New researches on the transgendered people in South Asia have in unprecedented ways drawn attention to the societal connections that exist between gender, cultural conventions, religion, politics, traditional arts, modernity, popular media, and law. One stream of research focuses on the gender identity formation at the early childhood and the construction of adult gendered selves through cultural processes.

Another stream of research focuses on the emerging contradictions between gender and transgender roles in traditional arts and their representations as well as on the urban discourses of exploitation, rights, and media activism. By presenting researches from both the streams the workshop seeks to articulate and contribute to the contemporary South Asian discourse on the social body, be it feminine, masculine, or transgender.

This also includes the re-examination of modern categories by looking at conceptualizations in classical literatures, both Sanskrit and vernacular. The workshop seeks to initiate a dialogue between fieldwork based case studies, textual analyses and general theoretical presentations that contextualize intercultural dimensions of gender studies. Participants are Indologists, anthropologists, folklorists and filmmakers.
Saturday, 5th Feb. 2011

Morning Session II: 11.00 a.m.-12.30 p.m.
Reflections on gender issues
Chairperson: Ute Hüsk en

11.00 a.m. Elisabeth Schömbucher, Würzburg: Reflections on transgender across cultures.

11.30 a.m. Helene Basu, Münster: Gender and mental illness.

12.00 p.m. Mirella Lingorska, Tübingen: Durga’s rampant daughters.

12.30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Lunch break

Afternoon Session I: 2.00 p.m.-3.30 p.m.
Gender in classical literatures
Chairperson: Karin Steiner

2.00 p.m. Ute Hüsk en, Oslo: Change of sex in the Pali Vinaya.

2.30 p.m. Anna Aurelia Esposito, Würzburg: How to change sex in old India: Gender transformation in classical Indian literature.

3.00 p.m. B.A. Viveka Rai, Mangalore: Transgression of genders in a Kannada classical epic.

Saturday, 5th Feb. 2011

Afternoon Session II: 3.45 p.m.-5.45 p.m.
Gender in Theatre and Media
Chairperson: B.A.Viveka Rai

3.45 p.m. Heike Moser, Tübingen: Dancing women and playing men: Gender crossing and gender bender in Indian dance and theatre.

4.15 p.m. Katrin Binder, Nottingham/Würzburg: Gender or no gender? Implications of performance format, technique and social change to gender issues in Kannada Yakshagana.

4.45 p.m. Barbara Lotz, Würzburg: Courtesan, Tawai’j, Call girl: The other woman in the novel “Devdas” (1917) and in her filmy avatars of 1955, 2002 and 2009.

5.15-5.45 p.m. Concluding discussion

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