In this talk, Duara will argue that non-discursive modes of authorizing ‘foreign’ processes as home-grown are crucial to their acceptance, particularly since extra-national penetrations in the emergent national body need to take place below the discursive radar. They include visual, aural, olfactory and, in general, sensorial modes of vernacularizing circulatory processes. When we adopt this perspective, we begin to see the parallels among developments and forms which have until recently remained the ‘ground’ in relation to the ‘figure’ of unique developments within the nation or society. Recognizing this gestalt produces significant transformation of our view of history—how its ownership can or cannot be claimed—and the problem of national sovereignty.

Monday, March 25, 4:30 pm
A.D. White House
Guerlac Room
Public reception to follow

If you need accommodations to participate in this event, please contact Kina at kv89@cornell.edu.