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College of Arts and Sciences

MATTOO CENTER FOR INDIA STUDIES

Presents...

The Rajesh and Sonali Kakani Distinguished Lecture Series in India Studies

Selected for Success: The Extraordinary Migration and Rise of Indians in America

Professor Sanjoy Chakravorty, Temple University

In three decades, Indian immigrants and their descendants in the US have grown from an invisible minority to about 1.5 percent of the population that is also by far the most educated and highest earning group of any national origin or racial identity. This is the result of a massive and globally unprecedented flow of skilled Indian-born workers for the booming information technology and related industries beginning in the mid-1990s. These workers were the beneficiaries of a triple selection process: by caste and a rigorous examination system (both in India), and an US visa policy favoring computer, engineering, and science degree holders. This talk details this process, paying attention to specific enabling actions by the state and private actors in India and the US, the changing demographic and economic conditions of the new immigrants, and a brief exploration of the second generation and its characteristics.



Sanjoy Chakravorty is Professor of Geography, Environment and Urban Studies and Director of Global Studies at Temple University and Visiting Fellow at the Center for the Advanced Study of India at the University of Pennsylvania. He has authored many academic papers and chapters and nine books on subjects like information and identity, land, the Indian diaspora, income distribution, industrialization, urbanization, and a novel. His research has been funded by the NSF, NIJ, the World Bank, and American Institute of Indian Studies. His writings have won prizes in India, the US and the UK. He writes a monthly column for Mint.

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