CHAPTER 24

HISTORY

Doctoral Theses

293. JHA (Sadan)

**Visualizing the Nation : Gender and the Symbolic Constitution of Nationhood in the Late Nineteenth and Twentieth Century North India.**

Supervisor : Dr. Dilip Menon

Th 16682

*Abstract*

Aims to understand the ways in which gender policies shape the visualization of the nation as an anthropomorphic ‘body’. An enquiry into this process of visualization, seeks to reveal the complexities of visuality and its relation with the representation of the nation. Focuses on some of these complexities in the North Indian context. The historical frames for this study are colonialism, a colonial modernity and a nascent post-colonial Indian society during the forst decades of Indian independence. Based upon the premise that the nation manifests itself in gendered forms, this work looks at the history of a symbol - Bharat Mata - and the ways of attachment shown to the body of this icon. It emphasises the manner in which notions of space and place, abstract and particular, region and the nation historically unfold their relation with each other.

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294. RAI (Santosh Kumar)

**Changing World of Weavers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, 1900 - 1957.**

Supervisor : Dr. Prabhu P. Mohapatra

Th 16709
Abstract

Contextualizes the experience of Weavers’ communities of Eastern Uttar Pradesh specifically located in the weaving centres of Azamgarh, Gorakhpur and Faizabad divisions (viz. Maunath Bhanjan - Mubarakpur - Kopaganj - Tanda) in the first half of the twentieth century. Focuses on the dynamics of localization, describing how social and cultural identity is both reproduced and reconfigured as it is differentially available to and accessed by communities in defined spatial locations. Highlights the central role of the community in negotiating the fraught interaction of the weavers of Eastern Uttar Pradesh with forces of capitalist modernity. They were not repeatedly demonstrated passive subjects of an impersonal inevitable objective process. They actively shaped the form and content of this experience and in the process appropriated and to an extent domesticated the threatening external forces. That they were not always successful, that they could not emancipate themselves economically or resist their marginalization fully, should not blind us to the powerful ways in which the so-called “conservative” “backward” julaha artisans concretely and creatively appropriated external constraints posed by modernization and industrialization through reconfiguring the internal spaces of the “community” and “locality”.

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295. SINGH (Nalini)

*Forests, Agriculture and State: Awadeh From Mughal to Colonial Times (C. 1600-1900).*

Supervisor: Prof. S. Z. H. Jafri

*Th 16680*

Abstract

The areas which came under direct British control started losing forests with rapid pace. The long drawn tussle between the
nature and man’s domain is also seen in association with the attitude of their masters towards them over the ages. Native ruling elite always treated forests as a place of shelter endowed with the richness of forest produce and also provided them ample opportunity for shooting, fishing and pasture for their cattle. The retreat of forests along with the decaying state of agriculture, no doubt, resulted in the problems of ecological and social concern, like declining rainfall, floods, poor soil fertility, poor crop-yield, famines and general poverty in the region. It burdened British government to create infrastructure for establishing Agriculture Training Colleges (e.g. at Kanpur), Forest Training Institutions and Meteorological Department.

But the ruin of ecology and economy of Awadh as a victim of colonial politics needed ‘damage-control’ solutions rather than ‘inventive’ methodology. Hence, where the native ruling elite seems to have believed in enjoying the natural environment of forest along with their agrarian surplus, colonial policy makers believed in not only destroying the natural landscape, distasteful to them, but also, over using the man made agrarian fields by over-cropping it for commercial purposes.

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296. SINHA (Shashank Shekhar)
Ad villains and Witchcraft in Chotanagpur. (1850 - 1950).
Supervisor : Prof. Amar Farooqui
Th 16681

Abstract

Investigates different aspects of witchcraft largely in Chotanagpur. In some ways, it delineates the historical trajectory of a belief in the period under consideration. It does not delve into ‘objective’ questions like : Do witches really exist? Is witchcraft a reality? For this work, the belief in witchcraft is more consequential than the practice. It tries to explore the various imagings and constructions of witchcraft and examine whether the belief had any connection with the changes in the
material and political world. The work does not in any way intend to suggest that witchcraft was not prevalent among non-adivasis. In fact, as we shall see later in the chapters, the belief was also common among other castes and religious communities of the region. This chapter is divided into four sections. The first two sections introduce the land and people of Chotanagpur and give a historical outline of the region. Surveying sample literature from Europe, Africa and India, the third segment discusses the different ways in which witchcraft has gained visibility in history writing. The final part spells out the structure of this work and provides a brief account of the nature of source material.

Contents

1. Introduction. 2. Spirits, sorcerers and spells. 3. From scattered beliefs to an organized occult. 4. A contested space, a site for multiple agencies. 5. 1950s and beyond. Bibliography.

M.Phil Dissertations

297. ASHUTOSH KUMAR
Coparceners, Genealogies and the YASA : Framing Mughal Authority in the Sixteenth Century.
Supervisor : Prof. Sunil Kumar

298. GOYAL (Nitin)
Rise and Role of Merchants in Bikaner State, c. 1750 - c. 1828.
Supervisor : Prof. R. P. Rana

299. MADHVI
Recontextualizing Women's Sexuality and Marriage laws in Colonial Natal (1860 - 1914).
Supervisor : Dr. Prabhu P. Mohapatra

300. MISHRA (Kamal K.)
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301. OJHA (Shubhankita)  
*Regulating the Dockers: A Study of the Labour Regime at the Calcutta Port and Docks (1920s - 1960s).*  
Supervisor: Dr. Prabhu Mohapatra

302. RAZAK KHAN  
*Governance and Contestations: Political Culture in Rampur 1857 - 1910.*  
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303. सनेह लता  
मध्यकालीन राजस्थान में राजनीति और धर्म : बीकानेर राज्य के उत्थान में करणी माता का योगदान।  
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304. VICTORIA POTSHANGBAM  
*Ethno - Symbols in 20th Century Colonial Manipur With Specific Reference to Meetei Mayek (Script) and the Sanamahi Movement.*  
Supervisor: Prof. Amar Farooqui