**Workshop on Violence, Economics, and Democracy: Narendra Modi and India's Future**

**Nov. 1, 2013, 2:30-5:00pm**

**158 Rike Hall**

This workshop will investigate the history of violence and sexual violence against minorities, particularly associated with the Gujarat Pogrom of 2002. During this pogrom, Muslims were the target of brutal violence at the hands of Hindus, with Muslim women and children suffering horrific acts of sexual violence. The Chief Minister of the state of Gujarat, Narendra Modi, under whose tenure this spate of violence occurred, was never formally tried. Yet his administration is popularly seen to have condoned the violence and perhaps even encouraged it. In spite of this, Modi has been popular with the Hindu majority in the country and is heralded as the face of the new economic policy regime in India. He has been recently anointed as the Prime Minister candidate of the current opposition party in the country. This workshop builds upon the example of Narendra Modi to discuss the implications for Indian democracy. Guest speakers are Mytheli Sreenivas (History & Women's Studies, Ohio State University) and Biju Mathew (Rider University, NJ).

**Dr. Mytheli Sreenivas** is Associate Professor of History and Women's, Gender, Sexuality Studies at Ohio State University. Her research and teaching focus on modern South Asian history, particularly on gender, colonialism, and nationalism. She is part of a team that recently won a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to organize a year-long series of events focused on the intersection of language, politics, and human expression in the Balkans and South Asia. She is author of *Wives, Widows, and Concubines: The Conjugal Family Ideal in Colonial India.*

**Dr. Biju Mathew** is Associate Professor of Business at Rider University, New Jersey.

He has worked with various social movements in South Asia for the past twenty years. He works on software labor markets and Hindu nationalism in the diaspora and has published in several academic journals. He is a co-host of a weekly radio show on WBAI, a co-founder of “Campaign to Stop Funding Hate" and the New York Taxi Workers Alliance, and is author of *Taxi! Cabs and Capitalism in New York City* (Cornell University Press, 2008, 2nd ed.).

**This event is free and open to the public. It is co-sponsored by the Departments of Economics, English, Religion, Women’s Studies, and the Women’s Center.**