A moving madness: Broken movement and the sciences of hysteria between Europe and India

Presented by

Sarah Pinto
Assistant Professor of Anthropology

This paper is about the social life of a diagnostic label, one often considered obsolete, a metaphor, or a historical specimen. Beginning with the argument that hysteria as a clinical category is alive and well, this project maps a territory from contemporary hysteria diagnoses in India to cinematic imaginaries of women’s madness in Bollywood and Hollywood to Charcot’s theater of female rigors, asking what a transnational genealogy of hysteria as crisis of movement suggests about hysteria’s contemporary traces in and out of clinical life. How is hysteria a transnational object of knowledge? On what paths through time and space does it take us as a theory of the moving body? What conditions of knowing and being might these global histories establish?

Wednesday, March 9
4:30pm
Center for the Humanities
48 Professors Row