

Homi Bhabha (updated 2001)



### **Chester D. Tripp Professor in the Humanities at the University of Chicago**

Homi Bhabha was born into the Parsi community of Bombay. He received his B.A. from Bombay University; M.A., M.Phil., and D.Phil. from Christ Church, Oxford University. He is currently Chester D. Tripp Professor in the Humanities at the University of Chicago, where he teaches in the Departments of English and Art.

Bhabha is a leading voice in postcolonial studies and is highly influenced by Western poststructuralist theorists, notably Jacques Derrida, Jacques Lacan, and Michel Foucault. In *Nation and Narration* (1990), he argues against the tendency to essentialize Third World countries into a homogenous identity. Instead, he claims that all sense of nationhood is narrativized. He has also made a major contribution to postcolonial studies by pointing out how there is always ambivalence at the site of colonial dominance. In *The Location of Culture* (1994), Bhabha uses concepts such as mimicry, interstice, hybridity, and liminality--all influenced by semiotics and Lacanian psychoanalysis--to argue that cultural production is always most productive where it is most ambivalent.

### **Selected Bibliography**

*The Location of Culture* (Routledge, 1994).

Nation and Narration (Routledge, 1990)

(a more extensive bibliography can be found at  
<http://prelectur.stanford.edu/lecturers/bhabha/biblio.html>)