

ESW Open Seminar Series

Thursday 13 June / 10am-1pm

Room 317, Silverstone Building, University of Sussex

Dr Nupur Samuel

Assistant Professor, Centre for English Language Education,
Ambedkar University, Delhi

English in India: Politics of inclusion and disinclusion

In a world marked by strife, political unrest, social and economic disparities, discriminations of race, caste and class, education is being marketed as a great leveler of opportunities. In a developing country such as India, English is by corollary, the language and means of gaining access to the privileged world of knowledge and power. Paradoxically, it is simultaneously a language that opens and closes doors. It is the tool of the haves and the have-nots; While those with language proficiency make progress that might otherwise be denied to their class, caste or social group, those without do not.

In her seminar, Dr Nupur explores the politics of inclusion and exclusion by:

- (1) examining how English language plays an empowering and exclusionary role in one state-funded university in Delhi;
- (2) documenting practices that promote these dual and mutually contradictory functions;
- (3) exploring ways of making teaching and assessment practices more inclusive which enables rather than discriminates against people of different backgrounds and disciplines.

She will also address issues of identity and how it affects minority groups, such as Dalits and others, drawing parallels between these groups and other discriminated, less privileged groups such as immigrants, refugees and first-generation diaspora in the UK and elsewhere.

An informal networking event and lunch are included within the timings of this seminar. Therefore, those intending to join are asked to please register at:

www.sussex.ac.uk/education/ctrl/activity/seminarjune2019

