

## The Seminar Series 2010

**Prof. Ishtiaq Ahmed**

“The Punjab Bloodied, Partitioned and Cleansed: Unravelling the 1947 Tragedy through Secret British Reports and First-Person Accounts”

*Wednesday 27 October, 13-15, F702,  
Department of Political Science*

This lecture traces the dynamics of the partition of the Punjab in the context of the partition of India, but focuses primarily on the conflicts and contradictions that evolved within Punjab politics between on the one hand Hindus and Sikhs and on the other, Muslims, which resulted in the biggest forced migration in modern history and the deaths of some 500,000 to one million people. A theoretical framework is propounded to examine the partition process as interplay between apprehensive religious groups fearful of an uncertain future, a waning colonial state authority and the partisan role of state functionaries after the transfer of power to the Indian and Pakistani governments. The narrative identifies three stages in the partition of Punjab: bloody rioting in March 1947; partition negotiations accompanied by more rioting between April and early August; and ethnic cleansing after 15 August 1947.

**Ishtiaq Ahmed** is a Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Stockholm University. He is also Honorary Senior Fellow of the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore.

Most welcome!

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