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The Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund

The JU-SYLFF Association invites you to

JU-SYLFF Lecture Series
Lecture No. 2015-5

Speaker:

Sreya Maitra Roychoudhury

Ph.D Candidate, Department of International Relations,
Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Topic:

**‘Securitization’ and Internal (In)Securities: Common Lessons
for India and Sri Lanka**

Date:

October 29th, 2015 (Thursday)

Time:

4:15pm - 5:15pm (Including Q&A Session)

Venue:

**Global Change Programme,
First Floor, Biren Roy Research Laboratory
Jadavpur University**

Note on the Speaker

Sreya Maitra Roychoudhury is currently serving as a Faculty-member in the Department of Political Science, Bhawanipore Education Society College, Kolkata. She is associated with Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata as Doctoral candidate and has served as *Senior Research Fellow* under the fellowship programme of the University Grants Commission (UGC). She was awarded the SYLFF Fellowship at the Master's Level and the SYLFF Research Abroad Award (SRA) at the doctoral-level for a short-term research trip to Sri Lanka. She has served as a *Research Fellow* at Global India Foundation, Kolkata, which is supported by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. She has contributed research papers to a number of peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes published at national and international levels.

Note on the Lecture

The achievement of national security and socio-political stability may be significantly undermined by violent internal conflicts or situations of insurgency in any country. While authoritarian regimes unilaterally use their military forces to combat such challenges, modern democracies have historically declared these situations as 'emergencies' and sanctioned the deployment of armed forces on a short-term basis. Within the purview of international relations, the latter approach has been delineated by the ***securitization theory*** à la the constructivist schema of the Copenhagen School of security. India and Sri Lanka have laboured to establish consolidated democracies in South Asia, never experiencing any spell of total military rule or civil-military regime, unlike any other neighbour. However, situations of domestic conflict in these multi-ethnic democracies have been tackled by the active *securitization* approach through much of their post-independence periods. Contrary to the perceived goal of safeguarding security, the approach has only rendered deep the ethnic alienation and a sense of resentment among the minority ethnic groups in the countries. Their demands for autonomy have persisted manifesting in both militarily violent and politically aggressive, unyielding forms. Additionally, the geographic contiguity and ethnic overlap between India and Sri Lanka have caused heightened insecurities in the sub-continent, frequently impacting upon foreign policy stances adopted by the two neighbours.

Notwithstanding the unique demographic milieu of India and Sri Lanka, it may be argued that both the countries may have some common lessons to share and learn from each other, as plural, democratic states which are constantly trying to articulate responses to internal insecurity and domestic violence but rarely rising above the hitherto treaded path of securitization. The presentation would address three-fold objectives: First, it would undertake a comparative examination of the securitization approaches adopted by India and Sri Lanka respectively, to tackle internal conflicts. Secondly, it would emphasize commonalities of interest in these two countries for preserving internal security on a sustainable basis. Finally, certain key drivers would be identified which could translate into a comprehensive component of their foreign policy trajectories and further consolidate bilateral relations.