

CHALLENGING

the Logics of Empire

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF
CULTURE & SOCIETY

Provost Lecture Series 2007

How does the logic of empire function?

How are acts of empire justified and legitimized?

How can contemporary logics of empire be challenged?

Gayatri Gopinath

Queer Regions: From *Fire* to *The Journey*



Tuesday, February 13, 2007

6:30 p.m.

Room 202B, BTSU (Community Room)

Reception to follow

How can we think about film and desire in relation to regionality?

What is hidden by dominant narratives of global gayness?

Still from Director Ligy J. Pullappally's *The Journey*.

Professor Gopinath asks why the recent film *The Journey* (2004) was received so differently than the acclaimed but controversial *Fire* (1996) by Deepa Mehta. She explores how shifting our focus from a "global gay" to a "queer regional" subject challenges our understanding of gender and sexuality. She argues that *The Journey*, directed by Indian American Ligy Pullappally, raises interesting questions about locating lesbian desire and regionalism within global contexts.

Gayatri Gopinath is Associate Professor of Women and Gender Studies at University of California at Davis. She is the author of *Impossible Desires: Queer Diasporas and South Asian Public Cultures*. Her articles on the politics of Bollywood, Bhangra music, sexuality, and diaspora have been published in *Social Text*, *positions: east asia cultures critique*, *Journal of Homosexuality*, and *Diaspora*. She is the recipient of various fellowships including the University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellowship.

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