

Institute Lecture

What happens when Ravana moves to the Center?

Professor Paula Richman
Emeritus William H Danforth Professor,
South Asian Religions at Oberlin College, Ohio, USA



15th January 2018, Time: 6:15 PM, Venue: LH-17

Abstract

Most plays in Hindu Ramayana tradition depict Ravana as Rama's opposite but the talk will examine scenes from three modern productions in which Ravana takes center stage and Rama is absent or at the margins, showing how the playwrights represent Ravana's aspirations for his family, lineage, and kingdom.

About the speaker

Professor Paula Richman is Emeritus William H Danforth Professor of South Asian Religions at Oberlin College, Ohio, USA. She is a well-known scholar of the Ramayana tradition which consists of the Sanskrit epic and its numerous Indian language versions. She has edited and contributed to three seminal volumes – Many Ramayanas, Questioning Ramayanas and Ramayana Stories in Modern South Asia. She is also a scholar of Tamil language and literature. In addition to publishing two books on Tamil poetry, she recently completed a book on 20th century retellings of the Ramayana in Tamil. She has received a Guggenheim Fellowship and several grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Institute of India Studies.

Tea at 6.00 PM

All interested are welcome.

S. Ganesh
Dean of Research and Development, IIT Kanpur