

## **Brahma Prakash receives prestigious Dwight Conquergood Award at Stanford University**

Brahma Prakash, a temporary member of the faculty at the School of Arts & Aesthetics, received the **Dwight Conquergood Award** (a prestigious award in the field of theatre and performance studies) at the annual **Performance Studies International** conference at **Stanford University** on 29 June 2013.

Every year the board of **Performance Studies International** (PSi), an international umbrella organization of theatre and performance studies, makes this award in honour of the memory of **Dwight Conquergood** to an individual whose work around cultural performance in some way carries a connection to Conquergood's own radical praxis. Conquergood was one of the most critically engaged activists and performance studies scholars of the late 20th and early 21st centuries whose work ranged from the street gangs of Chicago to refugees in Thailand and Gaza. The Dwight Conquergood Award, which is linked to the PSi conference, is given to an artist, an activist or an emerging academic conducting research or working on projects with disenfranchised communities. The award is open to graduate students and early career researchers (three years since PhD) as well as to practitioners and community members themselves who might be working outside of educational or institutional structures.

The PSi judges unanimously selected Brahma Prakash for this year's award. Prakash's PhD research on the performance of cultural labour was cited as making a 'strong, convincing and original' contribution to the field through an ethnographic approach and engagement with the performance cultures of the most oppressed sections of Indian society.

Brahma Prakash has defended his PhD thesis at the Department of Drama & Theatre, Royal Holloway, University of London, and has been teaching theatre and performance studies in a temporary position at the School of Arts & Aesthetics since July 2012.

Link:

<http://www.rhul.ac.uk/dramaandtheatre/news/newsarticles/brahmprakashreceivesdwrightconquergoodawardinpsi-19atstanforduniversity.aspx>