

International Development Studies Speaker Series

presents

Daughter deficit, cross-region marriages and gender relations in Tamil Nadu, India

Friday, February 27, 3:30PM
Rozanski 102

Kongu Vellala (KV) Gounders in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu, a predominantly agrarian caste group with a strong son preference are currently experiencing a delay in marriage with many men bringing brides from the neighbouring state of Kerala. Based on ethnographic fieldwork in district Namakkal, this paper unravels the factors behind such marriages and how they are arranged. Typically it is women who are priced out of the marriage market in Kerala, a state where women occupy a relatively high status, that are marrying Tamil men who cannot find local brides. Such unions may create a likely win-win situation for both parties and challenge practices such as caste endogamy in marriage and dowry, while at the same time retaining male privileges and reinforcing unequal gender norms for KV women and outside brides.

A lecture by
Dr. Sharada Srinivasan
Canada Research Chair
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