REL 482: Sex, Gender, and Religion in South Asia

This upper-level seminar draws on western feminist and philosophical theory, including the works of Judith Butler, Michel Foucault, as well as postcolonial theory, to explore the categories of ‘sex’ and ‘gender’. We will position these theoretical works in conversation with a range of material from South Asian Hinduism and Islam, spanning from Vatsyayana’s Kamasutra to contemporary ethnography of transgender hijra communities in South India. In our examinations, we will ask: how are the categories of ‘sex’ and ‘gender’ constructed in South Asian religions? How does this compare with theoretical understandings of ‘sex’ and ‘gender’ in western discourses? How do moral and ethical formation coincide with the gendered self in the South Asian landscape?

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Tuesday/Thursday  
11:00AM-12:15PM  

General Education Requirements: Fulfills  
PH, BN