



Love's Labour Lost: Social Reproduction Theory and the Politics of 'Work'

by

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Monday, 6 November 2023

11 am to 12 noon, Room L108

The talk will attempt to outline how social reproduction theory engages with a host of questions about the function of the 'housewife,' the definition of 'work,' and the concept of 'value' that structure our dominant worldview. Premised upon an understanding of capitalism as a system that fundamentally disassociates production from reproduction, social reproduction theory investigates the implications of this disjunction for the relationship between the economy and society. In the process, it offers important insights into contemporary debates surrounding the 'care economy,' gender gaps in the labor force, as well as the complex relationship between the personal and the political. Drawing on examples from popular culture, specifically Hindi cinema, this talk will analyze the significance of social reproduction theory for understanding the political economy of gender in contemporary India.

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