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**Comparative  
Urbanisms**  
Lecture Series

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## History as Urban Archaeology - Writing “Mumbai Fables”

**GYAN PRAKASH**

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Princeton University

**THURSDAY, October 6, 2011**

**3 - 4:30pm**

Great Cities Institute  
412 S. Peoria St, 4th FL  
CUPPAH 400

If the “soft city” of myths and imaginations is as real as the “hard city” of demography and statistics, then the historian must dig underneath the surface of images to discover what lies underneath. What did these imaginations express and what did they conceal? The talk concerns the journey undertaken by the historian as an urban archaeologist in writing *Mumbai Fables*.

Gyan Prakash is the Dayton-Stockton Professor of History at Princeton University and specializes in the history of modern India focusing on urban modernity, the colonial genealogies of modernity, and problems of postcolonial thought and politics. His publications include *After Colonialism: Imperial Histories and Postcolonial Displacements*, *The Spaces of the Modern City*, *Mumbai Fables*, *Noir Urbanisms: Dystopic Images of the Modern City*, and a co-edited volume, *Utopia/Dystopia: Historical Conditions of Possibility*.



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