

**8.5.2018 17:00-19:00****Z10, South Asia  
Institute***The Medical Anthropology Forum Presents***Dr. Hari Bhaskar**

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**Plural Selves- On Psychiatric pluralism in Kerala  
and the Global Mental Health discourses**

Psychiatric pluralism is a much debated concept these days with distinct vignettes relevant in their own contexts. Plotted on this back ground, this paper searches for the vignettes of pluralistic practices in the mental health scenario of Kerala, India. The Plural Keralan self thus identified is examined in relation to Joseph Alter's notion of "Rasipurusa -the Heap person" in Ayurveda (Alter 1999) and the continuum of self-hood experience from body mind and consciousness to the soul discussed by Halliburton (Halliburton 2002). The coherence of the concepts of pluralism in Kerala is also investigated in the light of Global Mental Health perspectives based on empirical data from the field.