Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation welcomes you to a lecture with

Professor Sunil Khilnani
Director of India Institute at King’s College, London

21st Century India: Democracy, Growth and the Future of History

GIVEN India’s massive global footprint (it is estimated that by 2030 it will surpass China to become the most populous country in the world), India’s political and policy choices will in coming decades decisively shape those available to the rest of the world. Sunil Khilnani’s lecture examines some of the paradoxes of India’s democratic politics and economic growth, placing them in the context of India’s struggle with its own history and its effort to define - through contested versions of that history - a sense of national destiny. His lecture will also underline how, for the rest of the world, understanding contemporary India is an increasingly urgent necessity - hence the need for research centres like the India Institute (which he established in 2012), and for explorations of contemporary India’s relationship to its past - as he has undertaken in his new book and BBC radio series, Incarnations: India in 50 Lives.

Professor Khilnani is holder of the Avantha Chair and Director of the India Institute. Prior to becoming Director of the King’s India Institute he was, from 2001 to 2011, the Starr Foundation Professor at the Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington D.C., and Director of South Asia Studies at SAIS, a program that he established in 2002. Sunil Khilnani was formerly Professor of Politics at Birkbeck College, University of London.
His publications include: Arguing Revolution: The Intellectual Left in Postwar France (1993); The Idea of India (7th ed. 2016); with Sudipta Kaviraj, Civil Society: History and Possibilities (2000); with Nandan Nilekani, Pratap Mehta et al., NonAlignment 2.0: a Foreign Policy for India in the 21st Century (2013); with Arun Thiruvengadam and Vikram Raghavan, Comparative Constitutionalism in South Asia (2013).
Professor Khilnani’s research interests lie at the intersection of various fields: intellectual history and the study of political thought, the history of modern India, democratic theory in relation to its recent non-Western experiences, the politics of contemporary India, and strategic thought in the definition of India’s place in the world.

Date: Wednesday 18 May 2016
Location: Jakobsbergsgatan 2, 5th floor
16:30 Welcome by Kurt Almqvist, President A & M Ax:son Johnson Foundation
16.35 Lecture by Sunil Khilnani, Director of India Institute
17:10 Discussion and questions led by moderator Louise Belfrage, International Advisor, A & M Ax:son Johnson Foundation
17:30-18:30 Reception, 7th floor

This lecture is part of a series of lectures and seminars on the influence of India in the West and is part of Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation’s on-going effort to further the dissemination of scholarly knowledge. Please note that the lecture will be documented by our TV-team, broadcast on our television channel Axess TV, and on all its various distribution platforms; cable, internet, digital terrestrial etc.