

## **Autumn Academy**

### ***Fears, facts, and fascination: Western and Indian presentations of India***

**8-12 November 2009, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany**

For millennia, the cultural phenomenon called “India” has fascinated Europeans and captivated the attention of their scholars. From ancient and medieval times when ideas about the mythical and Elysian lands of the Indus region were widespread and later within the intellectual contexts of Orientalism, Romanticism, colonialism, and Postcolonialism, India has always been a screen onto which European desires, fears, and corresponding stereotypes have been projected. At the same time, within some of the oldest and richest intellectual traditions of human societies, India has responded to these ideas by assimilating or distancing itself from foreign depictions of its culture and thereby construing its own depictions of itself and of the West.

The goal of the Academy is to give selected predoctoral and doctoral students the opportunity to engage in fruitful interdisciplinary discussions with renowned Indian and Western scholars. Students will learn more about India, its dialogues and confrontations with Europe, and the mutual perceptions that have influenced the construction of what we call “India” or “Europe.” On a more general level, students will acquire a more thorough understanding of essentials and problems related to the meaning of “culture” and intercultural understanding that are encountered in various fields of the humanities and the social sciences.

#### **Invited Experts:**

*Umesh C. Chattopadhyaya*, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Ancient History, Culture and Archaeology, Allahabad University, India

*Girishwar Misra*, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Delhi, India

*Sanjay Seth*, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Politics, Goldsmith College, London, United Kingdom

*Pradeep Chakkarath*, Dr. phil., Social Psychology and Social Anthropology, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany

The Autumn Academy is a collaborative project of the Institute for the Advanced Study in the Humanities (Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut) in Essen, the Chair of Social Theory and Social Psychology at Ruhr-University Bochum, and the Foundation for Cultural Studies (Stiftung für Kulturwissenschaften) in Essen. The project is sponsored by the Foundation for Cultural Studies.

#### **Organization:**

*Pradeep Chakkarath*, Dr. phil., Social Psychology and Social Anthropology, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany

*Prof. Jörn Rüsen*, Dr. phil., Professor, Studium fundamentale, University Witten Herdecke, Germany

*Prof. Jürgen Straub*, Dr. phil., Professor, Chair for Social Theory and Social Psychology, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany