

Brown University Department of Comparative Literature



The Reinhard Kuhn Memorial Lecture

Aamir Mufti

Department of Comparative
Literature, UCLA

“The *Nomos* of World Literature”

Tuesday

February 27, 2018

5:30 pm

**Maddock Alumni Center
Brian Room**

38 Brown Street

Free & open to the public

Aamir Mufti is Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of California, Los Angeles. His research explores forms of inequality in the contemporary world and how they impede the possibilities for historically autonomous action by social collectivities in the South. His most recent book, *Forget English! Orientalisms and World Literatures* (Harvard UP, 2016), scrutinizes the claims made on behalf of world literature by its advocates, and it explores how the hegemony of English in world-literature discourse affects non-European languages—particularly those of India and South Asia—as vessels of literary expression. His 2007 book, *Enlightenment in the Colony: the Jewish Question and the Crisis of Postcolonial Literature* (Princeton UP), identifies the Hindu-Muslim conflict in India as a colonial variation of what he calls “the exemplary crisis of minority”—Jewishness in Europe—and examines the literary dimensions of this crisis of identity through close readings of canonical texts of modern Western literature, as well as major works of modern Indian literature in Urdu and English.



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