

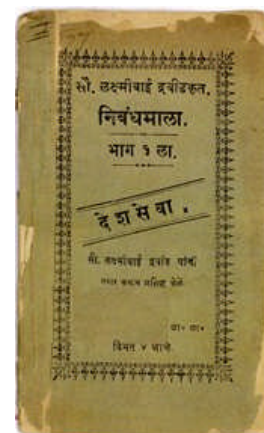
CENTRE FOR THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE SEMINAR SERIES 2010-2011 AUTUMN TERM

Tuesday, 7 December (Week 10)
5.00 pm – Ramphal Building Room R.014

Padma Anagol

**(Cardiff University School of History,
Archaeology and Religion)**

"Race, Religion, Nation and Gender: A nineteenth century Indian woman's treatise and the dominant themes of modern Indian history"



The key issues of 'race', 'caste', 'community' and 'nation' in India have attracted the attention of scores of historians, social scientists and literary critics working on Indian history. What these studies have in common is that their subjects are largely viewed and framed as masculine enterprises. Large-scale female illiteracy in colonial India combined with the silence of the imperial archive have also resulted in scholarship ignoring gendered and women's perspectives on a range of issues that have affected the making of Indian societies and the unfolding of historical processes of modern India. The larger project out of which this paper emerges hopes to address this shortcoming by applying a micro historical approach to the work of Indian women in the vernacular and in indigenous archives. In this paper, the lens is focused on a treatise written in the Marathi language in the late nineteenth century by an Indian woman- nationalist. We see how women themselves received foreign rule and how they set out to create nationalist consciousness through the first economic critique of imperialism issuing from an Indian woman. From a 19th century woman's viewpoint the paper will shed new light on the growth of caste based political identities; the origins and complexities of Hindu fundamentalist movements; reveal women's anxieties in joining the great social reform movements; tap into gendered perspectives on the impact of colonialism on the Indian economy; understand more clearly how and why Indians responded to European theories of race and 'Aryanism' and finally, how women perceived the idea of citizenship, indigenous forms of state and governance prior to the coming of the Raj.



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