

'Global Indians': Exploring identity and integration in three Indian diaspora communities?

Conférence en anglais

Par

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mardi 13 mai 2014

à 18 heures

amphithéâtre Simone Weil
5, allée Jacques Berque, Nantes

"Today, Indian diaspora communities are spread over 110 countries, stretching across all oceans and continents. Their remittance is estimated at 70 billion dollars. These 'Global Indians' are over 20m strong. In 10 countries they exceed the half million mark.

Yet, what do we know about Indian Jews in Israel? Indian Americans in US politics? Or fourth-generation Indians in Guadeloupe?

Indian-origin communities are marked by immense diversity. Chronology, history, geography and spatial dispersion have all shaped their post-migration lives. Nationalism, immigrant policies and perception of the 'other' have facilitated or hindered their integration in 'host' societies. Their own negotiations with identity, community-building and inter-generational cultural transmission are reflected in their contemporary diasporic formations.

Drawing from primary ethnographic research conducted in Israel, The United States and Guadeloupe, this presentation will examine three less-known Indian-origin communities to reflect on issues of migration, and integration ; mobility and mobilization as diaspora communities evolve their identities in relation to social and economic structures in their adopted 'homelands'.

Findings reveal that concepts of 'home' and 'homeland'; self and Other, remain dynamic and contested, yet also capable of generating powerful notions of belonging to an 'unseen' homeland..."

Maina Singh