

Invites you to a Public Talk

Facets of Dalit Consciousness

Dalit resistance acquired its new insurgent character in colonial period. Dalits cherished the path of caste reforms for upward class and caste mobility. The mediations of colonial modernity and particularly ideology of Mahatma Phule gave radical turn to Dalit resistance displaying rationalistic mood. The Dalit uprising challenged hegemonic construct of caste and offered material, religious and social analysis of exploitation of caste and untouchability and engaged with history and or historicized/ inverted mythology for deriving insurgent subject position of Dalits. Dalit struggle under Dr. Ambedkar reached to its peak. This certainly brought several shifts in the Dalit consciousness. The Dalit insurgency was marked by the self-respect struggles against Brahmanism which envisaged counter cultural initiative. The caste, class interests made them aware about their antagonism with Hinduism and hegemonic nationalism. They not only launched material struggle against caste but forged unity with class struggles. By forsaking the stigmatized condition of exploited untouchable labour they accepted emergent world of class labour. Broadly his lecture will unfold changing facets of Dalit consciousness from pre-colonial to colonial Maharashtra by picking up the questions about ideological and cultural structures inhabiting Dalit consciousness, about ideological mediations, about ideas of selfhood, about political economy of caste and the way Dalits given up the stigmatized condition of exploited labour.



Umesh Bagade, Professor, Dept of History, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, received his BA, MA, MPhil and PhD degrees from Pune University. He has research in the history of anti-caste movements, intellectual and social history of modern Maharashtra, historiography, studies of caste economy and history of caste gender consciousness. His book, *Reform Movement of Maharashtra and Caste-Class Hegemony (Marathi)* (Sugawa prakashan, 2006) theorizes the dynamics of religious ideologies entrapped in caste-class contradictions of 19th century Maharashtra. It offers critical analysis of abortive modernity predicated under caste-class and gender politics and unfolds the trajectory hegemonic and counter- hegemonic dimensions of social reform movement. His biography of Mahatma Jotirao Phule situates Phule as the major thinker who tried to build alternative culture in 19th century Maharashtra. He has served as Director of Rajashri Shahu Maharaj Research Center. He also worked as the member of editorial board of *Shrivani* and *Samaj Prabodhan Patrika*; he worked in various capacities on the board of studies in different universities and also worked as member of advisory Board of center of freedom struggle IGNOU New Delhi. He also availed three terms of associateship at IAS Shimla contributing important research articles. He is president of Nana Patil Academy working as collaborative intellectual intervention in social transformation.