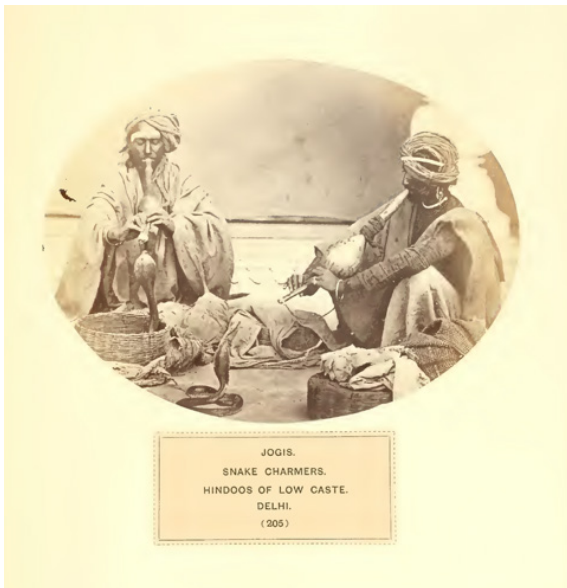


Departmental Colloquium - History Department Summer Semester 2024

Courtezans and Jogis: Ideologies of Gender and Public Culture in Empire

Dr. Rumya Putchá
(University of Georgia)



This presentation examines how colonial administrators utilized new and emerging technology to cultivate somatic forms of orientalism. Highlighting the affective economy and circulation of commissioned works such as *The People of India* (1868) and *The Oriental Races and Tribes of India* (1863), I trace how photographic technology, which preceded sound technology, encultured sensory, bodily, and emotional attachments to Indian subjects. I argue that somatic orientalism produces a racializing episteme—that the Indian body is and was always out of place or time. Through a combination of critical transnational feminist ethnographic

and archival tools, I trace the emergence of somatic orientalism to the mid to late nineteenth century, focusing in particular on two figures in the colonial archive—the jogi and the courtesan. Ultimately, I interrogate the intellectual imperatives of somatic orientalism, arguing that the visual economies through which images of Indians circulated in the era preceding sound reproduction installed and continue to normalize mechanisms and epistemologies of empire.



More
information

Thursday 27.06.2024
Room CATS 010.01.05 - Hörsaal
16:15 CEST

Photo from The People of India. Vol 4 (1869)