

# NY University Professor delivers lecture at KU

## Uneven Development greatest Challenge before the World: Dr. Ludden

Srinagar KU June 08: Dr. David Ludden, Professor of Political Economy and Globalization, Department of History, New York University, USA, today said imperialism emphasizes on inclusion while as nation states lay stress on homogenization; while discussing transition of south Asia from an ancient civilization to colonial territory and further to modern nation states. He maintained that elite power has always played decisive role in construction of social identity of India.

Dr. Ludden was speaking under '*University Lecture Series Program*' on '*Imperial Histories and National Integration: Regional Problems in South Asia*' at Varsity's Gandhi Bhawan organized by office of the Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences. The session was presided over by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Kashmir, Prof. Riyaz Punjabi.



Dr. Ludden, in his hour long presentation spoke about concepts of political economy, globalisation, liberalisation, territorial integrity and nationalism. Conflict he said has been an important element of emergence of nation states and another transition to globalization is also marked by conflict. While discussing emerging trends in the contemporary polity in India, Dr. David made extensive references to 'economic liberalisation' 'coalition politics' and 'capitalist approach' to name a few.

He however expressed disappointment over the fact that instead of convergence, there was divergence in people and nations world over which he attributed "mainly to inequalities in economic opportunities". Dr. Ludden opined that "uneven development" was the main problem with the world today as resources were not reaching those who needed it the most.

Speaking at the function, Vice Chancellor KU, Prof. Riyaz Punjabi emphasized need for interdisciplinary approach while studying social sciences. "This form of research and study has been neglected for a long time" he said. He asked scholars present to take cue from the visiting dignitary who he said, "has combined scholarship in political science, economics and history". VC also announced formation of a high level committee to facilitate adoption of an interdisciplinary approach in social sciences. Dr. David Ludden and Prof. Nyla Ali Khan, Associate Professor of English & Multiculturalism, University of Nebraska-Kearney, USA, besides Dean Faculty of Social Sciences Prof. Noor A Baba and heads of departments of the concerned faculty would be members of the high level committee.



During an interaction session after his lecture, Dr. Ludden did not agree to a questioner that globalization is 'neo-colonialism'. Instead, he said that though USA could be termed as home town of globalization but nonetheless, nation states are still in-charge of their affairs.

Earlier while welcoming guests, Dean Faculty of Social Science, Prof. Noor A Baba said dynamism and complexity of South Asia was unique and it presented scope of immense research. "In context of the fact that relationships between states within south Asia are still evolving, the lecture will give an insight into dynamics of evolving relationships" he said.

Dr. David Ludden's research primarily concerns histories of development and globalization in long-term perspective. His published works include four edited volumes, three monographs, and over 50 academic articles and chapters.

Also present on the occasion was Dr. Nyla Ali Khan who was coordinator of the lecture, Prof. Asifa Jan, Head Department of Political Science, senior faculty members and officials of University besides number of research scholars and students related to the field. Vote of thanks was delivered by Ajaz Ashraf.