



**Centre for the Study of Comparative Religions and Civilizations**

**Jamia Millia Islamia**

**New Delhi-110025**

**Cordially invites you to an International Conference**



**The Making of Religious Identities:  
Historical and Contemporary Themes**

**14-15 March 2013**

**Venue: Conference Hall**

**India-Arab Cultural Centre**

**Jamia Millia Islamia**

**New Delhi-110025**

# P R O G R A M M E

Day I:

**Thursday: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**Registration of Delegates: 9.30 am**

**Inaugural Session: 10.00 am - 11.00 am**

***Welcome Address:***

Prof. Rizwan Qaiser (Director, CSCRC)

***Keynote Address:***

Prof. Muzaffar Alam, George V. Bobrinsky Professor in South Asian Languages & Civilizations,  
Deptt. of South Asian Languages & Civilizations, The University of Chicago, Chicago.

***In the Chair:***

Mr. Najeeb Jung (IAS)  
Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia

**Tea: 11.00 am - 11.30 am**

**Session I: 11.30 am - 1.30 pm**

*Faith, Practice and the Making of the Ethical Self - I*

**Lunch: 1.30 pm - 2.30 pm**

**Session II: 2.30 pm - 4.00 pm**

*Faith, Practice and the Making of the Ethical Self - II*

**Tea: 4.00 pm - 4.15 pm**

**Session III: 4.15 pm - 5.45 pm**

*Conversion, Liminality and Continuity: Identities in Flux - I*

**Day II:**

**Friday: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**Session IV: 9.30 am – 11.30 am**

*Conversion, Liminality and Continuity: Identities in Flux - II*

**Tea Break: 11.30 am – 12.00 noon**

**Session V: 12.00 noon – 1.30 pm**

*Narrating an Identity: Performing and other Arts*

**Lunch: 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm**

**Session VI: 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm**

*Round Table Discussion: Studying Religious Identities—Methodological Reflections*

**Session VII: 3.45 pm – 5.30 pm**

*Living Religion: Film screening and interaction with filmmaker*

**Film :** *Milange Babay Ratan De Mele Te/ Let's Meet at Baba Ratan's Fair*

| A film by Ajay Bhardwaj | *Duration: 95 minutes* |

It is a film about local cultural continuities and a most imaginative transgression of rigid religious identities in post-partition east Punjab.

**Vote of Thanks – 5.30 pm**

**High Tea: 5.45pm**

## **ABOUT THE CENTRE**

The Centre for the Study of Comparative Religions and Civilizations (CSCRC) was launched in 2005. One of the few of its kind to be established at an Indian University, the Centre takes a serious look at the neglected field of Religious Studies in India. The newly emergent discipline of Religious Studies does not form part of any academic curricula and, has therefore, not found a sound footing in the Indian academia. One of the concerns of the Centre is to redress this imbalance and to create a site for an academic study of Comparative Religions that forms a part of mainstream liberal art education curricula in India. The Centre is committed to develop a cross-cultural, interdisciplinary programme of research and curriculum development

## **Objectives of the Centre**

- To carry out a critical comparative study of religion characterized by methodological pluralism.
- To apply historical, archaeological, linguistics, textual, sociological, anthropological, psychological, phenomenological, ethnographic and art historical methods in the study of religion.
- To change the discourse of Religious Studies from a reductive to a more holistic frame that is in consonance with Indic ethos, social reality and concerns of emergent global society.
- To conduct academic programmes that highlight the positive role of religion in sustaining India's composite culture rooted in peace and harmony.
- To identify and document common humanitarian values propagated by various religions.
- To develop study material and courses on various religious doctrines and philosophies.
- To develop institutional links with universities and research institutes and with appropriate agencies of the United Nations.
- To publish research studies on the above lines in the form of books and monographs.

## **DEGREES OFFERED**

The Centre offers semester based Research Degrees, viz., M. Phil & Ph.D. programmes in Comparative Religion.

### **M. Phil & Ph. D. Programmes in Comparative Religion**

The M. Phil. Programme spreads over four semesters including course work and dissertation writing. In the first two semesters of the programme, research scholars are offered five taught courses, including a tool course in a classical language corresponding to their area of research, and specialized courses in religion.

## **WHY STUDY RELIGION AT CSCRC?**

A degree in Comparative Religion at the Centre will *not* train students to become religious specialists—this is not a theology course. It will instead train them in critical thinking and equip them with skills to understand a phenomenon as pervasive as religion from a multitude of perspectives. Despite unceasing prophecies about the end of religion, we find it everywhere we turn, even in the most modern institutions and practices—from politics to popular culture.

Religious Studies is an emerging terrain in Indian academia. While religion may be a theme of study in other departments, most importantly in departments of Sociology and History, or Islamic Studies, the wide array of theoretical and methodological tools culled from across disciplines makes learning experience at this Centre unique. The sheer breadth and span of the programmes offered expose students to a variety of cultural experiences and traditions, turning them into cultural interlocutors. Designed to address a range of issues, from visual arts, gender, ecology, the course will enable students to seek careers in a variety of fields: in museums and archives, journalism, NGOs, or in academics.





**Contact**

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**Student Coordinators**

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