



## The Mumbai Münster Institute of Advanced Studies (MMIAS) University of Mumbai

**Senior Fellowship Lecture 2023-2024**

A Hybrid Event: In-person and on Zoom

### Through the Looking Glass and the Prismatic Lens: Earth 1947 A Backward Glance

By

**Professor Sridhar Rajeswaran**

Senior Fellow and Member, Advisory Board, MMIAS, University of Mumbai

**Date: 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 | Time: 03:00 - 5:00 PM IST**

Bapsi Sidhwa's bearing -witness testimony to the horrific memory of a Cracking India and Deepa Mehta's reimagined landscape of memory of that traumatic moment in history is the focus of this talk.

The backward glance of course belongs to Walter Benjamin's, 'eyes staring, mouth open, wing-arrested Angelous novus', impelled backwards into the future and is powerless to stem the wreckage, awaken the dead or make whole what has been smashed.

When the Earth cracked, 'and a free but fickle God never complained' what could a mere angel, a crippled walled- in child of nine do, other than peer through the looking glass and live to tell the story and which she does, through words, that in us, each time and every time, fresh images begets.

Mehta, due to her own personal participation in the trauma as received memory, is likewise stunned by those floating images, 'images that are shade more than image, more image than a shade'. Haunted and horrified by the spectres she captures them through the prism of her lens in frozen frames, in moving languages, through voiceless screams and stilling silences.



Sridhar Rajeswaran's creative and critical interests are in the areas of Poetry and Drama. His doctoral thesis was on Modernist poetry with specific reference to the poetry of William Butler Yeats. As regards diaspora studies his publications are in the area of diasporic Indian cinema read with the backdrop of other literary works and theories. He has presented papers, delivered talks, taught at universities in India and abroad and was DAAD Visiting Professor in the universities of Muenster, Koln, Bonn and Dusseldorf. He has read his poems and plays in various forums and was a poet in residence at the University of Dusseldorf. Sridhar Rajeswaran is

currently Senior Research Fellow with MMIAS, Mumbai.

**Hosted by: Professor Dr. Nilufer E. Bharucha, Co-Director, MMIAS  
University of Mumbai**

**Venue: Room No. 102, MMIAS, Ranade Bhavan, University of Mumbai, Kalina  
Santacruz East, Mumbai 400098**

**Zoom Link:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81691790890?pwd=w0WPIBx4tsVwyRzNe4dmWbDxKZcWpz.1>

**Meeting ID: 816 9179 0890 | Passcode: 147622**