India in the World History

Lavanya Vemsani Ph.D.
Professor, History
11 – 11:30 am
Clark Memorial Library Learning Lab

Lavanya Vemsani is an award winning scholar and professor of history, specializing in Indian history and religions in the Department of Social Sciences. Dr. Vemsani’s research and teaching interests are varied and multifold. She researches and publishes on subjects of ancient Indian history and religions as well as current history of India. She is the author of Hindu and Jain Mythology of Balarama and a number of articles on early history and religions of India. Her second book Krishna in History, Thought, and Culture: An Encyclopedia of the Lord of Many Names is an encyclopedic study on Krishna. She is currently working on two book projects, India: A New History and Ancient Settlement Patterns of South India. She is the editor of International Journal of Dharma and Hindu Studies, and associate editor of Journal of South Asian Religious History. Her degrees include: Ph.D. in Religious Studies, 2004, McMaster University (Canada); Ph.D. in History, 1999, Canada University of Hamilton; M.Phil. in History, 1992 and M.A. in Ancient Indian History, Culture, and Archeology, 1990, India University of Hyderabad (India); B.A. in History, Politics, and Ancient Indian History, Culture, and Archeology, 1988, Osmania University (India).

Presentation Summary:

Dr. Vemsani examines the presentation of Indian history in world history curriculum and text books at high school and college level. World history is an extensive survey of historical events in a geographical and chronological context covering empires across the world. Yet, historical study centered on Empires ignores numerous regions in its coverage of topics from some regions of the world. She also examines the present study of world history and proposes how it would benefit from changing focus to continental study of history rather than empires.