



TEL AVIV אוניברסיטת
UNIVERSITY תל אביב

The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities
The Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies

Contextualizing the Self: Creating and Recreating the First Person

An Interdisciplinary Workshop 2017 – 2018

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

14:15 – 15:45

Gilman Building, room 449

Chairman: Prof. Aviad Kleinberg

Lectures by:

Joyce Burkhalter Flueckiger
Emory University

*"Wandering Women, Wandering Goddesses, and Pressures
to Stay in Place in South India"*

This talk will juxtapose two classes of South Indian females who are characterized as “moving” (Indian-language word *cancaḷ*), who move *too much*: women who have entered a particular ritual relationship with village goddesses and these goddesses themselves. They move not only through geographic space, but also social space. The women traditionally do not get married to human males, although they may have sexual relationships with them and most have children; similarly, village goddesses are not married and live in open spaces from which they wander. These wandering/moving women and goddesses are increasingly being “kept in place” through legal means, middle-class and upper-caste dominant gender mores, and (for the goddess, in particular) aesthetics. Efforts to hold *cancaḷ* females in place have the potential to change their identities.

*** The lectures will be held in English

<https://www.contextualizing-the-self-workshop.com/>