

Gastvortrag

Pallabi Roy, PhD Candidate

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**An Ethnographic Study of Involuntary Childlessness,
Reproductive Loss, and Grief in Kolkata:****Notes and Reflections from the Field**

Located across three infertility clinics, sitting through more than 450 medical consultations, observing multiple medical procedures, and interviewing more than fifty couples, Pallabi Roy undertook the first round of her doctoral fieldwork over a period of seven months in Kolkata, India. This ethnographic research for Roy was riddled with challenges and choices – on one hand, to cultivate a sensitivity and empathy towards the informants and on the other hand, to maintain an ‘objective’ distance between the researcher and the self. While the interviews proved to be a cathartic exercise for the women and men whose experiences of ‘being childless’ and reproductive loss(es) were being heard for the first time, for Roy this research unearthed fascinating ethnographic data but it was also about stumbling upon self-reflexivity as a potential methodological tool for conducting this research.

**Date:** Tuesday, October 24**Time:** 17:00-19:00**Venue:** South Asia Institute, INF,
room Z10