

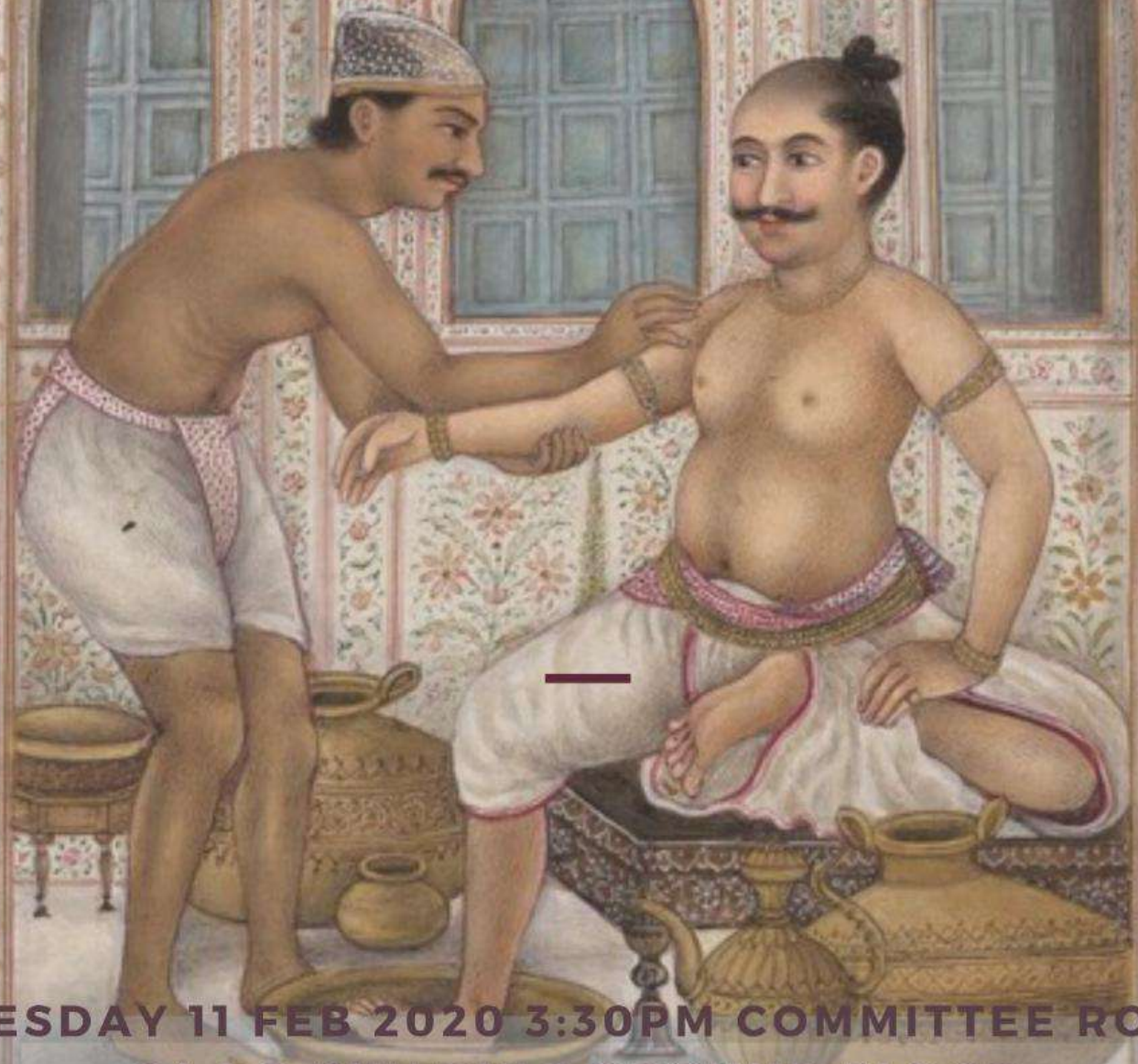
This paper explores the varied erotological, ethical, and medical traditions of knowledge production which shaped the connoisseurship patterns of male, socially elite *rasiks* in early modern south Asia. Concomitant to this is the discussion about evolving concepts of early modern masculinity. On one hand, erotological texts propounded a four-fold classification based on a particular part of the male anatomy, which became the basis for an elaborate discussion on physiognomy and appropriate sexual behaviour. On the other hand, in the medical texts individual sexual health was intrinsically linked not only with Indo-Persian humoral theories but with the desire to increase sexual power and vigor (*Quwwat-ibāh*). Hence, this paper explores the association of masculinity with semen, physiology, and reproduction, which is done by comparing medical and erotological literature produced in south Asia.

In Pursuit of the Rasik: Translating Masculinities in Early Modern South Asia

a talk by

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Mrs.

**TUESDAY 11 FEB 2020 3:30PM COMMITTEE ROOM
SAA 2 BUILDING GROUND FLOOR
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND AESTHETICS, JNU**