

DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

**Have India's economic reforms been
"guided by compassion and justice"?
Social policy and politics in the period of reform**

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Thursday, 26 March 2009, 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Senior Common Room, 305 Founders College
York University (Keele Campus), Toronto

The paper examines evidence about the practices of the Indian state in the context of liberalising economic reforms and of India's increased integration into the global economy. The evidence shows that the contemporary history of India presents a much more complex picture. There certainly are aspects of this history that may be explained by the theory of the neo-liberal state, but the neo-liberal project in India is tempered by India's constitutional design and by her state tradition, as well as by social movements that have transnational dimensions, and by popular democracy. In spite of the rhetoric of budget speeches, priority has been given to neo-liberal economic policies. However, the compulsions upon Indian governments to provide for social security, have ensured that the Indian state continues to depart quite significantly from the neo-liberal model.

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