

Saying “No” to Gandhi and Nehru: C. Rajagopalachari and Indian Politics

A LECTURE BY

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CASI-NIF Spring 2009 Visiting Scholar
Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI)

ABOUT THE LECTURE

Hailed by Mohandas Gandhi as his conscience keeper, Chakravarthi Rajagopalachari (1878-1972) had the courage to say “no” to the Mahatma over the Quit India movement. Affectionately known as C.R. and Rajaji, he articulated how the Mahatma’s ideas and practices could be reconciled with the needs of a modern nation state in a manner strikingly different from that of Jawaharlal Nehru. Consequently, he found himself saying “no” many more times than he had done with the Mahatma. Drawing from her recently published work titled *Gandhi’s Conscience Keeper*, Dr. Srinivasan explores the rationale underlying his opposition to Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar. Probing his ideas regarding Pakistan, “slogan socialism,” Hindi as official language, and linguistic reorganization, she asks whether he was just a retired politician angling for attention or whether his experience reflects the genuine risks of statesmanship in a democratic context.

DATE: Monday, April 27, 2009

TIME: 12 noon to 1:30 pm

VENUE:

CASI
3600, Market Street, Suite 560
University of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Please **RSVP** in advance by
Email: casi@sas.upenn.edu
Fax: 215.573.2595
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Light refreshments will be served

<http://casi.ssc.upenn.edu/>

DR. VASANTHI SRINIVASAN is a Reader in Political Science at the University of Hyderabad. She earned her Ph.D. at Carleton University, Ottawa where she worked on the notions of freedom and community in select western and Indian thinkers. She has previously taught at Lady Shri Ram College in Delhi and the College of Humanities in Ottawa. Her research interests are mainly in the areas of comparative political thought and the interface between technology and politics. She is the author of *Gandhi’s Conscience Keeper: C. Rajagopalachari and Indian Politics*, to be published by Permanent Black (2009).



Dr. Srinivasan is a recipient of a New India Foundation (NIF) fellowship, and is CASI’s second visiting scholar to be co-sponsored by NIF. The New India Foundation seeks to address different aspects of India’s independence by sponsoring researchers to conduct high quality studies on India’s modern history.