

**Your are cordially invited to the
8th Vivada-Kalpanirjhar Annual Lecture**

**Reading Pasts, Thinking Presents:
Reflections on the Nation,
Representation, and Mourning**



**Speaker: Supriya Chaudhuri
Professor of English (Emerita), Jadavpur University**

Friday, 1 April 2016, 6.30 pm

**Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata
8 Ballygunge Circular Road, Kolkata – 700 019**

All are welcome

In *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*, Marx speaks of moments of crisis at which human beings ‘anxiously conjure up the spirits of the past to their service’: times when ‘the tradition of all the dead generations weighs like a nightmare on the brains of the living’. Re-reading and re-using past texts, both in literature and in film, are ways of attempting to understand our intractable present: attempts to think the present through the past. I will look at some examples from contemporary film and visual art in order to examine how representation copes with the most urgent issues of our time, by refracting them through the lens of history, and placing them, I will suggest, under the sign of mourning.

Supriya Chaudhuri

Supriya Chaudhuri is Professor of English (Emerita) at Jadavpur University, Kolkata. She was educated at Presidency College, Kolkata, and the University of Oxford, where she took her graduate and doctoral degrees. She has held visiting appointments at the Universities of Cambridge, Paris and Virginia. Her specializations include European Renaissance literature, 19th and 20th century cultural history, modernism, narrative, cinema, critical theory and sport.