



Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA)

cordially invites you to a

Distinguished Public Lecture

on

"Rise and Fall of the British Empire"

by



Professor David Edgerton

Hans Rausing Professor of the History of Science and Technology
Professor of Modern British History
King's College London

About the Speaker

David Edgerton is Professor of Modern British History, and Hans Rausing Professor of the History of Science and Technology at King's College London. He was the founding director of the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, at Imperial College, now at King's College. Among his publications are *Warfare State: Britain 1920-1970* (Cambridge, 2005), *The Shock of the Old: Technology and Global History since 1900* (Profile, 2007), and *Britain's War Machine: Weapons, Experts and Resources in the Second World War* (Penguin, 2011). His *The Rise and Fall of the British Nation: a Twentieth-Century History* will be published by Penguin in summer 2018.

Abstract

In the United Kingdom there is conventionally no such thing as British Nationalism. The British recognise the nationalisms of others but not their own. First there were the anti-imperial nationalists, Irish, Indian, African but there were also potentially dangerous continental European nationalisms, above all the German, and also Latin American ones. More recently nationalism in the British context has meant Scottish or Welsh nationalism, and the spectre of English nationalism. In this lecture I want to suggest that the United Kingdom, just like Ireland and India, had its own post-imperial, indeed anti-imperial nationalism, though one which could not speak its name. This nationalism, which flourished from 1945 to the 1970s, was economically as well as ideologically nationalist, and manifested itself in the internal rebuilding of the nation, and a national and anti-imperial historiography with 'decline' at its centre, concerned to make a nationalist critique of British capitalism. This argument is at the centre of my new history of the United Kingdom in the twentieth century, which thus challenges the prevailing assumption that the fundamental story is one of liberal imperialism turning into a weak social democracy transforming into neo-liberalism. We need, I suggest, to apply to the British case what is obvious in the history and historiography of the rest of the British Empire.

PROGRAMME

Welcoming Remarks

10:30 am – 10:35 am **Professor (Dr.) AF Ammourah**, Vice Dean, Jindal School of International Affairs, O.P. Jindal Global University

Distinguished Public Lecture

10:35 am – 11:10 am **Professor David Edgerton**, Hans Rausing Professor of the History of Science and Technology, Professor of Modern British History, King's College London

11:10 am – 11:30 am **Q&A Session**

Date: Friday, 27 October 2017 | Time: 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Venue: Class Room No. 43(75 seater), T3, 1st Floor (2nd via Elevators on the Flagpole side)
O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat - 131001