

South Asian Religions Distinguished Lectureship

Prof. Sumathi Ramaswamy

Professor of History, Duke University

A Historian Among the Goddesses of Modern India

Friday, March 11, 2011

5:30 pm

Birks Heritage Chapel
3520 University, 2nd Floor

Sumathi Ramaswamy is Professor of History at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina and Executive Director of the North Carolina Center for South Asian Studies. Prior to this appointment, she was Professor of History at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and Assistant Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. She pursued her M.A. and M.Phil. in ancient Indian history at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. She also has a Master's in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania, and graduated with a Ph.D. in History from the University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of *The Goddess and the Nation: Mapping Mother India* (Duke University Press, 2010), *The Lost Land of Lemuria: Fabulous Geographies, Catastrophic Histories* (University of California Press, 2004), and *Passions of the Tongue: Language Devotion in Tamil India, 1891–1970* (University of California Press, 1997). Her edited volumes include *Barefoot Across the Nation: Maqbool Fida Husain and the Idea of India* (Routledge, 2010), and *Beyond Appearances? Visual Practices and Ideologies in Modern India* (Sage, 2003). She is currently working on a project entitled "Global Itineraries: The Indian Travels of a Worldly Object." She is co-founder of a trans-national digital network for popular South Asian visual culture called Tasveer Ghar (House of Pictures) (www.tasveerghar.net)

The South Asian Religions Distinguished Lectureship was established in 2009 to complement the strong undergraduate and graduate programs on South Asia in the Faculty of Religious Studies at McGill, and to encourage public understanding of South Asian religions. It has been made possible through the generosity of Professor Robert Stevenson, Professor of Comparative Religion at McGill from 1966 to 1991.