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**CONSTRUCTIONS
OF SELF AND OTHER
IN YOGA, TRAVEL,
AND TOURISM**

A Journey to
Elsewhere

**Edited by
Lori G. Beaman
and Sonia Sikka**



Constructions of Self and Other in Yoga, Travel, and Tourism

Lori G. Beaman • Sonia Sikka
Editors

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A Journey to Elsewhere

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Editors

Lori G. Beaman
University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Sonia Sikka
University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Ellen Badone holds an MA in anthropology from the University of Toronto and a PhD in anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley (1985). Over the past three decades, her research has centred on experiences of social, emotional, and bodily crisis, as well as of healing. Her initial fieldwork, in 1983–1984, in Brittany, France, focused on interpretations of death and dying. In the late 1980s, she worked on the relationships between alternative healing and the biomedical system in Brittany. This dual focus on religion and healing inspired further work on pilgrimage, and with Sharon R. Roseman, she edited *Intersecting Journeys: The Anthropology of Pilgrimage and Tourism* (2004). From 2005 to 2007, she was president of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion. She has also published on the changing meanings associated with religious heritage buildings. Although she is still passionately interested in pilgrimage and other religious quests to understand the world, her current work deals with responses to existential crises evoked through encounters with autism spectrum disorders and mental illness.

Meera Baindur, PhD is faculty at Manipal Centre for Philosophy and Humanities, Manipal University, India. She holds a doctoral degree in the interdisciplinary area of environmental philosophy from National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore. Earlier, she stayed with village communities in the Himalayas for a few years, working at a grassroots level on environment and sustainability issues. During this time, she also pursued traditional studies in Indian philosophy and yoga. Her research interests include environmental philosophy and humanities, conceptualisation of nature in Indian thought, and environmental hermeneutics. She teaches courses that include Indian philosophy and medical humanities, gender, and aesthetic traditions in Indian thought. Her recent work centres on landscape deities and ecological practice, rituals, gender, and cultural geography. Her

recent publications include *Nature in Indian Philosophy and Culture* (Springer, 2015).

Lori G. Beaman, PhD is the Canada Research Chair in the Contextualization of Religion in a Diverse Canada, Professor in the Department of Classics and Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa, and Principal Investigator of the Religion and Diversity Project, a 37-member international research team whose focus is religion and diversity (see www.religionanddiversity.ca). Her articles include ‘Deep Equality as an Alternative to Accommodation and Tolerance’, *Nordic Journal of Religion and Society*, 27(2) 2014: 89–111; ‘Reframing Understandings of Religion: Lessons from India’, *IIC Quarterly*, 40(3&4) 2014: 35–46; ‘Woven Together: Advocacy and Research as Complementary’, *Religion*, 44(2) 2014: 276–288; ‘The Will to Religion: Obligatory Religious Citizenship’, *Critical Research on Religion*, 1(2) 2013: 141–157; ‘Battles over Symbols: The “Religion” of the Minority Versus the “Culture” of the Majority’, *Journal of Law and Religion*, 28(1) 2012/3: 101–138; and *Defining Harm: Religious Freedom and the Limits of the Law* (2008).

Pamela Lee is a PhD candidate in the Philosophy Department at the University of Ottawa. As a Canadian child of Hong Kong immigrants, her research perspective has been shaped by a lifelong experience of straddling the borders between worlds. Her personal background has driven a long-standing interest in multicultural education and intercultural dialogue. Her current research tackles contemporary social and political questions concerning the conceptual relationship between culture and race, and the reconciliation of the multicultural and antiracist paradigms for promoting ethnic equality and minority rights in the Canadian context. Her research approach is to seek out ‘third way’ positions that reframe traditional impasses in scholarly and public debates on social policy. As showcased in her contribution to this volume, a key strategy of this approach is to look to the insights provided by marginalised voices as a primary resource.

Géraldine Mossière holds a PhD in anthropology from the Université de Montréal. She is Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies at the Université de Montréal. She is a regular member of the Centre d’études ethniques des universités montréalaises (CEETUM) where she is responsible for research activities on religious pluralism. She works on religious diversity in secular contexts as well as on individual religious trajectories. She has written on religion, migration, and transnationality, in particular Pentecostal churches and issues related to gender, youth, and ethnicity. She is also interested in modern religious subjectivities, conversion, and religious hybridities. In 2013, she published *Converties à l’islam: Parcours de femmes en France et au Québec*. She currently conducts ethnographic research on changes of religion, new ritualities, and religion in life cycles.

Mary Jo Neitz is Professor Emerita in the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri. She holds a PhD in sociology from the University of Chicago. She studies religion and gender and has written about Catholic Charismatics, women's spirituality and Neo-paganism, and congregations confronting economic and social changes in small towns in Missouri. She is currently writing a book about the work that women do in small town churches.

Alexis Reichert holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Ottawa (2012), and master's degree in religious studies from the University of Ottawa (2015). She is interested in the fields of religion and ecology and animal studies, approaching these subjects from an anthropological perspective. Her specific research has focused on relationships between humans and non-humans among the Bishnoi, a small Hindu community most densely populated in rural Rajasthan, where she conducted her fieldwork. Reichert works in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Ottawa, counselling at-risk undergraduate students, while continuing her research in the Department of Religious Studies.

Sonia Sikka is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Ottawa. Her primary areas of research are social and political philosophy, philosophy of religion, and continental philosophy. In addition to works on Heidegger, Levinas, and Nietzsche, she has written on Johann Gottfried Herder's thought in light of contemporary debates about race, identity, relativism, and multiculturalism. Her current research focuses on aspects of religious identity in the context of political secularism in a number of countries, including India. She is also writing a monograph on Heidegger. Recent publications include 'Rights and Relativity', in Ashwani Peetush & Jay Drydyk (eds.), *Human Rights: India and the West*, 19–48 (2015); 'What is Indian "Religion"? How Should it be Taught?' in Lori G. Beaman & Leo van Arragon (eds.), *Issues in Religion and Education, Whose Religion?*, 107–125 (2015); 'Moral Relativism and the Concept of Culture', *Theoria* 59/133 (2012), 50–69; 'The Perils of Indian Secularism', *Constellations* 19/2 (2012), 288–304; 'Untouchable Cultures: Memory, Power and the Construction of Dalit Selfhood', *Identities* 19:1(2012), 43–60; *Herder on Humanity and Cultural Difference* (2011); 'Liberalism, Multiculturalism and the Case for Public Religion', *Politics and Religion* 3 (2010), 580–609.

Manvitha Singamsetty is a PhD candidate in Political Philosophy at the University of Ottawa. She holds BA (Honours), MA, and MPhil degrees in Philosophy from St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, India. Her current research focuses on contemporary trends of diversity management in liberal democracies. Before moving to Canada, she worked as a researcher with the Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation (India), playing a key role in mediating between the governments of India, Pakistan, and Jammu and Kashmir during the Amarnath Land Crisis in

2008. She was the UNICEF Liaison Officer for the Lok Sabha (Lower House) of the Indian Parliament in 2006. She also designed and implemented a national-level entrepreneurship programme for women in India. In Canada, she volunteers her time with the South Asian diaspora to gain a better understanding of the ways in which culture helps to inform contemporary ways of life within the diaspora. Her cross-cultural experiences as well as her involvement at various levels of the community and government inform her academic work in multiculturalism.

Lisa Smith is an Instructor in the Department of Sociology at Douglas College. Her areas of research and teaching include sociology of health and reproduction, religion and diversity, childhood and youth, and feminism and governmentality. Her articles have appeared in *Social Compass* and *Studies in the Maternal*, as well as in several edited collections.

Despina Stratigakos is a historian and writer interested in the intersections of architecture and power. She is the author of *A Women's Berlin: Building the Modern City* (2008), a history of a forgotten female metropolis, and winner of the German Studies Association DAAD Book Prize and the Milka Bliznakov Prize. Stratigakos has published widely on issues of diversity in architecture, including her recent book *Where Are the Women Architects?* (2016). Stratigakos has served as director of the Society of Architectural Historians, an advisor of the International Archive of Women in Architecture at Virginia Tech, a trustee of the Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation, and deputy director of the Gender Institute at the University at Buffalo. She also participated on Buffalo's municipal task force for Diversity in Architecture and was a founding member of the Architecture and Design Academy. She holds a PhD from Bryn Mawr College and taught at Harvard University and the University of Michigan before joining the Department of Architecture at the University at Buffalo, where she serves as Interim Chair.

LIST OF FIGURE

Fig. 4.1 A herd of blackbucks in Rudkali village. Photograph by
Alexis Reichert

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Introduction: A Journey to Elsewhere

Lori G. Beaman and Sonia Sikka

Abstract The aim of this volume is to consider the phenomenon of yoga travel to India as an instance of a broader genre of ‘spiritual travel’ involving journeys to places ‘elsewhere’, which are imagined to offer the possibility of profound personal transformation. These imaginings are tied up in a continuation of the exoticisation of the East, but are not limited to that. We identified themes of authenticity, suffering, space, material markers, and the idea of the ‘spiritual’, to name a few, in our observations of this phenomenon. Our wish was to produce a volume that not only reflected our shared time together during the two-day workshop ‘A Journey to Elsewhere: Spiritual Travel and the Quest for Authenticity’, but also highlighted the insights our disciplinary expertise brought to the conversation.

Keywords Yoga travel and tourism • Religious tourism • Personal and spiritual transformation • Religion and society • Authenticity

L.G. Beaman (✉)

Department of Classics and Religious Studies, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada

S. Sikka

Department of Philosophy, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada

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