CONFERENCE ON THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS OF INDIA
Not Quite Divine: Co-stars and Supporting Casts in South Asian Religions
June 27 to June 30, 2013 at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey

The CSRI has been in existence since 1971. Current Advisory Council members are: Corinne G. Dempsey (Chair), Reid B. Locklin, Karen Pechilis, Tracy Pintchman, Brian Pennington

CSRI 2013 is hosted by Prof. Karen Pechilis of the Comparative Religion Department in Drew’s CLA. This program is sponsored in part by the Caspersen School of Graduate Studies at Drew.

THURSDAY, JUNE 27th

3pm-6pm  Arrival and check in at McLendon Hall, #39 on campus map. Conference participants may consult the Drew online campus map at http://www.drew.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/131/DrewCampusMap.pdf

5:30-6:30  Dinner at University Commons (#13 on campus map)

Note: ALL SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN BROTHERS COLLEGE (BC) ROOM 101
(BC is #47 on campus map)

SESSION 1: DECIDEDLY NOT EVEN close TO DIVINITY
Chair: Carol Anderson, Kalamazoo College

7:30-8:00  Debunking Divinity: Rationalist Critiques of Saints and the Semi-Divine
Robin Rinehart, Lafayette College

8:15  Retire for relaxation and refreshment

FRIDAY, JUNE 28TH

7:30-8:30  Breakfast at University Commons

8:45-9:00  Drew Greeting by Dean Robert Ready, Caspersen School of Graduate Studies

SESSION 2: EXPLORING THE GREY ZONES: QUESTIONING CATEGORIES OF (NEAR) DIVINITY
Chair: Reid Locklin, St. Michael's College University of Toronto

9:00-9:30  Hindu and Jain Visions of Pradyumna: The Avatara's Avatara
Christopher R. Austin, Dalhousie University
9:30-10:00  Silent Spectator: The Participation of the Royal Sword in the Festival of Rato Macchindranath of Nepal, Anne Mocko, Concordia College

10:00-10:15  Break

10:15-10:45  To Speak in Tongues: Introducing the Ambiguously Divine Paandimuni of Madurai, South India, Gillian Goslinga, Wesleyan University

10:45-11:15  A Part of God, Apart from God: Conceptions of the Almost-Divine in the Garhwal Himalaya, Brian Pennington, Maryville College

SESSION 3: DIVINE PRODUCTIONS AND THEIR PRODUCTS IN THE MODERN ERA
Chair: Jennifer B. Saunders, Fairfield University


11:50 – 1:00  Lunch at University Commons. Lunch service begins at noon.

1:00-1:30  From Partial Goddess to Parmeshwari: The Journey of Aai Khodiyar, the Limping Goddess of Gujarat, Neelima Shukla-Bhatt, Wellesley College

1:30-2:00  Break

2:00-2:30  A Secular Tamil Saint? Karunanidhi’s Use of Divine Imagery in Dravidian Politics, Amy-Ruth Holt, The Ohio State University

2:30-3:00  Nobody’s Co-star: Madhuri Dixit as Film Star and Goddess Kathleen Erndl, Florida State University

3:00  Trip to NYC

SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH

8:00-9:00  Breakfast at University Commons

SESSION 4: RECOGNIZING AND ACCESSING (NEAR) DIVINITY ACROSS RELIGIOUS BOUNDARIES
Chair: Lindsey Harlan, Connecticut College

9:00-9:30  The Prophet as Patron: A Case of Syncretism in Islamic Tamil Literature Leah Comeau, University of Pennsylvania

9:30-10:00  Sanctifying Shirdi Sai Baba: Comparing the Hagiographies of Das Ganu and Narasimhaswami, Karline McLain, Bucknell University

10:00-10:30  Break

10:30-11:00  Power Encounters, ‘Spirited’ Evangelism, and Recuperative Conversions in the Growth of Indian Pentecostalism, Chad M. Bauman, Butler University

11:00-11:30  Hindu Saintly Humans in the Words of a Christian Monk, Analysis, Contribution, and Legacy, Enrico Beltramini, Notre Dame de Namur University

11:30-1:00  Lunch at University Commons. Lunch Service begins at noon.
SESSION 5: ASCETICS AND THEIR (NEAR) DIVINE POWERS
Chair: Vishwa Adluri, Hunter College

1:15-1:45  *The Curse of the Indian Ascetic: An Examination of Narrative and Power*
Carl Olson, Allegheny College

Anya Pokazanyeva, University of California, Santa Barbara

2:15-2:45  Break

SESSION 6: THE POLITICS OF APOTHEOCIZATION
Chair: Sufia Uddin, Connecticut College

2:45-3:15  *Sacrificing (to) Bhairav: The Apotheosis and Sacrifice of a Local Hindu King*
Michael Baltutis, University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh


3:45-4:15  Break

4:15-4:45  *Vāsudeva, Pratīvāsudeva and the False ‘Vasudeva’: Reflections on an Early Indian Concept,* Kanad Sinha, Jawaharlal Nehru University

4:45  Free time; Dinner at 5:30 at University Commons

SUNDAY, JUNE 30th

8:00-9:00  Breakfast at University Commons

SESSION 7: THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME: UNFORSEEN PATHS TO (AND FROM) DIVINIZATION
Chair: Paul Younger, McMaster University

9:00-9:30  *But How Do Breasts in Perfect Circles Play Havoc With My Life: Images of the Female Gaze and Longing in the Gitagovinda of Jayadeva,* Jaclyn Harte, Drew University

9:30-10:00  *The Ghost in the Text: Harsu Brah and the Coalescence of Folklore Studies*
Peter Gottschalk, Wesleyan University

10:00-10:30  Business meeting

11:00  Box lunch (for participants who boarded on campus) and departure. *Box lunch to be delivered to McLendon by 11:30.*

Van departs from Drew to Newark Airport at noon from McLendon - one van only