India Today:
Democracy, Development, and International Influence
A Panel Discussion in Celebration of International Education Week, Nov. 14-18, 2011:
India: Unity in Diversity

Wednesday, Nov. 16
LaRose Digital Theater, Koury Business Center
5:00 p.m.

Moderated by Jason Kirk (Political Science) and Featuring:

Neil DeVotta
Associate Professor of Political Science
Wake Forest University

Anirudh Krishna
Professor of Public Policy and Political Science
and Associate Dean for International Academic Programs
Duke University

Meenu Tewari
Associate Professor of City and Regional Planning
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Jason Kirk, Moderator
Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Studies
Elon University
Neil DeVotta’s research interests include South Asian security and politics, ethnicity and nationalism, ethnic conflict resolution, and democratic transition and consolidation. His current research examines the links between nationalist ideologies and communal violence in South Asia. He is the author of Blowback: Linguistic Nationalism, Institutional Decay, and Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2004). In addition to coauthoring and editing books on Sri Lanka and India, respectively, his publications have appeared in Nations and Nationalism, Journal of Democracy, Commonwealth and Comparative Politics, Pacific Affairs, Asian Survey, Civil Wars, Journal of International Affairs, and Contemporary South Asia. Prior to joining the Wake Forest faculty in 2009, DeVotta was associate professor of political science at Hartwick College (NY). He holds a Ph.D. in government from the University of Texas at Austin (2001), and M.A. (1994) and B.A. (1992) from Brigham Young University.

Anirudh Krishna’s research investigates how poor communities and individuals in developing countries cope with the structural and personal constraints that result in poverty and powerlessness. His most recent book, One Illness Away: Why People Become Poor and How they Escape Poverty (Oxford University Press, 2010), examines poverty dynamics at the household level, tracking movements into and out of poverty of over 35,000 households in 400 communities of India, Kenya, Uganda, Peru and North Carolina, USA. Krishna has published more than 40 journal articles and book chapters. Other books include Poverty, Participation and Democracy: A Global Perspective (Cambridge University Press, 2008) and Active Social Capital: Tracing the Roots of Development and Democracy (Columbia University Press, 2002). Before turning to academia, Krishna worked for 14 years in the Indian Administrative Service, where he managed diverse initiatives related to rural and urban development. He earned a Ph.D. in government from Cornell University (2000) and a master’s in economics from the Delhi School of Economics (1980).

Meenu Tewari works on the political economy of economic and industrial development, poverty alleviation, small firms, and the urban informal economy from a comparative, institutional perspective. She teaches in the areas of economic development, historical and institutional analysis of development processes, and microeconomics. Her research explores why, and under what conditions, are some regions, firms, workers and institutions more able to deal resiliently and innovatively with the pressures of globalization than others. She is the author of numerous articles, book chapters, and policy reports, including Intraregional Trade and Investment in South Asia: The Case of the Textile and Clothing Industry (Asian Development Bank, 2008. She is a member of the Research and Advisory Committee of the Institute of Small Enterprise Development in India, and has served as a consultant with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Bank, International Labor Organization, ADB, and Inter-American Development Bank. Tewari taught at MIT from 1997 to 1999 as lecturer in Economic Development and Urban Planning. She holds a Ph.D. in economic development, international and regional planning, and M.C.P. and S.M. Arch. S. in economic development, housing and human settlements, all from MIT, and a B. Arch from the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi.

Jason A. Kirk is Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Studies at Elon University. His research analyzes democratic politics, political economy, and international relations in contemporary India. He is the author of India and the World Bank: The Politics of Aid and Influence (Anthem Press, 2010), which examines the evolution of World Bank assistance in India with a focus on sub-national lending and the federal politics of economic reform following the 1990s liberalization. His articles and essays have appeared in Asian Affairs, Foreign Policy Analysis, and India Review, and he has written chapters on India's political economy and foreign policy for two edited volumes from Oxford University Press. His current research examines the recent record of crisis diplomacy between India and Pakistan, and diplomatic interventions by the United States, since the two rivals acquired nuclear weapons capabilities in the 1990s. He is also researching the rise of Indian-American political activism and its role in shaping U.S. foreign policy toward South Asia. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Pennsylvania (2005) and a B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1997).