

IRAN COLLOQUIUM

The Stuff of Life in Islamicate Eurasia: Towards a History of Premodern Folk Ontologies

Dr. Gagan D. S. Sood

Postdoctoral Associate
International Security Studies and Department of History
Yale University



If we wish to grasp why ordinary people acted, thought and felt the way they did in going about their daily lives, we need to recapture their lives' guiding parameters and motivating impulses. We need to develop, in other words, a keen sense of what shaped their behavioural orientations towards their surroundings, and framed how they actually met the world. The prevailing folk ontologies necessarily lie at the core of this agenda. Drawing largely on my research into mobile, literate, cosmopolitan, but inconspicuous, inhabitants of Islamicate Eurasia in the early eighteenth century, my talk will sketch out an approach for recovering such ontologies in specific premodern contexts.

Friday, 3rd February
12:00-1:30 pm
Luce 202, 34 Hillhouse Ave.
Light lunch will be provided

Sponsored by the Council on Middle East Studies, MacMillan Center