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Jindal Centre for Israel Studies (JCIS) Seminar

Monday, 8 February 2016, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

T1, Conference Room, 1st Floor

O.P. Jindal Global University

Sonipat Narela Road, Sonipat - 131001, Haryana (NCR of Delhi)



Jindal School of International Affairs
India's First Global Policy School

“Indian Israelis : Ethnicity, Identity and Complexities of Homeland ”



SPEAKER

Dr. Maina Chawla Singh

Scholar-in-Residence

School of International Service American University

Washington D.C., USA

Dr. Maina Chawla Singh is Senior Associate Fellow, Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, Brandeis University and Scholar-in-Residence, American University where she teaches courses on South Asia and Indian Diaspora Communities. Singh has published several scholarly articles and is the author of *Being Indian, Being Israeli : Migration, Ethnicity and Gender in the Jewish Homeland*. (New Delhi: 2009; Teprint: 2014); *Gender, Religion, and 'Heathen Lands': American Missionary Women in South Asia (1860s – 1940s)*, (New York: 2000). Her current research projects include "Migration Narratives of Indian Jewish Women in Israel" and "The Emergent Role of Indian Americans in US Politics" and "Indian Diaspora in the French Caribbean". Singh has lived in Russia, Ethiopia, Israel, Japan, France and the United States. She speaks Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi and Russian.

Abstract:

Jews have lived in India for over two thousand years -- in small community clusters in Gujarat, Mumbai, Calcutta and Cochin. In India they knew no antisemitism. Yet, after the state of Israel was established (1948) the majority of Indian Jews migrated to the 'Jewish Homeland'. Today, Indian Israelis in Israel number approximately 80,000! So, why did they migrate from India, the only homeland they had known? How did issues of Home and Homeland play out in this migration? How important was Jewish-ness and how has Indian-ness been retained across generations? This talk explores all these questions and draws upon extensive research among Indian Jewish communities in Israel.

RSVP: **Dr. Rohee Dasgupta**, Associate Professor, Jindal School of International Affairs and Faculty Convener, Jindal Centre for Israel Studies, +91-8930110836, rdgupta@jgu.edu.in



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