

COMMUNICATIONS AND NEW MEDIA PROGRAMME

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



Reframing Motherhood: Narratives of Young Nepalese Women's Lives in (re)constructing Agency & Survival



A Talk by Dr. Iccha Basnyat
Communications and New Media

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hospital delivery) rather than how people maintain their health within their own cultural context. In doing so, the dominant framework of a traditional health campaign leaves out the broader socio-cultural, political and economic contexts of health determinants; instead, assuming individual loci of responsibility to behavior change.

The aim of this study is to utilize a culture-centered approach to centralize experiences of the marginalized to foreground agency of the cultural participants in order to inform the dominant discourse of health through discussion of alternative health meanings in conjunction with the feminist lens that locate these marginalized voices within its local context to address the invisibility and subordination of women in gendered differences. Through in-depth interviews about reproductive health as articulated through the narratives of young Nepalese women living under poverty we are able to understand how women actively (re)construct dominant meanings of motherhood and construct alternative meanings of health and in turn act upon these meanings.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Iccha Basnyat is a visiting fellow at the National University of Singapore, Communications & New Media Programme. She is a recent graduate of Purdue University, where she co-authored several articles examining public relations and health communication praxis in marginalized spaces.