

Secrecy and Its Critics in Siddha Medicine

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While secrecy has been a central feature in the transmission of Siddha medical knowledge for centuries, the morality of secrecy in South India has changed dramatically since the beginning of the twentieth century. This lecture will examine these shifting views of secrecy and the elements of this critique, which was advanced both by colonial doctors and also by Siddha Vaidyas themselves. The presentation will further suggest that the function of secrecy as a strategy for garnering prestige is now served by another form of concealed knowledge, that is, Tamil medical knowledge that has been lost in the ravages of time.

Date: Monday, 16.01.2017

Venue: South Asia Institute, Room Z10

Time: 13.15 – 14.45