

Sponsored by the School of International and Political Studies

10:45am, Tuesday 24 October 2006

Localisation of Politics in an Era of Globalisation: Trends in the Indian Party System

Professor Prakash C. Sarangi, University of Hyderabad

While the Indian economy is increasingly becoming part of a globalising world, there is a growing tendency among political parties to concentrate on local issues. Concomitant with this is the narrowing down of political issues. This intriguing relationship between economics and politics is explored in this paper. The starting point is that economy and politics are related to each other. To be more specific, we discuss political parties and party systems as dependent variables, in the sense that they respond wider social and economic developments.

In the course of its history, the Indian party system has witnessed several important transformations. The days of the "Congress system", in which there was just one dominant party (the Congress), have long gone. The Congress party itself has changed. New political parties have emerged and become important. The most recent transformations in the party system, we will argue, are ideological depolarisation of political parties, regionalisation of the party system and fragmentation. The paper will particularly focus on these recent changes and will argue that they have to be understood against the background of the economic reform process during the nineties. It is this process that has perhaps not single-handedly determined but certainly informed the main trends and developments in the party system that can be observed in India today.

Professor Prakash C. Sarangi is Head of Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad, India. His publication includes: *Liberal Theories of State: Contemporary Perspectives* (New Delhi: Sterling, 1996), *Political Exchange and Public Policy: A Cross-National Analysis* (New Delhi: Concept, 1990), "Economic Reform and Party System in India", in Jos Mooij (ed), *Politics of Economic Reform in India* (Sage, 2005), "Telugu Desam Party: The Dialectics of Regional Identity and National Politics" in Subrata Mitra, Mike Enskat and Clemens Spieb (eds), *Political Parties in South Asia* (Westport, Connecticut and London: Praeger, 2004) and "Role of State in an Era of Globalization" in Rajen Harshe, *Interpreting Globalization* (New Delhi: Sage, 2004).

There is no entry charge and everyone is welcome.
Morning Tea and Lunch will be provided.

C.3.19 (Moot Court), Burwood Campus, Deakin University

Further details: Hans Lofgren <hans.lofgren@deakin.edu.au>