



O.P. Jindal Global University
A Private University Promoting Public Service
NAAC Accreditation - 'A' Grade



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH &
CAPACITY BUILDING
Institution Building for Nation Building
O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

**International Institute for
Higher Education Research and Capacity Building
&
Centre for Comparative and Global Education**

cordially invite you to participate in

THINKING THURSDAYS: IIHed Research Seminar Series

on

**CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE OF
J. KRISHNAMURTI'S WORLD-VIEW
AND EDUCATIONAL THOUGHT**

by



Professor Meenakshi Thapan, Ph.D

Faculty of Sociology and
Co-ordinator, D.S. Kothari Centre for Science, Ethics and Education
University of Delhi

Date: Thursday, 11 May 2017 | Time: 11:00 am
Venue: IIHed Seminar Room, T1, 2nd Floor
O. P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat-131001, Haryana



Jindal Global Law School
India's First Global Law School



**JINDAL GLOBAL
BUSINESS SCHOOL**
INDIA'S FIRST MULTI-DISCIPLINARY GLOBAL BUSINESS SCHOOL



Jindal School of International Affairs
India's First Global Policy School



**Jindal School of Government
and Public Policy**
India's First Public Policy School



**Jindal School of
Liberal Arts & Humanities**
India's First Transnational Humanities School



**Jindal School of
Journalism & Communication**
India's First Global Media School

Faculty Coordinator: Dr. Mousumi Mukherjee, Assistant Director, IIHed, mmukherjee@jgu.edu.in

Abstract

Krishnamurti was a radical teacher who spent his life giving talks around the world about the problems that beset humanity and the need for change. Krishnamurti's relevance lies in his understanding of the contemporary human condition when humans can no longer be passive observers in a deeply divided and self-destructive world. Agency in this context I argue cannot remain a personal, individual 'phenomenon' but is in fact connected to the pursuit of ethics for 'goodness' in the global human condition. Such a perspective seeks to further engage with the possibilities that are opened up through an expanded understanding of how we perceive and engage with the world. Krishnamurti posits that such an engagement does not take place in an aspired-for space but in the present. It is in the everyday that Krishnamurti seeks out change beginning with the individual and her world, both personal and social. This premise foregrounds his emphasis on alternative educational practice as the medium through which social change is possible. At the same time, education is not an objective instrument but a deeply nuanced method for the transformation of consciousness and social change. His argument is that no external factor could help us undertake this change; it has to be an inner 'revolution'. This is a moral imperative about the nature of change as it is rooted in a moral injunction about self-transformation before social change. Such a view carries with it the obligation to look inwards as being prior to attempting to engender social movements or processes that could lead to change. I will also briefly talk about the schools and rural education programmes of the Krishnamurti Foundation (India) including a new online distance-learning programme for teacher education that is under preparation.

Short Bio of Speaker

Professor Meenakshi Thapan Ph.D, is Professor of Sociology at the Delhi School of Economics, and Co-ordinator of the D.S. Kothari Centre for Science, Ethics and Education, University of Delhi. She has been Co-ordinator of the European Studies Programme (funded by the European Union, 2010-2011), University of Delhi. She is also a Trustee of the Krishnamurti Foundation (India) since 2012. Meenakshi's work in the field of education has focused on schools and schooling processes in India and in Vancouver and Paris. Her first book was *Life at School: An Ethnographic Study* (Oxford University Press, 1991, second edition, 2006) and the most recent are *Education and Society: Themes, Perspectives, Practices* (ed.) (Oxford University Press, 2015), *Ethnographies of Schooling in Contemporary India* (ed.) (SAGE, 2014), *Living the Body: Embodiment, Womanhood and Identity in Contemporary India*. (SAGE, 2009) and *Contested Spaces: Citizenship and Belonging in Contemporary Times* (ed.) (Orient Blackswan, 2010). She is also Series Editor of a Series on the Sociology and Social Anthropology of Education in South Asia (SAGE 2015-2017) and of a five volume series on Women and Migration in Asia (SAGE, 2005-2008). A new Series on Education and Society is underway with Oxford University Press (2018-2022).