

## “Theoretical Approaches towards Understanding Child Rights”

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This plenary address will discuss some prospects and challenges related to theoretical approaches of child rights. Grounded in the evolving human rights conversations about children, it will situate the discussion of rights within interlocking systems of oppression especially class/gender/ethnicity/age/nationality. Since the notions of childhood vary across cultures and class groups, this plenary will create a framework for discussing how we can think about the human rights of any child within contexts of significant inequalities, social disruptions, and exploitation.

## South Asian American Ethnicity

The children of first generation migrants from South Asia are situated within a racial context where they are not black or Latino or Asian. Yet they face racial marginalization. At the same time the highly educated profile of the first generation post 1965 migration streams from South Asia ensure that most of their children have grown up in relative affluence. Objectively, based on their education, class profile, linguistic ability, they are supposed to be wholly assimilated into America. This lecture will discuss why this group continues to identify as South Asian American (or Pakistani or Indian or Bangladeshi or Nepali American) instead of “American” and how the social boundaries they encounter have changed over the last decade.