

Post-Divorce Intimacy in Contemporary Asia

Programme for International workshop at LSE

Thursday 25th March, 2021, 9am to 2pm (London and Edinburgh Time)

Organized by **Dr. Shalini Grover** (Research officer, LSE III) and **Dr. Kaveri Qureshi** (Lecturer, Social Policy, University of Edinburgh). **Hosted** by the International Inequalities Institute (II), London School of Economics (LSE).

Note: The papers have not been organized thematically, but according to region, so as to accommodate time differences over the zoom call.

Abstract: This workshop on divorce and its aftermath in contemporary Asia is based on a forthcoming edited volume. Rapid socio-economic changes across Asia, along with the unrelenting emphasis on strong family values, make the Asian region an illuminating case study for research on divorce and intimacy. Across differences of class, ethnicity and race, and community, our volume seeks to examine post-divorce trajectories. Can the lived experience of divorce be a porthole, in the sense of a break with the past, a gateway between two worlds; or does it augment stark inequalities that are historically rooted? What can divorce signal about family formations, societal transformations, age and identity in globalizing Asia? Our papers will explore how former spouses - including heterosexual and queer subjects, reconfigure themselves in relation to one another, and remap a whole set of other intimate relationships, to rebuild their lives after divorce.

Opening and Welcome

9- 9.15am: Shalini and Kaveri (Introductions and seminar details).

9.15-9.30am: Authors to introduce themselves.

Session 1 (Papers from scholars based in Australia and Asia. 10-15 minutes for the authors, followed by Q & A)

9.30-10.15am

Chair: Kaveri Qureshi

- ‘Children’s Right to Financial Support in Divorced Families: A Discussion on Hierarchy of Value of Human Lives and Institutional Non-Performativity.’

Kay Cook, Swinburne University of Technology, Australia

And:

Quah Ee Ling Sharon, University of Wollongong, Australia

- ‘It’s Complicated’: Divorce in the Narratives of Gay Men Married to Women in Odisha, India.’

Jayaprakash Mishra, Department of Liberal Arts, Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, India

10.15-10.30: Tea/Coffee Break

Session 2 (Papers from scholars based in Asia).

10.30-11.30am

Chair: Allison Alexy

- ‘Post-divorce Intimate Sociality in Later Life: India and Israel in a Comparative Lens.’

**Tannistha Samanta, Department of Social Sciences, School of Liberal Education,
FLAME University, Pune, India**

And:

**Chaya Koren, The School of Social Work and Head, The Centre for the Study of
Society, University of Haifa, Israel**

- ‘The Exemplary Self: Divorce and Single-motherhood in Sri Lanka.’

Asha L. Abeyasekera, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Session 3 (Papers from scholars based in UK & Europe)

11.30-12.30pm

Chair: Shalini Grover

- ‘Divorce Stories: Making Sense of the Past and Imagining the Future in Bangladeshi
Women’s Narratives of Marital Break-Down.’

Katy Gardner, Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics

- ‘What It's Like to Be On Your Own: Gender after Divorce in Contemporary Japan’

‘Repartnering or singlehood in Europe?’

Filipino divorced women experiencing intersecting differences.’

Asuncion Fresnoza-Flot, Laboratory of Anthropology of Contemporary Worlds (LAMC), Institute of Sociology, Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium.

- ‘Displaying divorce? On Time, Domestic Lifecycles and Shame in British South Asian Families.’

Kaveri Qureshi, University of Edinburgh.

12.30-12.45pm: Tea/Lunch Break

Session 4 (Papers from scholars based in the US)

12.45-1.30pm

Chair: Shalini Grover

- ‘What It’s Like to Be on Your Own: Gender After Divorce in Contemporary Japan.’

Allison Alexy, University of Michigan.

- ‘Enduring and Exploding: What Motivates Divorcing Grandmothers in South Korea.’

Caren Freeman, University of Virginia

1.30-2pm

Closing: Brainstorming, plans to move ahead and deadlines.

2pm onwards:

Good-bye or stay to chat.