Profesions of faith: Hindu nationalism, television and the avatars of capital.
Dasgupta, S.M.

Citation for published version (APA):
Acknowledgements

As with most intellectual work, this book is the product of collective labour that spans three continents, numerous disciplines and generous co-conspirators. A first degree in commerce and economics (balance sheets were never my strong point) provided me with good friends and a recognition that the politics of economic policy could not be disarticulated from questions of cultural production. A post-graduate degree in journalism gave me the signal pleasure of encountering a fiercely articulate and politically-informed teacher in Haimanti Bannerjee, whose lectures on Eisenstein, Ozu and Ghatak sparked an interest in the politics of aesthetics and the aesthetics of politics that continues to underwrite my intellectual work. Banerjee's continuing friendship, humour and acuity has accompanied me in my academic endeavours and my visits to India.

Moving to the U.S. where the idea for this project germinated, was both a nerve-wracking and exciting adventure and the numerous teachers and students I encountered there were crucial to the formulation of this project.

The teachers and friends at the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University provided me with a stimulating, engaged and politically-informed introduction to intellectual labour. Carol Stabile guided and encouraged my interest and provided the much-needed emphasis on the importance of political work and the politics of intellectual work. The numerous evenings at the Unger/Stabile residence were a source of much enjoyment and political work for me and many others. Danae Clark took me under her wing soon after I "stepped off the boat" ten years ago and knew just when to let me find my own feet. Her intelligence, humour and warmth continues to be appreciated. The project is subtended by many of the intellectual sparks provided by courses taught by John Beverley, Keya Ganguly and Paul Smith, and thanks are due them although they are probably unaware of the consequences of their teaching.

The University of Amsterdam provided the final stop at which this project saw its completion. Peter van der Veer was an attentive promotor, on whom I could depend for incisive comments, warnings when I strayed off the track and a characteristic humour which combined acuity with the cynicism I always welcomed and shared. Cees Hamlink was a source of support through the intellectual and bureaucratic maze through which I had to negotiate this project. Birgit Meyer's post-doctoral reading group provided a welcome forum in which many of my ideas in the closing stages of this project took shape.

A great many people helped make this project, aiding me through the institutional and legal nightmares which most "allochtonen" must encounter, even those privileged enough to be intellectual workers in a university. Special thanks are due José Komen, Sandra Zwier, Cees Hamlink, Peter van der Veer, Peter Neijens and Holli Semetko. My colleagues and friends in the U.S. and the Netherlands provided me with both the
social support and non-academic enjoyment much needed in this sort of work. In particular, I would like to thank Michele Moe, Laurie Loftus, Joel Scilley, Jonathan Simon and Patricia Caille in the U.S., and among my recent colleagues Thom Duyvené de Wit and Marjolein Moorman.

Per Storgaard has been a friend of many years whose friendship and love will always be treasured. Cem Yogesh Gomusay has been my brother-in-arms during my years in the Netherlands, with whom I enjoyed the pleasures of my new home and with whom the few late-night discussions on obscure philosophical topics proved stimulating and saw their way into my project. The Hughes clan in the U.S. were a continual source of pleasure and support. Kathrin Hero’s humour, dependability and artistic elan were a pleasure in everyday life and essential for the designing of this book. René Nijhuis generously undertook the translation of the summary, and transformed much of my dense, convoluted prose into Dutch. My many friends in Amsterdam (you know who you are) confirmed that my move to Amsterdam was not a mistake. As one of my longest friends in the city, Anneke Reijnders continues to be a rock of support in all dimensions of my life.

Most of this project was undertaken in the midst of a partnership with Huub Ruijgrok, whose love and support has been essential in continuing through thick and thin. The Ruijgrok family has been a wonderful foster family for this self-imposed exile. My family in India has been a support in many different ways. My mother’s continued resilience through the highs and lows has been irreplaceable. The sudden passing away of my father just before I left India ten years ago has coloured most aspects of my life, including the undertaking of this project. His presence and memory will always remain with me and this work is dedicated to him, and to my grandmothers.

Sudeep Dasgupta, Amsterdam, July 2001