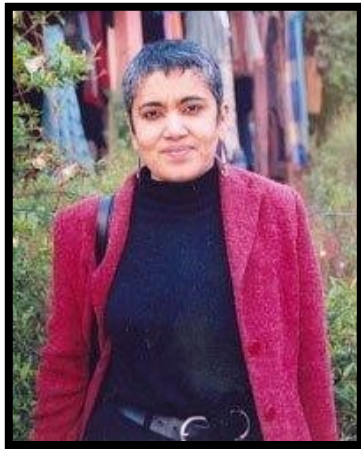


The Department of History Colloquium
Series presents the
3rd Annual Driedger Lecture
sponsored by the Driedger Fund
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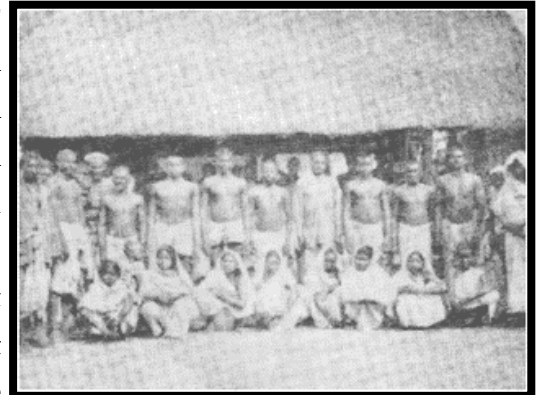
the Prentice Institute
for Global Population and Economy



*Anatomy of a Protest: The
Abolition of Indian Indentured
Labor in the British Empire*

Dr. Mrinalini Sinha
(University of Michigan)

Kunti, a dalit ("untouchable" caste) woman, became the poster child for the nation-wide movement in India against the abolition of the system of indentured labor in 1917. The system, managed by the colonial government in India, had supplied approximately 1.3 million workers from India to plantations overseas in the aftermath of the abolition of Atlantic slavery in the 1830s. This paper explores how a woman at the very bottom of the caste hierarchy in India became the face for an empire-wide change. It will argue that Kunti's role in the movement illustrates an important dimension of the abolitionist movement: the construction of the "people" (or the *demos*) as the subject of a new kind of politics in late colonial India.



Date: Friday, February 2, 2018

**Location: PE-250 (Sports & Wellness Building,
University of Lethbridge)**

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Reception to follow presentation.

Mrinalini Sinha is a historian of colonial India and of the British empire. She is the Alice Freeman Palmer Professor of History at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and a former President of the Association of Asian Studies. She is the author of *Colonial Masculinity: The 'manly Englishman' and the 'effeminate Bengali' in the late 19th century* (1995) and *Specters of Mother India: The Global Restructuring of an Empire* (2006). She is currently working on a book on the politics of the interwar period in India.

The Driedger Fund supports the study of history through scholarships and special events, and is made possible by Dr. Gerhard Driedger's children to honour their father's lifelong love of history.