



# SACHI

Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India

*Invites you to a very special evening*

*discussing*

*The Poets of Partition*

*with*

*Dr. Priya Satia*

*Prize-winning author and Professor of modern British and  
British imperial history at Stanford University*

*March 20, 2016*

*4:00 p.m.*

*Home of Gita and Ashok Vaish  
87 Nora Way, Atherton, CA. 94027*

*Rsvp, [info@sachi.org](mailto:info@sachi.org); 650-918-6335*



## *The Poets of Partition*

In this talk, Prof. Satia will explore the experience and thoughts of Urdu poets who lived through the Partition of India in 1947. The story of Partition is typically told through the lens of high politics; here we will learn of the alternative political visions of an influential set of cultural actors. Through their lives and poetry we can excavate what other visions of the subcontinent's future were on the table from the 1920s to 1950s.

The talk will range over the work and lives of many poets, but key figures include Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Makhdoom Mohiuddin, Hasrat Mohani, Ram Prasad Bismil, Mohamed Ali Jauhar, Allama Iqbal, Jigar Moradabadi, and Jagannath Azad. Dr. Satia will invoke earlier names like Ghalib and Daagh as well.

Some will be Punjabi poets like Amrita Pritam and Shiv Kumar Batalvi.

The talk will also explore what, if anything, the poets' lost causes can tell us about future possibilities.

Prof. Satia will also share the legacy of Indian poets' political turn in shaping the discipline of history itself.

An official trying to divide a library between the two nations.  
Photograph: Life magazine, August 1947

*The 1947 Partition of India and Pakistan was a heart-rending event in history. Many lives were uprooted and many lost. Its effects still reverberate in our contemporary culture through the cinema, books, music and poetry. Many remain affected in everyday personal life as well.*



An estimated 14 million people were uprooted from their homeland and travelled on foot, bullock carts and trains to their promised new home.

## *Priya Satia*

is a professor of modern British and British imperial history at Stanford University and author of the prize-winning book *Spies in Arabia: The Great War and the Cultural Foundations of Britain's Covert*

*Empire in the Middle East* (2008). She has completed her second book, provisionally titled, 'Empire of Guns: The British State, the Industrial Revolution, and the Conscience of a Quaker Arms-Maker'. Her work has also appeared in *Past & Present*, *American Historical Review*, *Technology and Culture*, *Humanity*, *History Workshop Journal*, and several edited volumes and in popular media such as the *Financial Times*, the *TLS*, *Nation*, *Slate.com*, *The Huffington Post*, and elsewhere. She is now writing a book on poets and Partition.

