



**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.

## Friday, 4th Feb. 2011

**5.00 p.m.** **Welcome address:**  
*Heidrun Brückner, Würzburg.*

**5.15 p.m.** **M.D. Muthukumaraswamy, Chennai:**  
*Key-note speech:*  
*Transcendence and power in gender discourse.*

**Opening Session: 5.45-7.00 p.m.**  
**Performing Gender**  
*Chairperson: B.A. Viveka Rai*

**5.45 p.m.** **Heidrun Brückner, Würzburg:**  
*Folk culture and modernity:*  
*The case of goddess Ellamma and her special devotees.*

**6.15-7.00 p.m.** **Vera Perrone & Georg Schmitt, Stuttgart:**  
*"Turning men into women and women into men" – Empowerment through gender transformation.*

**The filmmakers will present excerpts from their previously unreleased documentary on the special devotees of goddess Ellamma.**

**7.30 p.m.** **Dinner**

## Saturday, 5th Feb. 2011

**Morning Session I: 9.15 a.m.-10.45 a.m.**  
**Transgender Constructs in India**  
*Chairperson:*  
*Elisabeth Schömbucher*

**9.15 a.m.** **M.D. Muthukumaraswamy, Chennai:**  
*Self as an intertextual construct: Community lore of the transgender people in Tamilnadu.*

**9.45 a.m.** **Renate Syed, München:**  
*Hijras: India's third gender and the construction of body and sex.*

**10.15 a.m.** **Sarah Merkle, Würzburg:**  
*Transgender in South India. A preliminary report on recent fieldwork in Karnataka.*

**10.45-11.00 a.m.** **Coffee break**



# Gender and Beyond - New Perspectives on Gender and Transgender in South Asia

International Workshop  
 4th - 5th February 2011

## Saturday, 5th Feb. 2011

- Morning Session II: 11.00 a.m.-12.30 p.m.**  
**Reflections on gender issues**  
*Chairperson: Ute Hüsken*
- 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 Hüsken, 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'f, 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**
- Workshop Conveners:**  
*Heidrun Brückner, Würzburg  
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 B.A. Viveka Rai, Mangalore  
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- Workshop Organiser:**  
*Benjamin Hahn  
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