

Abstracts



Guru Led Faith Movements and the search for "Inner Transformation": A Closer Look at the Isha Foundation

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One of the important developments to emerge in the study of religion, especially Hinduism, over the last few decades has been the rise of transnational devotionalist organizations led by charismatic leaders or gurus. Many of these movements cut across national and cultural boundaries, predominantly promoting meditation and particular forms of yoga. One such movement is Isha Foundation, established by Jaggi Vasudev in India in 1992, but at present spread out to different countries of the world. In this paper I will look at the Isha Foundation and will try to understand it with respect to the organization's interaction with global and national audiences.

Virtual Access to Justice and New Dimensions of Judicial Power in India

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The Indian Supreme Court, September 2018, decided to allow the live-streaming of court proceedings thus providing "virtual access to courtroom proceedings as they unfold." While the judicial reasoning is framed through vocabularies of transparency and accountability, freedom of information and the right to know, the presentation explores - from a comparative perspective - how live-streaming is bound to transform the relationship between judicial power and support constituencies, media and judicial audiences. Besides, the live-streaming case is in itself an interesting example to discuss recent developments in Indian judicial politics and the role of the Court in

the context of the first majority government since the early 1990s.

New Insights for Participatory Projects– A Cooperation between Hydrogeologists and a Documentary Filmmaker

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Most hydrogeologists do not have any in-depth knowledge of social sciences or related subjects. But in socio-hydrogeology projects they have to work closely with people and communities. The interdisciplinary work may cause various problems, e.g. communication issues or social tensions within the community. To identify these problems, analyze and understand them and, finally, to adapt the way of working, new approaches are needed. We will present preliminary results from a case-study in Jaipur, India.

Private Media and Content Shaping: Impact of Media Corporatization on News Content in Nepal.

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The history of Nepali media is one and a quarter century old. During this period, the Nepalese press has mostly remained under the tight grip of autocratic rulers, when media were largely silenced or divided as per ideological lines. After the restoration of democracy in 1990, the press acquired freedom. However, as big investors having interests in multiple business ventures entered media sectors, newsrooms have faced pressures from the corporate world on what and how to publish. The division of media based on political parties' lines have further undermined media's credibility and diminished its sanctity as the fourth estate and a voice of the voiceless.