



Presents:

Vibha Bhalla

Monday, November 3rd, 2008
207 (Mylander) BTSU
2:30 P.M.

AMERICAN DREAMS: GENDER, MIGRATION AND THE WORK EXPERIENCES OF THE ASIAN INDIAN COMMUNITY IN METROPOLITAN DETROIT

*What are the challenges facing Asian Indian professionals in
metropolitan Detroit?*

*In what ways do gender shape professional experiences of Asian
Indian men and women?*

Since the decade of the 1960s, migrants to the U.S. have included professionals in scientific and technical fields. However, these migrants and their work experiences remain largely unexamined. Using narratives of Asian Indian immigrants in metropolitan Detroit, it is possible to fill this lacuna. Indian immigrants, both men and women, are highly educated professionals who have carved out occupational niches, especially as engineers and physicians. It is important to highlight the work-related issues salient to these immigrant professionals. In particular, emphasizing the work experiences of professional immigrant women makes it possible to analyze the ways in which gender shapes professional workers in a transforming metropolitan economy.

Vibha Bhalla is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Ethnic Studies at BGSU. Her teaching and research focus on gender, migration, and transnationalism, with particular emphasis on the transnational migration of Asian Indians to the U.S. She has published in *American Behavioral Scientist* and *The Journal of American Ethnic History*. Currently a fellow at ICS, she is working on her manuscript *American Dreams: Gender, Migration, and the Making of the Indian Community in Metropolitan Detroit*.

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