia University

***Religion to Make a Nation:
India and the Idea of the Bhakti Movement***



Monday, March 26, 2012, 2:30 P.M. Main Theatre, Wang Center

Families have their genealogies and favorite stories; countries have their histories. What history succeeds better for a country than the one capable of molding its citizens into a family? In India, that has been the particular work of a narrative called “the bhakti movement” — *bhakti andolan* in Hindi. Here *bhakti* — the religion of the heart, of song and common participation — is seen as a force of history, something like the contagion of America’s Great Awakenings but spanning a millennium. It formed the religious bedrock that would ultimately, in the 20th century, make the nation possible.

Or so we have been taught. This lecture will explore the historical contingencies that actually created this received — and largely Hindu — common sense.

Jack Hawley is the author or editor of some fifteen books on Hinduism and the religions of India, including the forthcoming *India’s Real Religion: The Idea of the Bhakti Movement*, devoted to *bhakti*, the religion of song, of radical engagement, and of the heart. He has served as director of Columbia University’s South Asia Institute and has received awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Smithsonian, the American Institute of Indian Studies, and the Guggenheim Foundation.

This lecture is free and open to the public. All are cordially invited.

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