CONFERENCE: FEMININITIES AND MASCULINITIES IN INDIAN POLITICS
Edinburgh 15-16 MAY 2008

This conference problematises the meanings of doing and participating in politics in India by harnessing novel gender theorising on shifting masculinities and sexualities and historical as well as emerging trends, actors and forms of participation in Indian politics. Against this backdrop, the conference’s objective is to generate nuanced understandings of the encounter between gender identities and political practices and discourses; of how femininities and masculinities are deployed, appropriated and contested across genders; and following along these lines, the ways of ‘living politics’, building leaderships and embodying power.

PUBLIC LECTURE, Thursday 15 May, 5pm
Tanika Sarkar, Singhvi Visiting Professor
“Designing Selves : Many Faces of Masculine and Feminine in Colonial Times”

Distinguished speakers
Paul Brass, University of Washington
Tanika Sarkar, Visiting Singhvi Professor
Wendy Singer, Kenyon College
Mrinalini Sinha, Pennsylvania State University

Confirmed speakers
Mukulika Banerjee, University College London
Manuela Ciotti, University of Edinburgh
Hugo Gorringe, University of Edinburgh
Lucia Michelutti, London School of Economics
Sreelekha Nair, Maison des Sciences de l’Homme
Badri Narayan, G B Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad

Conference organiser
Manuela Ciotti (Inquiries at m.ciotti@ed.ac.uk)

This event is funded by the British Academy and the Centre for South Asian Studies at the University of Edinburgh

Conference venue
University of Edinburgh
George Square
Edinburgh EH8 9LL
Adam Ferguson Building
Room 124-125

There is no conference fee but catering and residential charges may apply. Please contact Dr. Manuela Ciotti for details.
FEMINITIES AND MASCULINITIES IN INDIAN POLITICS

Schedule

Thursday 15th May

9.45: Meeting in room 124-125 Adam Ferguson Building, George Square and conference introduction

9.55: Welcome
Chair: Patricia Jeffery

The format is as follows: speakers will have 25 minutes to present their papers while discussants will have 10 minutes to raise key points and questions after which speakers will respond to these for 5 minutes and a plenary discussion will follow for 20 minutes.

10.00-11.00
Mrinalini Sinha
Penn State University
Paper: Historically speaking: Gender and citizenship in colonial India

Discussant: Mukulika Banerjee

11.00-11.30: Tea/Coffee

11.30-12.30
Paul Brass
University of Washington
Paper: A death in the family

Discussant: Wendy Singer

12.30-13.30: Lunch

Chair Crispin Bates

13.30-14.30
Mukulika Banerjee
University College London
Paper: Social inequality versus political equality: The experience of women’s self help groups in West Bengal

Discussant: Hugo Gorringe
14.30-15.30  
Sreelekha Nair  
Maison des Sciences de l'Homme  
Paper: *Citizenship and migrant women's work in India*  
Discussant: Badri Narayan  

15.30-16.30  
Hugo Gorringe  
University of Edinburgh  
Paper: *Women’s rights against Dalit rights? Dalit women mobilising for change in South India*  
Discussant: Lucia Michelutti  

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**Thursday 15th May, 17.00**  
**SINGHVI PUBLIC LECTURE**  
Tanika Sarkar, Visiting Singhvi Professor  

*Designing selves: Many faces of masculine and feminine in colonial times*  

18.00-19.00 Reception followed by dinner  

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**Friday 16th May**  

Chair: Roger Jeffery  

10.00-11.00  
Badri Narayan  
G B Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad  
Paper: *Gendering 'participation': Jhuria's narratives of Dalit politics in a North Indian village*  
Discussant: Manuela Ciotti  

11.00-11.30: Tea/coffee  

11.30-12.30  
Lucia Michelutti  
London School of Economics  
Paper: *'Goondas' and 'Caudillos': Strongmen politicians in comparative perspective*  
Discussant: Paul Brass
12.30-13.30: Lunch

Chair: Paul Brass

13.30-14.30
Wendy Singer
Kenyon College
Paper: When constituencies are 'suitable for ladies': From the women’s wing to getting a ticket to tun
Discussant: Mrinalini Sinha

14.30-15.30
Manuela Ciotti
University of Edinburgh
Paper: Political androgynies? Hypothesising de-gendering activism in North India
Discussant: Tanika Sarkar

15.30-16.00: Closing discussion