

Science and Islam:

From Pluralism to Religious Essentialism

A public lecture presented by

S. Irfan Habib

Historian of science at the National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies, New Delhi. Professor Habib has worked on the intellectual and institutional influences on science in nineteenth-century India and has also explored the relationship between science and nationalism. These days he is interested in investigating the debate on science and rationality within the specific context of the formation of science and Islam. Through his work in nineteenth- and twentieth-century India, he is trying to counter the current trends in Islam of essentializing science as “Islamic science.”

He has co-edited the volume *Situating the History of Science: Dialogues with Joseph Needham* (Oxford Univ. Press, 1999) and has also co-authored a book, *Domesticating Modern Science: A Social history of science and culture in colonial India* (Tulika, 2004).

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