



AFRICA SEMINAR

Thursday 26 February 15.15 - 17.00

The Idea of Apartheid

Professor Saul Dubow
Queen Mary, University of London

The history of apartheid has attracted enormous attention, scholarly and otherwise, not least in respect of its ideological underpinnings. But relatively little attention has been addressed to the question of why it became so universally regarded as an odious system. In this presentation, I shall lay emphasis on the word `apartheid' itself. For Afrikaner ideologists, `apartheid' was initially a keyword in the construction of a winning nationalist alliance; later it became a constraint on political reform. For theorists as diverse as Hannah Arendt, Mahmood Mamdani and Jacques Derrida, racial rule in South Africa represents the specific instance of a more general phenomenon. In this seminar I propose to look at the idea of `apartheid' and its ramifications, intellectual and political.

Saul Dubow is professor of African History at Queen Mary, University of London. He was educated at the universities of Cape Town and Oxford. He has published widely on the history of racial segregation and apartheid in all its aspects: political, ideological and intellectual. His most recent book is entitled *Apartheid 1948-1994* (Oxford, 2014). Previous titles include *Racial Segregation and the Origins of Apartheid* (1989), *Scientific Racism in Modern South Africa* (1995), *The African National Congress* (2000), *A Commonwealth of Knowledge* (2006) and *South Africa's Struggle for Human Rights* (2012).

The discussant for this seminar is **Dr. Hans Erik Stolten**, an independent researcher/historian and consultant, who has researched and published on South Africa and apartheid.

The seminar will be facilitated by **Amanda Hammar**, Director/MSO Professor at the Centre of African Studies.

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