

WINTER 2015 COLLOQUIA SERIES

Date: Wednesday, February 4

Time: 3:00-4:45PM

Location: Social Sciences 1, room 261



Dr. Lucinda Ramberg

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and Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality
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Who and What is Sex for? Notes on Theogamy and the Sexuality of Religion

Drawing on her own research into a contemporary South Indian practice in which girls are married to a goddess, as well as other ethnographies and histories, Lucinda Ramberg takes up the question of sex in the house of religion. In this talk she considers not only the ways that religious and sexual propriety are tied together, but also the ways that religious practices or scenes organize, normalize, and naturalize forms of sexual conduct and misconduct thereby producing their possibilities and powers.

Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Feminist, Gender, & Sexuality Studies at Cornell University, Lucinda Ramberg has published two books: *Given to the Goddess: South Indian Devadasis and the Sexuality of Religion* (Duke University Press, 2014) and *Conjugal Unbound: Sexual Economy, State Regulation and the Marital Form*, co-edited with Srimati Basu (Women Unlimited Press, 2015). As a Fulbright-Nehru Research Scholar, 2014-2015, she is currently conducting research in South India for a new project on the sexual politics of Dalit conversion to Buddhism.