

South Asian Masculinities (REL 277)

Spring 2009
MW 1:10–2:30

PROFESSOR: Andy Rotman
OFFICE: Pierce Hall 203
OFFICE HOURS: MW 2:40–4:00 or by appointment
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REQUIREMENTS

1. You are expected to attend class regularly, finish the assigned readings on time, and participate in class discussions actively (and, one hopes, enthusiastically).
2. To facilitate class discussion, you will be expected to make regular postings on Moodle, responding to the readings directly as well as to the postings of other students. I expect you to post 250+ words each week. Your postings should demonstrate a thoughtful and rigorous engagement with the material. Creativity is encouraged, rambling is not. Although you are welcome to focus on a particular article or passage within a week's assignment, you should try to contextualize that material within the rest of the week's readings. Postings for each week should be submitted by Saturday at midnight of that week. In short, postings made during a particular week should be posted in the folder for that week. At the end of the semester, you will be expected to print out all of your posts and submit them to me. Please clip them together with your final paper and put them in the box outside my office by May 1st.
3. Class participation will constitute a significant portion of your grade. Hence, read the material, post your reactions and insights, and come to class prepared to engage in a high level discussion of the material. Keep in mind Wittgenstein's aphorism, "Even to have expressed a false thought boldly and clearly is already to have gained a great deal." To this end, students will be asked to introduce the readings for each class.
4. A 5–6 page research paper will be due at the end of the semester. Research topics must first be submitted to me for approval. A brief description of your "approved" project (100 words) along with an annotated bibliography must be posted on Moodle by April 20th. Some of you may have overlapping projects, and it would be good for you to work collaboratively. During the last week of the semester, you will be expected to present your research as a work in progress. Papers are due in the box outside my office by May 1st.

In summary, your grade will be determined by the quality of your participation in class, your postings on Moodle, and your research paper.

REQUIRED READING

Alter, Joseph S. 2000. *Knowing Dil Das: Stories of a Himalayan Hunter*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Reddy, Gayatri. 2005. *With Respect to Sex: Negotiating Hijra Identity in South India*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Subha Rao and Pratap Mulick. 1998. *Valmiki's Ramayana*. Amar Citra Katha. Bombay: India Bookhouse Limited.

•texts are available at Grécourt Bookshop in the Campus Center

•the source book is available at Paradise Copies, 21 Conz Street, 585-0414

WEEK 1 (1/26, 1/28)

i. INTRODUCTION

ii. LOCATING MASCULINITY

Friedman, David. M. 2003. *A Mind of Its Own: A Cultural History of the Penis*. Penguin.

“The Demon Rod,” 1–54

•Doniger, Wendy and Sudhir Kakar, trans. 2002. *Kamasutra*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

“The Lifestyle of the Man-about-town,” 17–21

WEEK 2 (2/2, 2/4)

i. MANLY GODS, GODLY MEN: SHIVA

•Doniger, Wendy. 1975. *Hindu Myths: A Sourcebook Translated from the Sanskrit*. Penguin Books. Excerpts, 137–174

•Kakar, Sudhir. 1978. *The Inner World: A Psycho-analytic Study of Childhood and Society in India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.

“Shiva and Narcissus,” 154–160

ii. MANLY GODS, GODLY MEN: KRISHNA

•Doniger, Wendy. 1975. *Hindu Myths: A Sourcebook Translated from the Sanskrit*. Penguin Books. Excerpts, 204–231

•Kakar, Sudhir. 1978. *The Inner World: A Psycho-analytic Study of Childhood and Society in India*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.

“Cult and Myths of Krishna,” 140–153

WEEK 3 (2/9, 2/11)

i. MANLY GODS, GODLY MEN: RAMA

•Rao, Subha and Pratap Mulick. 1998. *Valmiki's Ramayana*. Amar Citra Katha. Bombay: India Bookhouse Limited.

entire book

•Doniger, Wendy. 1975. *Hindu Myths: A Sourcebook Translated from the Sanskrit*. Penguin Books. Excerpts, 197–204

•Kishwar, Madhu. 1997. *Manushi* 98. http://www.manushi-india.org/pdfs_issues/articles/Yes%20to%20Sita,%20No%20to%20Ram.pdf

“Yes to Sita, No to Ram!: The Continuing Popularity of Sita in India,” 20–31

ii. MANLY GODS, GODLY MEN? BUDDHA

•Rotman, Andy, trans. forthcoming. *Divine Stories, part 2*. Boston: Wisdom Publications.

“The Story of Rupāvati,” 1–15

•Mroziak, Susanne. 2006. In *Bodily Citations: Religion and Judith Butler*, edited by Ellen Armour and Susan St. Ville. New York: Columbia University Press.

“Materializations of Virtue: Buddhist Discourses on Bodies,” 15–47

WEEK 4 (2/16, 2/18)

i. OEDIPUS, CASTRATION, PARANOIA

- Carstairs, G. Morris. 1956. "Hinjra and Jiryra: Two Derivatives of Hindu Attitude to Sexuality." *British Journal of Medical Psychiatry* 29: 128–138.
- Ramanujan, A. K. 2004. In *The Collected Essays of A. K. Ramanujan*, edited by Vinay Dharwadker. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
 - "The Indian Oedipus," 377–397

ii. NO CLASS (RALLY DAY)

WEEK 5 (2/23, 2/25)

i. THE INTIMATE ENEMY

- Nandy, Ashish. 1998. *Exiled at Home: Comprising At the Edge of Psychology, The Intimate Enemy, and Creating a Nationality*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.
 - The Intimate Enemy* (1983):
 - Preface, iv–xvi
 - "The Psychology of Colonialism: Sex, Age and Ideology in British India," 1–64

ii. THE EFFEMINATE AND EMASCULATED

- Sinha, Mrinalini. 1989. In *Shaping Bengal: Words, Public and Private*, edited by Tony Stewart. East Lansing: Asian Studies Center.
 - "The Age of Consent Act: The Ideal of Masculinity and Colonial Ideology in Nineteenth Century Bengal," 99–111
- Luhmann, T.M. 1994. "The Good Parsi: The Postcolonial 'Feminization' of a Colonial Elite." *Man* 29 (2): 333–357.

WEEK 6 (3/2, 3/4)

i. HIJRAS: THOUGHTS ON A THIRD GENDER

- Reddy, Gayatri. 2005. *With Respect to Sex: Negotiating Hijra Identity in South India*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
 1. The Ethnographic Setting, 1–16
 2. Hijras, Individuality, and Izzat, 17–43
 3. Cartographies of Sex/Gender, 44–77

ii. HIJRAS: IDENTITY AND PRACTICE

- Reddy, Gayatri. 2005. *With Respect to Sex: Negotiating Hijra Identity in South India*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
 4. Sacred Legitimization, Corporeal Practice: Hindu Iconography and Hijra Renunciation, 78–98
 5. "We are All Musalmans Now": Religious Practice, Positionality, and Hijra/Muslim Identification, 99–120
 6. (Per)Formative Selves: The Production of Gender, 121–141

WEEK 7 (3/9, 3/11)

i. HIJRAS: LIFE IN BOMBAY

SCREENING: *Bombay Eunuch*. A Gidalya Pictures Production. Directed by Alexandra Shiva, Sean MacDonald, and Michelle Gocovsky. 2001. (71 minutes).

•Reddy, Gayatri. 2005. *With Respect to Sex: Negotiating Hijra Identity in South India*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

8. Shifting Contexts, Fluid Identities, 186–210

9. Crossing “Lines” of Subjectivity: Transnational Movements and Gay Identifications, 211–222

10. Conclusion, 223–232

ii. ENCOUNTERING MASCULINITIES, NORTH AND SOUTH

•Chopra, Radhika. 2004. In *South Asian Masculinities: Context of Change, Sites of Continuity*, edited by Caroline Osella, Filippino Osella, and Radhika Chopra. New Delhi: Kali for Women. “Encountering Masculinity: An Ethnographer’s Dilemma,” 36–59

•De Neve, Geert. 2004. In *South Asian Masculinities: Context of Change, Sites of Continuity*, edited by Caroline Osella, Filippino Osella, and Radhika Chopra. New Delhi: Kali for Women.

“The Workplace and Neighbourhood: Locating Masculinities in the South Indian Textile Industry,” 60–95

OPTIONAL

•Osella, Caroline and Filippo. 2006. *Men and Masculinities in South India*. London and New York: Anthem Press.

1. Introduction: Masculinities in South Asia, 1–28

WEEK 8 (3/16, 3/18,)

RELAX . . . SPRING BREAK

WEEK 9 (3/23, 3/25)

i. COPS AND ROBBERS IN MUMBAI

Mehta, Suketu. 2004. *Maximum City*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Number Two After Scotland Yard, 131

Ajay Lal: The Blasts and the Gangwar, 131–167

Encounter, 168–184

Black Collar Workers, 185–190

Mohsin: The D-Company, 190–206

Satish: The Dal Badlu, 206–234

Chotta Shakeel: The Don in Exile, 234–249

SCREENING OUTSIDE OF CLASS: *Deewar [The Wall]*. Directed by Yash Chopra. Produced by Gulshan Rai. 1973. (160 minutes).

Monday and Tuesday, 7 pm (location to be announced)

ii. WHY IS THE ANGRY YOUNG MAN SO ANGRY?

- Viridi, Jyotika, 1993. "The 'Fiction' of Film and 'Fact' of Politics: Deewar." *Jump Cut* 38: 1–11. (<http://www.ejumpcut.org/archive/onlinessays/JC38folder/Deewar.html>)
- Mazumdar, Ranjani. 2000. In *Making Meaning in Indian Cinema*, edited by Ravi S. Vasudevan. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
 - "From Subjectification to Schizophrenia: The 'Angry Man' and the 'Psychotic' Hero of Bombay Cinema," 238–264

WEEK 10 (3/30, 4/1)

i. SOMATIC NATIONALISM 1

- Alter, Joseph S. 1994. "Somatic Nationalism: Indian Wrestling and Militant Hinduism." *Modern Asian Studies* 28 (3): 557–588.
- Alter, Joseph S. 2002. In *Every Day Life in South Asia*, edited by Diane P. Mines and Sarah Lamb. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.
 - "Nervous Masculinity: Consumption and the Production of Embodied Gender in Indian Wrestling," 132–145

ii. SOMATIC NATIONALISM 2

- Alter, Joseph S. 1994. "Celibacy, Sexuality, and the Transformation of Gender into Nationalism in North India." *Journal of Asian Studies* 53 (1): 45–66.
- Roy, Parama. 2002. "Meat-Eating, Masculinity, and Renunciation in India: A Gandhian Grammar of Diet." *Gender and History* 14 (1): 62–91.

WEEK 11 (4/6, 4/8)

i. MASCULINITY AND MORALITY

- Van der Veer, Peter. 2001. *Imperial Encounters: Religion and Modernity in India and Britain*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press.
 - Chapter 4: Moral Muscle: Masculinity and its Religious Uses, 83–105
- Hansen, Thomas Blum. 1996. "Recuperating Masculinity: Hindu Nationalism, Violence, and the Exorcism of the Muslim 'Other.'" *Critique of Anthropology* 16 (2): 137–172.

ii. MASCULINITY AND MORALITY

SCREENING: *Majma* [Performance]. Directed by Rahul Roy. (54 minutes).

- Cohen, Lawrence. "Holi in Banaras and the Mahaland of Modernity." *Gay and Lesbian Quarterly* 2 (1995): 399–424.

WEEK 12 (4/13, 4/15)

i. HUNTING AN IDENTITY 1

- Alter, Joseph S. 2000. *Knowing Dil Das: Stories of a Himalayan Hunter*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
 - Preface, xi–xvii
 - Part I. Bal Kand / The Book of Childhood, 3–33
 - Part II. Aranya Kand / The Forest Book, 37–86

ii. HUNTING AN IDENTITY 2

Alter, Joseph S. 2000. *Knowing Dil Das: Stories of a Himalayan Hunter*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Part III. Shram Kand / The Book of Labor, 89–139

Part IV. Uttarkhand / Himalaya, 143–175

WEEK 13 (4/20, 4/22)

i. NO CLASS

SCREENING OUTSIDE OF CLASS: *Amar, Akbar, Anthony*. Produced and directed by Manmohan Desai. M. K. D. Films, 1977. (174 minutes).

Monday and Tuesday, 7 pm (location to be announced)

ii. A HINDU, A CHRISTIAN, AND A MUSLIM WALK INTO A BAR...

•Thomas, Rosie. 1995. In *Consuming Modernity: Public Culture in a South Asian World*, edited by Carol A. Breckenridge. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

“Melodrama and the Negotiation of Morality in Mainstream Hindi Film,” 157-182

•Mishra, Vijay. 2002. *Bollywood Cinema: Temples of Desire*. New York: Routledge.

Chapter 6: Segmenting/Analyzing Two Foundational Texts, 171–178, 189–201

•additional readings to be distributed

WEEK 14 (4/27, 4/29)

i. PRESENTATIONS

ii. PRESENTATIONS