

CHILDHOOD, COURTSHIP, CONJUGALITY AND FAMILY IN GLOBALIZING INDIA

COURSE TEACHER: Anjali Bhatia (University of Delhi, Senior Lecturer)

This course approaches the Intimate Sphere in terms of Family and Kinship in India. It aims to undertake an understanding of family life in India by focusing on forms of intimacy. Further, it intends to historicize categories of intimacy in the context of globalizing India.

The teaching plan is based on a conceptualization the course as comprising two analytical parts: 1 & 2. Further, part 2 is divided analytically into two sections.

Part 1 is the theoretical component.

To begin with, two themes underpinning sociological and anthropological perspectives on family and kinship in India are identified. These are *pluralism* and *modernity*.

Advancing the fundamental premise that India's pluralism is refracted in societal domains, we establish *variety* as 'refraction of pluralism' in the domains of family and kinship.

We go on to reflect imprinting of the idea of modernity in discourses of family and kinship in India by discussing the modernization thesis.

Part 2 is the substantive component.

The objective, herein, is an on-going engagement with modernity, albeit *historicized* in context of *globalizing India*. We contend that modernity is articulated in/as family relations. We delineate emergent forms of intimacy inhering in four sets of relationships: *Childhood, Courtship, Conjugality* and *Family*.

Drawing on ethnographies sourcing data from diverse fields: popular culture, literature and mass media, one section of this component attempts to sound the imperative of theorizing family in India in terms of these categories.

Section two of this component presents an ethnography of fast food culture in New Delhi (India), to demonstrate that the aforementioned categories are critical for furthering an understanding of Contemporary India.

WEEK 1 Topic: FAMILY AND KINSHIP IN INDIA

Lecture 1: INDIA'S VARIETY

Lecture 2: MODERNITY IN FAMILY RELATIONS

WEEK 2 Topic: CHILDHOOD

Lecture 1: ETHNOGRAPHIES OF CHILDHOOD

Lecture 2: CHILDHOOD IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA

WEEK 3 Topic: COURTSHIP

Lecture 1: ETHNOGRAPHIES OF COURTSHIP: Films

Lecture 2: COURTSHIP IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA

WEEK 4 Topic: CONJUGALITY

Lecture 1: ETHNOGRAPHIES OF COURTSHIP

Lecture 2: CONJUGALITY IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA

WEEK 5 Topic: FAMILY

Lecture 1: ETHNOGRAPHIES OF FAMILY

Lecture 2: FAMILY IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA