The Arts of Counter-Ethics

a seminar with

Sarah Pinto
Professor of Anthropology
Tufts University

Friday, February 8 – 10-12
H. Michael and Jeanne Williams Seminar Room
Social Science Matrix, Barrows Hall (8th Floor)

This discussion of the final chapter of a manuscript in progress, about a psychoanalytic case from 1940s Punjab, will address ethics as movement and shifting form, using contemporary art, notably the work of Shahzia Sikander, to theorize what Pinto refers to as "counter-ethics". Beginning with Sikander’s motif of “singing spheres,” and following recurring shapes from small, figurative paintings to massive video installations, we will discuss the potential of shape, association, and choreography for thinking about ethics as a gloss for repertoires of focused ways of being in and imagining the world.

Sarah Pinto is Professor of Anthropology at Tufts University. She is author of Where There Is No Midwife: Birth and Loss in Rural India (Berghahn 2008) and Daughters of Parvati: Women and Madness in Contemporary India (University of Pennsylvania Press 2014), and works on gender, kinship, and the intersection of medical practices with intimate lives. She is currently researching the history of hysteria in India and anticipates the release of The Doctor and Mrs. A.: Ethics and Counter-Ethics in an Indian Dream Analysis in the fall of 2019 (Fordham University Press and Women Unlimited).

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For access to the materials, please contact: William F. Stafford, Jr. (wstafford.jr@berkeley.edu)