The Medical Anthropology Forum Presents

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“Debrahmanization: Im/Possibilities of Personhood”

This talk hopefully contributes and complements issues addressed and discussed in other presentations of this terms’ lecture series, such as “Plural Selves”, “De-Brahminization”, or “Embodied Environmentalism”. It attempts to do so on the basis of a larger project that explores and illustrates the complementary nature of bio- and ethnographic approaches. The protagonist of the talk is Ambika, who detests the way of life that her upbringing in an orthodox Brahmanic family ingrained into her. The talk describes and analyses what de-brahmanization means to Ambika. And it engages with the work of Saba Mahmood and James Laidlaw to discuss how this struggle could be conceptualized in more general terms.

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Z10, South Asia Institute