

Exploring Masculinities: A South Asian Travelling Seminar

Date: 13-14 February 2007

Time: 9:30 to 6:00

Venue: Department Of Sociology, University of Delhi (North Campus)

The concept of 'masculinities', informed by recent feminist thought and the women's movement, has emerged as a means of renewing feminist discourse by encouraging a more relational approach to masculinities and femininities. This also allows for the investigation, problematisation and interrogation of masculinity equally with femininity. Notwithstanding these enabling possibilities, however, "gender" is still essentially deployed in contemporary social science discourse as a synonym for women, its relational aspect obscured and the invitation to interrogate masculinities largely ignored. This is unfortunate because a textured understanding of the diversity of South Asian men's experiences, attitudes, beliefs, practices, situations, sexualities and institutions is essential to not only challenging the social dominance of men over women but for building a more humane world.

The travelling seminar on masculinities has been conceived from the position that the study of masculinities is important in that it is 'simultaneously a place in gender relations, the practices through which men and women engage that place in gender, and the affects of these practices in bodily experiences, personality and culture.' (Connell R.W, 1994:71). The seminar is both an academic exercise in generating interest for further research on masculinities as well as a campaign to form a network of university communities that are willing to take up issues of gender equality.

Organised by Aakar (www.southasianmasculinities.org), the seminar, as the title suggests, will travel to ten universities across south Asia. Conceived as a cross disciplinary event, the seminar comprises of academic papers; personal and activist narratives and; films/theatre/art on the theme of masculinities. The seminar at each location is held in collaboration with a university department. In Delhi, the Department of Sociology, University of Delhi is the co-organiser of the seminar. Dr. Deepak Mehta from the Department is co-ordinating the seminar.

The speakers and discussants at the seminar to be held on 13/14 Feb 2007 in Delhi include:
Dr. Jani De Silva, International Centre For Ethnic Studies, Colombo: Naradha's narrative: constructing subjectivity and masculinity through student politics.

Dr. Rubina Saigol, Lahore Pakistan: Nation and Masculinity Superman Imagery in Muslim Nationalist Poetry

Imtiaz Saikh, Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka: Learning By Doing: Masculinities, Healthy Behaviour and Young Men,s sexual practices in Dhaka

Rubina Khilji, Department of Gender Studies, University of Peshawar, Peshawar: Discussant

Dr. Patricia Uberoi, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi: Discussant

Dr. Mary E John, Centre For Women,s Development Studies, New Delhi: Discussant

Dr. Shail Mayaram, CSDS, Delhi: Discussant

Dr. Sanjay Srivastava, Deakin University, Melbourne: Pedestrian Desires: Footpath Pornography, Masculinities cultures, and the Aesthetic of fluid species

Dr. Nivedita Menon, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi: Discussant

Dr. Radhika Chopra, Department of Sociology, University of Delhi: Title Awaited
Dr. Deepak Mehta, Department of Sociology, University of Delhi: Words that wound:
Affects publics and the production of Hate in Bombay.
Shudhabrata Sengupta, Sarai, Delhi: Discussant
Shankar Ramaswamy, University of Chicago: Togethering Contra Othering: Male Hindu-
Muslim Inter-Relations In Proletarian Delhi

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www.southasianmasculinities.org

THE FIRST SEMINAR SERIES:

<http://www.southasianmasculinities.org/firstseminar/first.htm>

The first Travelling Seminar on Exploring Masculinities was designed to introduce diverse questions of masculinities and gender relations within the university system. We look at the seminar as a unique platform to introduce current theories and practices on the theme of masculinities and its relationship with gender based violence, reproductive health and gender equality/justice to the university community and hope to generate interest for further work in the area.

THE SECOND SEMINAR SERIES:

<http://www.southasianmasculinities.org/secondseminar/second.htm>

We are now planning towards the second series of seminars that will travel to ten universities in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. As with the first series the focus will be to introduce the theme of masculinities to students and faculty at the universities within a framework of gender equality and justice.

The seminar will represent the best of current academic/activist work on masculinities in the region. The cross disciplinary/multi cultural nature of the seminar displays the complexity of the gender web and the diverse strategies required to move towards gender equality and provides an opportunity for audiences from different backgrounds to participate and engage with the seminar.

The second travelling seminar series will visit ten universities across south Asia.