



Robert Diaz, Assistant Professor, Women & Gender Studies
Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-0710 ext. 4277 or rdiaz@wlu.ca

Kevin Crowley, Director, Communications & Public Affairs
Wilfrid Laurier University
519-884-0710 ext. 3070 or kcrowley@wlu.ca

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Renowned scholar on theatre and Indian nationalism Nandi Bhatia to lecture at Laurier

WATERLOO – Can theatre and dramatic performances serve as interesting ways to understand nationalism in colonial and postcolonial India? Nandi Bhatia, a renowned scholar in English, postcolonial and performance studies, will cover this and other questions during a public lecture at Wilfrid Laurier University's Waterloo campus March 22.

"Professor Bhatia's work makes an important contribution to an understanding of colonial legacies and the ways in which women have resisted them in the past, or may continue to do so in the future," said Shahnaz Khan, professor of Global Studies and Women and Gender Studies. "Her work is particularly focused on popular forms of resistance such as theatre and film. Thus, she will provide important information on the possibilities and pitfalls of these multiple performance practices in the postcolonial context."

A professor of English and associate dean of research at the University of Western Ontario, Bhatia's research examines the role of theatre and performance in the historical context of nationalism and colonialism. She has published two books on the topic: *Acts of Authority/Acts of Resistance: Theater and Politics in Colonial and Postcolonial India* (University of Michigan Press, 2004) and *Performing Women/Performing Womanhood: Theatre, Politics and Dissent in North India* (Oxford University Press, 2010).

Her lecture, titled "'Seditious, Obscene or Otherwise Prejudicial To Public Interest': The Drama of Censorship and the Censorship of Drama in India," takes place from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. in room 2-105 in the Dr. Alvin Woods Building.

The event is sponsored by Laurier's Cultural Analysis and Social Theory Program, and is open to the public. For more information, contact Robert Diaz at rdiaz@wlu.ca.

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