

Curriculum Vitae
MEENA RANI KHANDELWAL
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RESEARCH AREAS

South Asia, Hindu renunciation, kinsihp, Indian diaspora, gender, feminist anthropology, transnational feminism

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

I am currently completing a paper on cosmopolitanism in Rishikesh, India. I am also currently collaborating with Chitra Akkooor to conduct ethnographic research on Indian diasporic cultural performances. This project is titled "Indian Histories and Diasporic Subjectivities: Exploring Indian Dance Performance on an American Campus." I am simultaneously planning a new project called "Gender Mixing and 21st Century Anxieties: Romance, Chastity and Abstinence in India and the United States." This project will also involve ethnographic research to be conducted over the next two years.

HIGHER EDUCATION

- 1995 Ph.D in Anthropology, University of Virginia
- 1988 M.A. in Anthropology, University of Virginia
- 1985 B.A. in Religious Studies and Anthropology, University of Virginia
(with high distinction)

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2007 – Associate Professor; Departments of Anthropology and Women's Studies;
University of Iowa
- 2003 – 2007 Assistant Professor; Departments of Anthropology and Women's Studies;
University of Iowa
- 2001 – 2003: Visiting Asst. Professor; Departments of Anthropology and Women's Studies;
University of Iowa
- 1998 – 2001: Visiting Assistant Professor; Department of Sociology/Anthropology;
Denison University
- 1997 – 1998: Visiting Assistant Professor; Department of Anthropology and Sociology;
Kenyon College
- 1996 – 1997: Instructor; Dept. of Anthropology; University of Alberta
- Fall 1995 Instructor; Dept. of Anthropology & Sociology; Sweet Briar College
- Fall 1992 Instructor; Dept. of Sociology/Anthropology; University of Richmond

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2000 FEMINIST TEACHING AWARD for excellence in teaching within a feminist pedagogical framework. Professors are nominated for this award by current and former students, after which the Women's Studies Committee at Denison University chooses one awardee annually from among nominees.
- 1995 MCKENNAN POSTDOCTORAL TEACHING FELLOWSHIP from the Department of Anthropology at Dartmouth College (declined).
- 1987 AWARD OF DISTINCTION on Departmental Comprehensive Exam for Department of Anthropology at University of Virginia.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2007 Nuns, Yoginis, Saints and Singers: Women's Renunciation in South Asia Edited by Meena Khandelwal, Sondra L. Hausner, and Ann Grodzins Gold (Zubaan, South Asia edition of Palgrave Macmillan book).
- 2006 Women's Renunciation in South Asia: Nuns, Yoginis, Saints and Singers edited by Meena Khandelwal, Sondra L. Hausner, and Ann Grodzins Gold (Palgrave Macmillan).
- 2004 Women in Ochre Robes: Gendering Hindu Renunciation by Meena Khandelwal (State University of New York Press).

Articles and Book Chapters

- 2009 "Arranging Love: Interrogating the Vantage Point in Cross-Border Feminism" Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society 34(3): in press.
- 2007 "Foreign Swamis at Home in India: Transmigration to the Birthplace of Spirituality." Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power 14:313-340.
- 2001 "Sexual Fluids, Emotions, Morality: Notes on the Gendering of *Brahmacharya*" in Celibacy, Culture, and Society. ed. by Elisa Sobo and Sandra Bell. University of Wisconsin Press.
- 1997 "Ungendered Atma, Masculine Virility, and Feminine Compassion: Ambiguities in Renunciant Discourses on Gender." Contributions to Indian Sociology 31(1): 79-107.
- 1996 "Walking a Tightrope: Saintliness, Gender, and Power in an Ethnographic Encounter." Anthropology and Humanism 21(2): 111-134.

Book Reviews and Review Essays

- 2004 Review of Where Are You From?: Middle-Class Migrants in the Modern World by Dhooleka S. Raj for American Ethnologist.
- 2004 Review essay of Women at the Center: Life in a Modern Matriarchy by Peggy Reeves Sanday and Our Women Are Free: Gender and Ethnicity in the Hindukush by Wynne Maggi, for American Ethnologist.

- 2004 Review of Jewels of Authority: Women and Textual Tradition in Hindu India by Laurie Patton for Religious Studies Review.
- 2003 Review of Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India by Nicholas Dirks, for Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History 4(1), electronic journal.
- 2001 Review of White Saris and Sweet Mangoes: Aging, Gender, and Body in North India by Sarah Lamb, for Journal of Asian Studies 60(4):1228-1229.
- 2001 Review of The Performance of Gender: An Anthropology of Everyday Life in a South Indian Fishing Village by Cecelie Busby, for Ethnos 66(2):276-277.
- 2000 Review of Sex, Sexuality, and the Anthropologist edited by Fran Markowitz and Michael Ashkenazi, for American Anthropologist 102(2):396.
- 1995 Review of Listen to the Heron's Words by Ann Gold and Gloria Raheja, for American Anthropologist 97(3): 604-605.

INVITED SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

- 2006 Syracuse-Cornell University South Asian Consortium symposium "South Asian Religious Transnationalism: Regional Dynamics, Global Passages" (April 21-22, 2006)
- 2005 Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi) anthropology colloquium (April 2005)
- 2005 Grinnell College senior seminar "South Asian Saints" (September 2005)

RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2008 Discussant on panel entitled "Pragmatics of Visibility and Invisibility" at American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings; San Francisco
- 2008 "Guru-Seeking in Rishikesh" presented at American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings; San Francisco
- 2005 Panel co-organizer "ArrangedLove" and presenter of "Arranging Love" for American Anthropological Association Meetings: Washington D.C.
- 2003 Panel organizer "Co-opting Orientalism" and presenter of "Transnational Saints, Diaspora Hinduism and Orientalism" for Association of Asian Studies Meetings; New York.
- 2001 Panel co-organizer "Grounding Renunciation: Ascetic Women's Everyday Lives" for American Anthropological Association Meetings; Washington D.C.
- 2001 "Marriage, Sexuality and Female Agency at the Site of Sannyasa" presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings; Washington D.C.
- 2001 "Subversion and Its Limits in Women's Transgression at the Site of Sannyasa" presented at the Annual Conference on South Asia; University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- 2001 Discussant on panel entitled "Private Women, Public Fortune" at Annual Conference on South Asia; University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- 1999 "Gender, Sexuality, and the Distinction between Asli and Nakli Sadhus" presented at the Annual Conference on South Asia; University of Wisconsin-Madison.

GRANTS

External

- 2008 American Council of Learned Societies Collaborative Research Award (pending)
- 2002 SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP from American Institute of Indian Studies for nine months of ethnographic research in India on Hindu renunciation.
- 1990 JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP from American Institute of Indian Studies for dissertation research on female Hindu renunciation in India.
- 1989 FULBRIGHT-HAYS FELLOWSHIP from U.S. Department of Education for dissertation research on female Hindu renunciation in India.

Internal

- 2009 ASSOCIATE DEAN'S CURRICULUM FUND award to support students in Gender and Indian Diaspora (113/131:134) to attend two cultural events
- 2005 ARTS AND HUMANITIES INITIATIVE award from University of Iowa
- 2004 nTitle award from University of Iowa
- 2004 OLD GOLD award from University of Iowa
- 1999 MELLON FACULTY GRANT (with Dr. Bahram Tavakolian) for collaboration between Denison and Kenyon faculty in teaching middle Eastern, South Asian, and International Studies using videoconferencing technology
- 1992 ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENT AWARD from graduate school of Arts and Sciences, University of Virginia, for dissertation writing.

COURSES

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| 113:222 | Crossing Borders Sem: Reading Transnational Feminist Theory (Grad) |
| 131/113:127 | South Asian Sexual Cultures |
| 131:149 | Transnational Feminism |
| 113:003 | Introduction to the Study of Culture and Society |
| 131:198/199 | Honors Senior Thesis/Senior Research Seminar |
| 131/113:107 | Gendering India |
| 131/113:108 | Anthropology of Marriage and Family |
| 113/131:134 | Gender and Indian Diaspora |
| 044:286 | Crossing Borders Sem: Disrupting Diaspora (Grad) |
| 113/131:220 | Seminar: Feminist Anthropology (Grad) |
| 113/131:156 | Sexuality and Culture |
| 113:221 & 131:245 | Seminar: Feminist Ethnography (Grad) |
| 113:134 | Diaspora Cultures |
| 131:010 | Introduction to Women's Studies |