Global Studies welcomes you to a talk by:

Radha Hegde

“Digital gurus, online classicism: Transnational pursuits of audible authenticity”

New forms of technological connectivity have redefined the transnational experience of migration. For the South Asian diaspora, cyberspace has opened up possibilities of immersion in the aesthetics of Indian classical music. The internet and communication platforms like Skype offer digital spaces where diasporic students can performatively connect with classical forms of expressive culture. Gurus of classical Carnatic music in India are reaching diasporic students through pedagogical styles that rest on the potential of communication technology to combine formats and to transcend time zones and spatial boundaries. The technology-enabled pedagogy and its various digital accessories respond in novel ways to the demands created by diasporic desires to maintain vocal traditions. The coming together of media technology, desire, ideology and aesthetics serves as a site from where to engage with the politics and affective regimes that connect the transnational migrant and the nation.

Radha S. Hegde is an Associate Professor in the Department of Media, Culture and Communication at New York University. Her research and teaching center on the subject of gender, globalization, migration and global media flows. Her edited book, Circuits of Visibility: Gender and Transnational Media Cultures, NYU Press came out in July 2011. Radha is currently working on a book Mediating Migration where she examines a series of sites where technology mediates the meanings and value of tradition in the diasporic context. Another ongoing ethnographic project focuses on the growth of English language and communication training in India and the shaping of aspirations about digital futures. Her earlier work focused on gender identities and reproductive politics in south India. Her work has appeared in journals such as Communication Theory, Critical Studies in Media Communication, Feminist Media Studies, Violence against Women, Global Media and Communication. She serves on the editorial board of several major journals in the field of media and cultural studies. She was a journalist with the Indian Express in Chennai, India before her academic career. She is also one of the founder members of Manavi, the first feminist South Asian group in the United States.

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Time: 12:30-2:00pm
Place: INTS 1113

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