Dr. Krishna’s talk will take a critical look at some of the claims of neoliberal globalization at the present time. Firstly, he will place the current wave of globalization (beginning approximately in the late 1970s) in a historical perspective and argue that "laissez-faire" is better seen as an ideology rather than economic common sense. Secondly, he will argue that, as always, capitalist economic development proceeds unequally on a global scale, and thus has winners and losers on a global scale as well. What seems to historically distinguish those societies and enclaves which have succeeded or "developed" from those that have not has less to do with the invisible hand of the market and more to do with the visible intervention of developmental states and their policy interventions. Finally, his talk will look at the financial crisis that we are currently experiencing and ask why the term "crony capitalism" is reserved for Asian, African and Latin American economies when it seems so appropriate to describe the US economy at the present moment.

Dr. Sankaran Krishna is a Professor in the Department of Political Science, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM). He received his M.A. in Modern History from Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi, India) and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. His research is currently centered on nationalism, ethnic identity and conflict, identity politics, and postcolonial studies, located primarily around India and Sri Lanka.

*(You can help reduce climate change by bringing your own cup. Mahalo!)*

*The community is welcome to attend this lecture*