

Spring 2014

SASP SEMINAR

This performance and panel discussion are sponsored by South Asian Studies Program in International Programs; the Department of Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies; the Department of Theatre Arts; the UI Center for Human Rights; the Women's Resource & Action Center; and the LGBT Resource Center.

8:30 - 10:00 pm
Sunday, March 2, 2014

**@ Public Space One in lower level
of Wesley Foundation building at
120 N. Dubuque St.**

**Lessons in Drag, a performance
by Kareem Khubchandani**

Lessons in Drag explores South Asian popular culture (literature, film, performance) through anecdote, monologues, research interviews, stand-up comedy, and dance. The show raises issues of gender discipline, diasporic nostalgia, film reception, racialization and racism.



Kareem Khubchandani is a PhD candidate in Performance Studies at Northwestern University writing a dissertation titled "Ishtyle: Queer Nightlife Performance in India and the South Asian Diaspora." He is an activist working with the LGBT South Asian organization-Trikone-Chicago, and with the Bangalore Campaign for Sexual Minority Rights.

4:00 - 5:30 pm
Monday, March 3, 2014
@ 1117 University Capitol Centre

**United Against 377? The
Politics of Resistance to
India's Sodomy Law**

**Panel Discussion with Aniruddha Dutta,
Elakshi Kumar, and Kareem Khubchandani**



In December 2013, the Supreme Court of India reinstated Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC 377), a colonial-era law that criminalizes any 'carnal intercourse against the order of nature'. The law targets certain sex acts rather than any sexual or gender identity. However, the law is widely understood as criminalizing homosexuality, and has become a powerful symbol of discrimination against LGBT Indians. At the same time, other activists have criticized the movement against IPC 377 for ignoring more substantial concerns facing disenfranchised LGBT people such as working class transgender communities. In this panel discussion, Kumar, Khubchandani, and Dutta, three scholar-activists who have several years of experience with Indian LGBT communities and movements, will discuss the politics of the movement against IPC 377.

Aniruddha Dutta is an assistant professor in the departments of GWSS and Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Iowa. Dutta's current research project examines how gender/sexual identity politics in India challenges, reconfigures or reproduces structural hierarchies of class/caste and access to citizenship.

Elakshi Kumar is a PhD candidate at the Dept. of GWSS at the University of Minnesota. His research examines the complex embodiments and sociocultural articulations of female-masculinities at the intersections of Hindu nationalism, globalization, Queer and lower caste social movements in Indian public culture.



Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact Sarolta Petersen at sarolta-petersen@uiowa.edu in advance at (319) 335-3862