

Wednesday July 11th, 2-5 pm

Emil-Abderhalden-Straße 26-27, SR 10

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## HOW TO KICK ASS WHEN LIFE IS A BITCH: THE STORY OF HUMAN RIGHTS



*This workshop explores narratives, contexts, and practices that nuance, alter, or even challenge the notion of human rights. Our aim is to discover why, despite failures and impasses, people continue to rally under its banner and insist that it signifies both hope and the possibility of justice. Some of the concerns that will preoccupy us are: gender, violence, and human rights; the relation between suffering and spectacle; "compassion fatigue"; the limits of empathy; cultural difference and universalism; humanitarian intervention; human rights as Bildungsroman.*

*Asha Varadharajan is the author of Exotic Parodies: Subjectivity in Adorno, Said, and Spivak (University of Minnesota Press, 1995). Her writing and public speaking engage postcolonial, cosmopolitan, global, secular, rights, migration, and development debates. She has contributed chapters to books on human rights, biopolitics, and intercultural discourse.*

### WORKSHOP

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**Prof. Asha Varadharajan**

Queen's University, Kingston  
ON, Canada

The round table is arranged and offered in cooperation with the Muhlenberg Center for American Studies and the research cluster "Society and Culture in Motion."