



Asian Studies Centre
St Antony's College, University of Oxford
South Asia Seminar, Week 6



Hindu Militarism, P.D. Tandon and the Politics of Scale in 1940s Uttar Pradesh



William Gould

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Tuesday February 21st, 2 p.m.
Fellows' Dining Room,
St Antony's College

There are two broad trends in historical scholarship on partition: On the one hand, older work traced high politics, and the 'end-game' of Empire. On the other, more recent and extensive histories recover partition experiences, refugee politics and everyday violence. Uttar Pradesh and its urban centres were not in partition's immediate hinterland but were pivotal, this paper argues, at an alternative scale of political mobilisation around volunteer movements. Taking P.D. Tandon's *Hind Rakshak Dal* as its central case study, it argues that early 1940s militaristic and drilling organisations were ideologically pivotal to the meaning of 'Pakistan' in UP. The paper draws some new conclusions about the significance of these movements' ideologies of violence to India's long partition.

William Gould is Professor of Indian History at the University of Leeds and has worked there since 2003. Before that he completed his BA and PhD at the University of Cambridge. His major publications include *Hindu nationalism and the language of politics in late colonial India* (2004), *Bureaucracy, Community and Influence* (2011) and *Religion and Conflict in South Asia* (2012). He is currently working on a co-authored monograph with Professor Sarah Ansari.

All are welcome

Convenor: Dr Faisal Devji

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Picture: 1982 Indian stamp showing P. D. Tandon.