

# PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT SPEAKER SERIES



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## THE INELIMINABILITY OF THE IDEA OF PROGRESS

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**Room: Mack 305**

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**3:30-5:00**



### ABSTRACT

In recent years the chants of “the end of progress” have grown more vexatious. Generally, critics charge that the historical idea of progress and development have worked to rationalize and legitimize colonialism and imperialism. They further charge that universalism of the liberal theories was in fact Eurocentrism in disguise, justifying the domination and exploitation of non-European as a civilizing mission. They, then, boisterously declare “the end of progress,” has come. It is the aim of this paper to counter this negative view of progress by arguing that despite its role in the history of colonialism, the idea of progress is worth preserving because (1) in certain historical accomplishments progress has taken place; (2) and furthermore, it is argued progress should be understood as acquisition of non-violent consciousness.