



Talk: New Learner Subjects: Reforming the Rural Child for a Modern India

Speaker:

Dr Arathi Sriprakash

Date / Time:

March 25, 2013 - 3:45pm - 5:15pm

Venue:

Room No. 206, Pixel B, APU

Abstract:

This paper discusses findings from an ethnographic study of child-centred schooling in Karnataka government primary schools to reflect on the ways in which new learner subjects are constructed by education reforms in poor, rural communities. The paper examines the ideals of two child-centred programs – Nali Kali and Kalikayatna - as well as teachers' interpretations of their pedagogies, in order to ask, what kind of citizen-subject does rural government schooling seek to produce? The paper suggests that the rural poor have been largely excluded from India's narrative of development and modernization, which has deepened some teachers' deficit views of rural communities. The analysis shows that in order for democratic and egalitarian ideals of child-centred education to become more fully realized, teachers need to be supported to engage critically with social stratification in contemporary Indian society which continues to marginalize the rural poor.

A Note on the Speaker:

Dr Arathi Sriprakash is a sociologist of education at the University of Sydney, Australia where she teaches in the areas of international and comparative education. Her research has focused on education reforms in India, taking a particular interest in the ways educational policies and practices produce new social ideals and expectations for communities. Her work has appeared in international journals of education and sociology, and her ethnography of child-centred education in rural government schools has been recently published as a book by Springer called: *Pedagogies for Development: the politics and practice of child-centred education in India*. Her website is: <http://fdp.edsw.usyd.edu.au/users/asriprakash>