

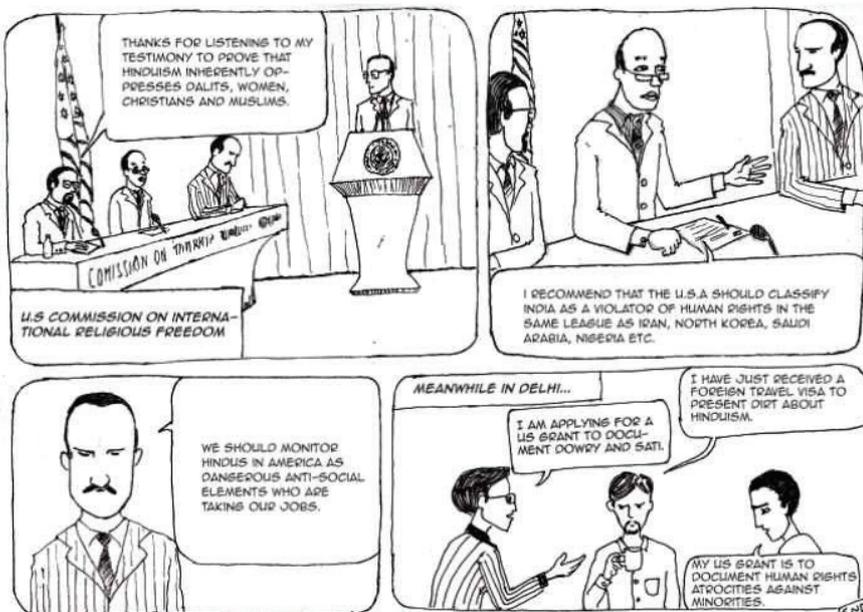
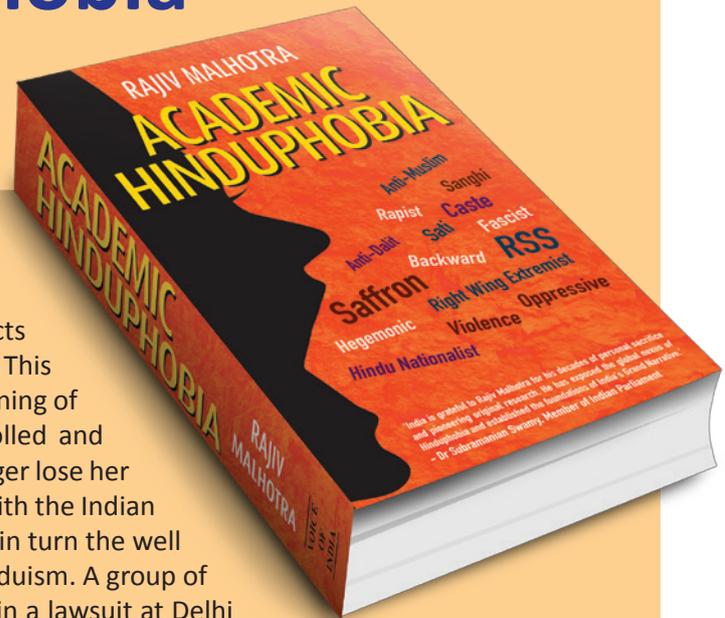
## New book announcement – 'Academic Hinduphobia'

Rajiv Malhotra has announced his new book which is expected to be available in India by June 2016.

The Book is titled "Academic Hinduphobia: A critique of Wendy Doniger's erotic school of Indology".

The foreword of the book can be accessed at [www.academichinduphobia.com](http://www.academichinduphobia.com) His critique of Wendy Doniger's vulgar depictions of Hinduism in the late 90s turned into a storm, with public outrage and conflicts between the Indian diaspora and the American academy. This turned out to be one of the defining moments in the awakening of Hindu thinkers about the way their discourse was controlled and distorted by American academia. That movement saw Doniger lose her clout gradually in the West. Doniger struck a new alliance with the Indian left. She became their "expert on criticizing Hinduism" and in turn the well connected Indian left positioned her as an authority on Hinduism. A group of Hindus in India decided to contest her book "The Hindus" in a lawsuit at Delhi because it was felt that her book was erroneous and misrepresented Hinduism.

This sparked off a huge controversy in India and an out of court settlement was reached by Penguin to withdraw the book with terms agreed to being not to ban electronic copies or foreign editions being sold in India. The Indian media soon positioned the whole situation as a case of censorship by radical Hindus. As a result, her book began selling in India once again and climbed the charts like none of her works ever before. The entire drama has diverted attention away from the substantive errors in her scholarship. This compilation sets the record straight by republishing some of Rajiv's early articles which highlight the problems with her scholarship. Please read the entire foreword at the site mentioned.



This comic strip from the forthcoming book AH demonstrates how academia fuelled hinduphobia and atrocity literature dominates the discourse at USCIRF hearings.



## Lecture at MIT

Rajiv Malhotra delivered a lecture at MIT on April 2, 2016, organized by MIT Samskritam, MIT HSC and Samskrita Bharati – Boston on the topic, “Indian tradition takes on American Orientalism.” Rajiv began by stating one of the key points in his book *The Battle for Sanskrit* viz. that there are two lenses in the study of Sanskrit: the insider lens and the outsider lens. Many ethnic groups in the world have made this distinction to fight for greater voice in their representation. The outsider lens, Rajiv emphasized, is not singular. Every outsider comes with their own lens while studying India. Germans studied India for the purpose of German nationalism, British studied India for running the empire and knowing how to divide and rule, French studied India to better understand their own heritage vis-à-vis Latin and so on. The most influential outsider lens of today is that of the Americans. Rajiv also noted that India is the only major civilisation in the world, whose study is controlled by the outsiders. For example, China studies is in Chinese and controlled by China with very rigorous standards in how they are represented, Japan studies is in Japanese, Islamic studies is controlled by the Muslims etc. In the case of India, Sanskrit studies happens in English, the most prestigious universities and journals are in English and in the West. Rajiv also spoke about how the American Right and the American Left are equally a part of Western universalism which is not apparent to those who are aware of only the pop culture on the surface and ignorant of the institutions and deep culture which lies at the foundation.



While the American Right believes in evangelical Christianity, the American Left Liberals champion American exceptionalism. There is a strong sense among Americans of them being the gold standard for the world who must bear the burden of the rest. Rajiv also spent some time explaining the problems he sees amongst the insiders. He said that some are sold out, others are bombastically dismissive of the outsiders as being unworthy of attention, while some others lack the tapasya to do the kind of hard work required for solid purva paksha. He opined that one of the greatest problems is that many traditional

scholars don't know the English required to understand the idiom of the Western scholars and also Western philosophy and thought. Thus it is imperative to form a home team of English speaking confident Indians who will do the purva paksha of Western thought for traditional scholars to offer utara paksha. Rajiv hopes to champion such a home team through collaborative effort for the cause of swadeshi Indology. The lecture was followed by a lively Q&A. Please watch the full video in the link provided at the end.

## Columbia University talk

Rajiv Malhotra gave a lecture on April 15th, 2016 at Columbia University, organized by Hindu Yuva, Sewa International and Hindu Students Council, on the topic 'Hinduism in Academia'. In the lecture, Rajiv described the initial years of his engagement with the academia where he used to give grants to universities



to produce scholarship on Hinduism and Dharma studies. In fact the first academic grant by Infinity Foundation (founded by Rajiv) was to Columbia University, the venue of the lecture being delivered. Being involved in Consciousness studies, Rajiv notes that most of the articles and research in the academic field of consciousness studies in the sixties in the USA was based on Vedanta, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Ironically none of this found its way into the academic study of Hinduism in the religion departments. They were more into producing the caste, cows and curry narrative of India and Hinduism. The Philosophy departments rejected the idea that there was any such thing as Indian philosophy. After ten years of working with various universities from Harvard to University of California, Rajiv came to the conclusion that change in the academy can't be brought about from within. It is for this reason that he has adopted a change in strategy and now wishes to champion a home team of insiders for producing swadeshi Indology rather than outsource the study of the tradition to Hinduphobic academics. The lecture had much more information on the collective experiences of his engagement with the academy and his ongoing struggles. It is an enriching watch with a lot of lessons

to learn and knowledge on how Indian tradition must find answers to its problems from within rather than needing some external interventions to bring human rights. The lecture was followed by a lively Q&A. There was a professor from Chicago, who displayed his Hinduphobia by making baseless allegations and blatant mischaracterization of Rajiv's work. When exposed he quickly jumped into making allegations of Rajiv's association with the BJP. This shows how politically charged that many in the American academy are, in Indian politics. The academic professor's Hinduphobia was on full display. He was followed by a couple of women who without any relevance to the context of the talk, starting rabble rousing about Prime Minister Modi's treatment of Muslims. When forced out for their misbehavior, they started sloganeering and shouting "Down with Hindutva!" Excepting these, the rest of the Q&A was excellent. The Hinduphobia of many in the academy was exposed as was evident in the testimonies of many in the audience. Please watch the full video in the link provided at the end.

## Update on Conference series on purva paksha of Western Indology

Abstracts have been submitted by the participating scholars and final papers are now being worked upon by them. The response has been great and there is reason to be very enthusiastic about the conference. The conference is to be held in the month of July of 2016 at Chennai.

### Links to book reviews

1) **Academic Hinduphobia book website**

[www.AcademicHinduphobia.com](http://www.AcademicHinduphobia.com)

2) **Lecture at MIT**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwbLw9W9GC8>

3) **Lecture at Columbia University**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olQIPZuEWLY>

## Upcoming event at Maryland

Rajiv will be delivering a lecture at Maryland on Sunday, 3rd July 2016, on the topic "Integral unity of Dharma Systems".

**INTEGRAL  
UNITY OF  
DHARMA  
SYSTEMS**  
BY RAJIV MALHOTRA

**WHEN**  
Sunday, July 3rd, 2016  
3:30pm

**WHERE**  
Kreegar Auditorium  
Jewish Community Center  
6125 Montrose Road  
Rockville, MD 20852

  
**SCHOLAR  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
EXPERT**  
[WWW.RAJIVMALHOTRA.COM](http://WWW.RAJIVMALHOTRA.COM)

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