

Samir Gandesha

The Use and Abuse of Identity in Public Life

Thursday, September 26
7 p.m. — 9 p.m.

A Different Booklist, 779 Bathurst St.

The question of identity has become urgent for activism in the West though the issue has been important in many other parts of the world as well in a variety of forms. Political Identities form in opposition to oppression (or, reactively, as perceived victimization) and demand recognition, rights, and equity (or aggressively promote their denial). They also divide, become separated in privilege, get co-opted, and become instruments of domination. Can identity struggles lead to fundamental social transformation or must they necessarily be limited to the horizon of recognition and reform? Can the empowerment of identity be woven into solidarity or must it necessarily be doomed to fragmentation and the sustenance of the status quo?



Samir Gandesha is Director of the Institute for the Humanities at Simon Fraser University. His most recent book is *Aesthetic Marx* (Bloomsbury Press, 2017).



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