

## IGS Evening seminars by Professor Patricia Uberoi "Gender and Family in Popular Culture"

First session: November 16(Tue), 18:30~21:00

From Goddess to Pin-up: The representation of women in Indian calendar art.  
(Lecture, with slide illustrations)

"Calendar art" is the generic name for a type of popular Indian print, ranging from purely decorative prints to religious icons. This paper analyses the representation of women in this popular medium, emphasising the elision of sacred and secular images that this genre, with its distinctive mode of production and distribution, encourages. In particular it looks at the "iconicisation" of woman as symbol of the nation.

Second session: November 30(Tue), 18:30~21:00

Dharma and desire, freedom and destiny: Rescripting the man-woman relationship in popular Hindi cinema. (Lecture, with video illustrations)

This paper analyses one of the classic popular films of the post-Independence era, Guru Dutt's "Sahib, bibi aur ghulam" (Master, Mistress, Slave, 1963), from a gender-sensitive perspective. The paper focuses initially on the film's body-language, particularly its podo-erotic symbolism. It then moves on to explore the dual conflicts of duty and desire, and freedom and destiny, that are articulated in the film's four romantic relationships: between the husband and wife; between the husband and a dancing girl; between the wife and the hero, a retainer in the landlord's household; and between the hero and his future wife.

Third session: December 7(Tue), 18:30~21:00

Imagining the family: An ethnography of viewing "Hum aapke hain koun!"  
(Lecture, with video illustrations)

"Imagining the family" is an ethnography of viewers' interpretations of an extremely popular commercial Hindi film of the early 1990s, "Hum Aapke Hain Koun!" (Who am I to you!), whose theme is marriage and the family. The analysis seeks to understand how the institutions of the joint family and of marriage are constructed through the cinematic narrative. It points to consistent erasures that enable viewers to valorise the ideal of family life that the film presents and to link this ideal with the spirit of sacrifice that they see as sustaining Indian culture and tradition. The paper concludes with a more general reflection on the continued ideological role of the family as an emblem of the national society.

Fourth session: December 14(Tue), 18:30~21:00

A suitable romance? Narratives of courtship in Indian popular fiction.

This paper utilizes romantic short stories, advice columns, and other materials from a popular Indian women's magazine, "Woman's era", to explore the problematics of courtship and the challenges of matchmaking in Indian social context. Specifically it affirms the contemporary ideal of "arranged love marriage", whereby parental approval is invoked to legitimate a romantic choice already made or, alternatively, a marital arrangement is transformed into a romantic relationship.

Nov. 10, 1999

## Evening Seminars and Public Lecture given by Dr. Patricia Uberoi

Dr. Patricia Uberoi, Reader in Social Change and Development at the Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi, is with us as a visiting professor at the Institute for Gender Studies (IGS), Ochanomizu University, between November 8, 1999 and March 31, 2000. Having worked in the area of Women's Studies, Oriental Studies and Sociology, she is currently engaged in research on family, kinship and marriage, gender questions, and aspects of popular culture and social policy in reference to both India and China.

Dr. Uberoi is going to give a 4-day evening seminar on "Gender and Family in Popular Culture" in English. The details of the seminar are as follows:

**Date: Nov. 16, Nov.30, Dec. 7, Dec.14 (all Tuesday)**

**Time: 18:30 – 21:00**

**(18:30 – 19:30 lecture, 19:30—21:00 discussion)**

**Place: Daini Kaigishitsu (Conference Room 2), Library,  
Ochanomizu University**

For the lecture, Dr. Uberoi's paper will be distributed. In the discussion, participants will exchange and discuss their research experiences. Participants should help each other translating depending upon the circumstances to increase mutual understanding.

In order to apply, please fill in the application form enclosed, and fax or mail it to the Institute for Gender Studies, Ochanomizu University, by Nov. 15, Monday. We are going to offer texts at the actual cost of photocopying.

Also, Dr. Uberoi is going to give a public lecture in English at Daiichi Kaigishitsu, 1F, Bunkyoiku Gakubu Ichigokan (Conference Room 1, 1F, Faculty of Letters and Education Building 1), Ochanomizu University from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on January 29, Saturday, 2000 under the title, "Midlife: East and West". Everybody is welcome to the lecture. We hope many friends will join us. Please note that the actual cost of photocopying texts would be charged.

For further information, please contact the Institute for Gender Studies with fax: 03-5978-5845. Telephone service is not available for this matter.

Hiroko Hara

Director of the Institute for Gender Studies, Ochanomizu University