

Invitation to a public lecture by

Prof. Anirudh Deshpande

(Department of History, University of Delhi –
ICCR Chair in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Vienna)

**Understanding People and Developing
History as a Conversational Narrative:**

**The Neglect and Promise of
Oral History in India**

This lecture attempts a critique of establishment historiography, without necessarily making a fetish of oral history to escape the dangers of an oral-written binary developing in an analysis of this sort. With the theoretical and methodological development of oral history since 1945 in the background, the paper suggests that historians adopt a balanced approach towards oral history. The enmeshing of oral and written testimonies in the evolution of social *and* individual memories inveighs against getting carried away by any subjectivity either in favor of oral or written histories. Oral history has the potential of reinventing history in India where the discipline of history is neglected and socially deprecated. Oral history has also been crucial to the writing of feminist history and the genre of partition narratives in India. The time has come to extend the benefits of oral history to the discipline of history in general.

Prof. Anirudh Deshpande is Associate Professor at the
Department of History, University of Delhi.

Currently he is serving as the fourth ICCR Visiting Professor of Indian
Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Vienna.

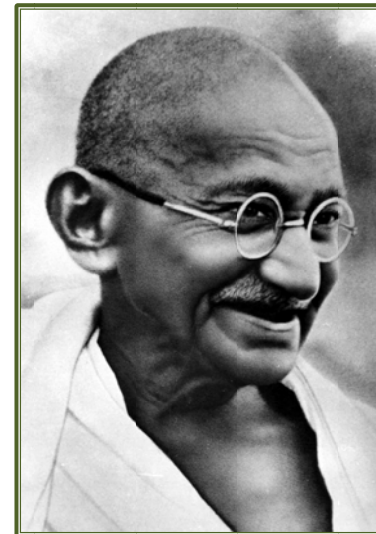
Friday, November 28, 2014, 14h c.t.,

SR 1, Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies,
University of Vienna, University Campus,
Spitalgasse 2, Hof 2, Entrance No. 2.7, 1090 Vienna

Subsequently:

*Finissage of the
Exhibition*

**“A Brief Biography of
Mahatma Gandhi
(1869-1948)”**



**Friday, November 28, 2014,
16h**

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and Buddhist Studies, University of
Vienna, University Campus,
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