

Humanities Seminar Series



Azim Premji
University

Date
21st October

Venue
B2-FG-04

Time
1:10-2:20 pm

RECENT HISTORIES OF INDIAN ECONOMIC THOUGHT: A CRITICAL SURVEY

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Abstract: In this paper, I survey recently published books and articles devoted to the history of Indian economic thought. I critically analyze biographical histories, conceptual histories, and institutional histories. Thus, I survey the economic ideas of D. Naoroji, B.R. Ambedkar, J.C. Kumarappa, P.J. Thomas and K. Bharadwaj within biographical histories. As part of conceptual histories, the contributions of Arun Bose, Sukhamoy Chakravarty, and Gautam Mathur to the development of Sraffian political economy are discussed. This is followed by a discussion of the various ways in which Indian economists contributed to the understanding of development by producing concepts and highlighting specificities of the Indian context. Under institutional histories, I look at the history of professionalization in the discipline of economics in pre-independent India. And I end by highlighting the need for critical scholarship in the history of Indian economic thought.

Bio: Alex teaches at Azim Premji University. His area of research is the history of economic thought. His book *Macroeconomics: An Introduction* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2021.