



WEDNESDAY SEMINAR

29.05.2024, 17:00 Uhr, Übungsraum (and online)
IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock

Atreyee Sen (University of Copenhagen)

Urban Poverty, Public Romance and Violent Moral Policing of Lower-Class Female Youth in Mumbai



Atreyee Sen is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Copenhagen. Over the course of her academic career in India, the UK and Denmark, Sen has published extensively, and brought critical insights to studies of gender, childhoods, poverty,

urban politics and South Asian cities. She is author of *Shiv Sena Women: Violence and Communalism in a Bombay Slum* (2007), and co-editor of *Global Vigilante* (2008) and *Who's Cashing in? Contemporary Perspectives on New Monies and Global Cashlessness* (2020). Some of her more recent publications include 'An Economy of Lies: Informal Income, Phone-Banking and Female Migrant Workers in Kolkata, India' in *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies* (2022), and 'Religious Spaces, Urban Poverty, and Interfaith Relations in India' in *Current History* (2022). In 2023, Dr Sen won the inaugural prize for best journal article from the interdisciplinary journal, *Critical Asian Studies*, for her article 'No City for Lovers'.

kommende Termine

19.06.2024

Natashe Lemos Dekker

Withdrawing from the World: Finitude, Alienation, and Everyday Experiences of Aging in Brazil

This presentation will explore the violent moral policing and aggressive spatial marginalisation of lower-class, young lovers in Mumbai. I will interrogate contemporary local, regional and nationalist discourses propagating appropriate, honourable conduct for women in modern India, and analyse the percolation of these forms of gendered moral surveillance into urban politics. Young girls, who gain a small degree of economic freedom through low-income employment in Mumbai, are often keen to resist arranged marriages, and choose their romantic partners. However, since upper-class 'safe' public spaces (such as coffee shops, movie halls, shopping plazas) are not available to poor women, these young girls use open parks, street benches, public beaches and commuter bridges to kiss, cuddle and converse with their lovers. I show how neighbourhood communities, conservative nationalist groups, and local policemen concerned with 'public pornography', coordinate physical attacks and public shaming rituals to punish such deviant youth. I argue that this form of virtue policing is not just directed towards informally governing the morality of young girls. It is also intimately related to invisibilising and edging out women from public spaces, when they boldly display their right to love, lust and labour in the commercial city.

Details:
<https://ksa.univie.ac.at/en/department/events/wednesday-seminar/>

