
Vernacular Cultures in South Asia

Decolonial Subversions Special Issue

Keywords

Popular culture; praxis; marginalised voices; South Asia; arts; craftsmanship; oral culture; rituals; everyday culture; social justice; embodiment; activism; performance

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The Call

Decolonial Subversions is an open access, multi-lingual publishing platform for visual, acoustic and written content aimed at diversifying the production, legitimisation and dissemination of knowledge. It is motivated by the belief that different worldviews and modes of being-in-the-world present different criteria of knowledge production, legitimisation and dissemination, and that these different worldviews and modes of being-in-the-world must be made integral part of processes around knowledge.

The scope of this Special Issue on vernacular cultures in South Asia is to present a variety of South Asian cultural expressions in different formats and languages (contributions in local languages should however be accompanied by an English translation). Crucially, this Special Issue wishes to emphasise that knowledge, in order to be considered such, does not need to be presented solely in formats that are conventionally accepted; therefore, besides descriptive and analytical elaborations on South Asian culture, contributions presenting unfiltered expressions of South Asian vernacular cultures are encouraged. Through this modality it is expected, first, that the voices of often-marginalised peoples emerge as protagonists *in the first person* and, second, that academic debates on South Asian vernacular cultures—often presented in English and/or building upon Eurocentric notions—become open to the critiques of the very peoples they attempt to represent, but whom they exclude by adhering to mainstream canons of knowledge-production and dissemination.

Submission Formats to Consider (not Exhaustive)

Audio contributions (with transcriptions): songs; narrations; epics; interviews

Visual contributions (with accompanying short text for contextualisation): performances; short films; ethnographic documentations; photo-essays

Written contributions: poems; stories; field-notes; research articles; reports on vernacular practices (cookery; agriculture; pottery...)

Guidance for Submissions and Tentative Timeline

We welcome submissions in any language (with English translation), in formats such as the above and also in hybrid format (see also [Guidelines for Contributors](#)). Please submit an abstract (max. 500 words) to Monika Hirmer (mh121@soas.ac.uk) and/or Vimala Katikaneni (vkatikaneni@gmail.com) by **18th March 2022**. Contributions are expected by **31th July 2022**, with peer-review during August-November 2022 and publication in early 2023. For inquiries, please contact Vimala and/or Monika.