



Kamala Nehru College
University of Delhi
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Department of Philosophy

organises and invites you to

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Memorial Lecture



Speaker: **Dr. Aakash Singh Rathore**
Title of address: **Ethics of Critical Thinking**

Date: **6th September 2017**

Time: **11.00 AM**

Venue: **New Seminar Room**

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Aakash Singh Rathore is a professor, author and an Ironman triathlete. He is a Visiting Professor at the Centre for Philosophy, Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi, India), and Director of the International Research Network for Religion and Democracy (www.irnrd.org). He is also an International Fellow of the Center for Ethics and Global Politics (Rome, Italy). Dr. Rathore has taught at Universities and Centres around the world, including: University of Toronto, Humboldt University of Berlin, LUISS University (Rome), Rutgers University (USA), University of Pennsylvania (USA), and Louvain (Belgium). His most recent books include *Hegel's India: A Reinterpretation, with Texts* (co-authored, Oxford, 2017) and *Indian Political Theory: Laying the Groundwork for Svaraj* (Routledge, 2017). He is also the Executive Editor of the journal *Plurilogue*.

ABSTRACT

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan once held the Chair in Mental and Moral Science at the prestigious philosophy department of the University of Calcutta. This invites us, in his memory, to wonder: what might be the relationship between mental science and morals? The great German-American philosopher Hannah Arendt wrote a book about a Nazi official named Adolf Eichmann, where she inquired into what it is that makes a person engage in profoundly unethical behaviour. Her (philosophical) work led to a series of studies (in mental sciences) to try to put her ideas to the test. After 50 years of investigations into this relationship between mental and moral science, what have we come to learn about the ethics of critical thinking? Many studies suggest that thoughtlessness, sloppy and uncritical thinking, invite morally dubious actions, whereas fearlessly critical thought, and a willingness to interrogate the rationality of social conventions, often serve as an antidote to immoral behaviour. Intriguingly, these suggestions seem to confirm exactly what great philosophers have been trying to teach us since the time of Socrates.