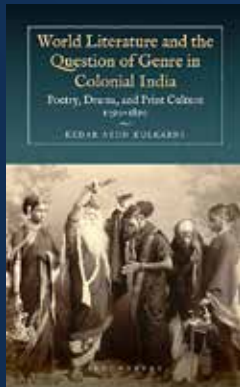# ROMANTICISM AND CANONICITY: LESSONS FROM THE COLONIAL MARGINS

KEDAR KULKARNI

Speaker
Kedar Kulkarni
FLAME University, Pune, India

Date and venue
March 18 (Mon), 4 – 5:30 p.m.,
H1120, Concordia University

Co-sponsored by
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Southern Asia Studies (Department
of Religions and Cultures)

More details

Abstract:
In his recent book, *World Literature and the Question of Genre in Colonial India*, Kedar A. Kulkarni demonstrates a minor literature's convergence with and divergence from global literary movements, genres, and technologies in the nineteenth century. In this talk, he presents two arguments, about Marathi literature's relationship with a global romanticism and the "gift" to the colonizer, and about editorial processes and the creation of canonical authors and poets. Both global romanticism as well as the editorial process were instrumental in refashioning Indian literatures as one node within a global circuit—and they also enable us to see how definitions of literature changed as a result. Part intellectual history, part literary studies, and part colonial history, Kedar approaches his work through a variety of lenses to showcase how purportedly minor languages and literatures are nonetheless consequential for how we understand literary studies today.

Bio:
Kedar A. Kulkarni is a literary and performance historian who situates Indian literature and performance within global paradigms, borrowing lenses from colonial and postcolonial studies, comparative literature, and theatre and performance studies. He has written about slavery and caste in south Asia, aspects of intellectual history and theory, book history, canonicity, and Marathi theatre and performance. He is an Associate Professor of Literary and Cultural Studies at FLAME University, India. His first book, *World Literature and the Question of Genre in Colonial India: Poetry, Drama, and Print Culture 1790-1890* (Bloomsbury 2022) won the American Comparative Literature Association's Helen Tartar First Book Subvention Grant.

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