



Britain - Nepal  
Academic Council

# ANNUAL LECTURE 2015

## The Unique Blend of Literature, Politics, and History in the Writings of Bishweshwar Prasad Koirala

(विश्वेश्वर प्रसाद कोइरालाका लेखहरूमा साहित्य, राजनीति र इतिहासको  
अनौठो सङ्गम)

Prof. Abhi Subedi, Tribhuvan University



12 November 2015

Time: Reception to start at 17.30 followed by the lecture at 18.30

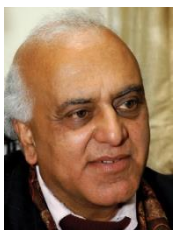
Khalili Lecture Theatre

SOAS, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG

ALL WELCOME. FREE ENTRY. (सबैलाई स्वागत छ । प्रवेश निशुल्क । )

### Abstract

Bishweshwar Prasad Koirala (1914-1982), known as BP in Nepal and India, occupies a towering place in Nepali literature, politics, and history. His writings range across autobiography, diary entries, novels, essays, and short stories, but interestingly do not include formal political analysis. The text of his court defence is probably the most powerful statement of freedom, justice, and concern for the common people in the history of Nepal. Koirala famously said that he was an anarchist in literature and a socialist in politics, and that there was no connection at all between these two pursuits. I disagree and find many connections between his writing and his politics. Many of those with a Congress background repeat BP's statement like a mantra without looking into the dialogic and significant relationship between the purpose of his politics and his depictions of the human condition in his novels and stories. In fact BP's writing and his politics were both unfinished projects that have inspired actors (including Prachanda) across the political spectrum.



### Speaker's profile

Abhi Subedi was born in Tehrathum in eastern Nepal. He is Professor of English Literature at Tribhuvan University, having taught in the central department for over 40 years. He is a prolific author, with books of essays, biography, poems, and plays in both Nepali and English.

Sponsorship

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