“Be the Change You Want to See in the World”: Youth Social Action in India

Public Lecture

Over the past ten years there has been a remarkable rise in the number of social movements in which young people try to ‘prefigure’ the world that they want to exist: so-called ‘prefigurative politics’. In addition, at the ground level, the idea of “being the change you want to see in the world” and using this to try to change aspects of society, is quite ubiquitous. This talk will examine the nature and effectiveness of such prefigurative action drawing on long-term ethnographic fieldwork among youth in north India. We argue that young people’s efforts to “be the change” in the fields of education, health, infrastructural development, and environmental change are having important effects on the north Indian social landscape. Professor Jeffrey will ask the audience to reflect on instances in which they think that ‘being the change’ has been effective or ineffective with a view to opening up a wide ranging discussion of youth and prefigurative action.

Professor Craig Jeffrey is Director of the Australia India Institute and former Professor of Development Geography at the University of Oxford and Official Fellow of St. John’s College. He is a leading authority on South Asian youth and also writes on Indian democracy, educational transformation, globalization, and the ‘social revolution’ that he sees occurring across India in the Twenty-First Century. Craig’s partner, Jane Dyson, has made a film about their work in India: www.lifelinesfilm.com

When       Wednesday 23 March 2016, 5.30 pm
Where       Centenary Lecture Theatre, Centenary Building, Sandy Bay, University of Tasmania

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