



Presents

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ETHNOGRAPHY, PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE PRAXIS OF INTIMACY

Wednesday, February 13, 2019
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
SBSG 3200

This presentation considers ethnography through an engagement with Lauren Berlant's conceptions of intimacy and with theorizations of photography, especially Roland Barthes' (Berlant 1999, Barthes 1980). I am specifically interested in the relationship between representation and evocation, and the ways in which modes of attentiveness and attunement to the world can be made ethnographically resonant in multi-si(gh)ted ways. I am grasping here for an idea(l) of multi-si(gh)tedness that is accountable rather than innocent, that is cognizant of the constitutive risk of intimacy, with all of its potential for appropriation and betrayal, but that nonetheless strives for a thickness of encounter that contains within itself a reflexive and dialogic praxis.

(SUGGESTED READING, "BLIND SPOT" BY TEJU COLE)



Kaushik Sunder Rajan is a life science anthropologist whose research is focused on the global political economy of biomedicine, with a comparative focus on the United States and India.

His first project studied genomics and post-genomic drug development marketplaces in these two countries, and was published as the book Biocapital: The Constitution of Post-Genomic Life by Duke University Press in 2006.

Sunder Rajan's current research includes studies on global pharmaceutical clinical trials; changes in the pharmaceutical industry and access to medicines under World Trade Organization-mandated patent regimes; and capacity building for translational research, all with a focus on the United States and India.

Kaushik has published articles in Science As Culture, American Anthropologist, and New Left Review. A volume he is editing, Lively Capital: Biotechnologies, Ethics, and Governance in Global Markets, is forthcoming from Duke University Press.