"A Sea of Protection": Piracy, Trade and Regulation in the Western Indian Ocean

Dr. Jatin Dua (Duke University)

Monday, Feb. 10
4:00 pm
Glenn Black Laboratory (423 N Fess)

From 2008-2012, a dramatic upsurge in incidents of maritime piracy in the Western Indian Ocean led to renewed global attention to this region: including the deployment of multi-national naval patrols, attempts to prosecute suspected pirates, and the development of financial interdiction systems to track and stop the flow of piracy ransoms. Largely seen as the maritime ripple effect of anarchy on land, piracy has been slotted into narratives of state failure and problems of governance and criminality in this region. Through a focus on longer histories of trade, empire and regulation this talk reframes maritime piracy as an economy of protection straddling boundaries of land and sea, law and economy, and history and anthropology.