



Frontier Gandhi
A Messiah of Peace
An Interdisciplinary Seminar
Sponsored by the Ministry of Culture

Department of Humanities & Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India
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The memory of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, better known as Frontier Gandhi, appeared to have been completely erased from public memory until the tragic events of 9/11 when comparisons between the two figures from Kandahar - Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan and Osama bin Laden - one a messiah of peace and the other of death, came to be invoked frequently. Born in Utmanzai in undivided India in 1890, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, also known as Badshah or Pasha Khan, was the foremost 20th century leader of the Pathans or pakhtuns who fought for Pashto independence under British rule and was a close ally of Mahatma Gandhi. Not only does he remain a sadly obscure figure in the west but his greatness is also lost on the country of which he became a citizen after the partition of India in 1947.

Recently, memories of this forgotten hero were reawakened through the revival of the Khudai Khidmatgar Movement in India by Faisal Khan on the 20th January 2008 and the release of Canadian filmmaker Teri McLuhan's film "Frontier Gandhi: A Torch for peace". In light of the recent attack on the Pasha Khan University in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a revisiting of the ideas of this messiah of peace, who taught the meaning of non-violence to the warrior tribes of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region, is timely. This interdisciplinary Seminar aims to examine the beleaguered legacy of this towering but forgotten hero to South Asian nations and to a world increasingly fragmented by sectarian, ethno-linguistic, gendered and caste violence.

Speakers are invited to give papers that can cover a broad range of content, including but not limited to the following themes:

- Violent Geographies of the North Western Frontier
- The Making of Friends: Gandhi and Frontier Gandhi
- Islamic Non-Violence
- Non-violence and the Khilafat Movement
- The Pakhtun Hero and the Dream of Pakhtunistan
- Pakhtuns in India
- The Pathan in the Indian imagination
- Khudai Khidmatgars or the Servants of God
- Partition Violence and the North Western Frontier
- Hindu Muslim relations in India
- India Pakistan relations
- Frontier Gandhi and a Vision for Peace

We particularly welcome submissions that reflect critically on any of the above themes from the disciplinary frameworks of history, political science, social anthropology, literary, cultural and film studies and any other area. Abstracts of about 250 words may be submitted to zeniananra@gmail.com with a brief bio note of 200 words.

Please note the deadlines in 2016:

March 28: Confirmation of your participation

April 4: Submission of abstracts

April 18: Conference day

April 30: Submission of revised papers for inclusion in proceedings

For more information, please contact:

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