

The Forum on Contemporary Theory's
Occasional Lecture Series

22 February 2019
Friday

The Forum on Contemporary Theory

Welcomes you to an Open Lecture by

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On

Aesthetic Vision and Carnival Experience Necessary Counterpoints of Dialogic Consciousness

22 February 2019, Friday, at 11 am

Venue: Conference Room, Forum on Contemporary Theory
C 303, Siddhi Vinayak Complex, Faramji Road, Baroda

Abstract

Aesthetic vision is marked by architectonics (how disparate entities are grouped together) and answerability between the creator and the created. Dialogic consciousness recognizes the epistemological necessity of the 'other' since we cannot transcend our solipsism and the importance of ethical obligations that we owe to the other and considerate emotional responsiveness that we must express to others in the act of answering. Thus, in this process, porous border and benevolent demarcation is created between the self and the other. Whereas, carnival is marked by coarse language, boisterous laughter and grotesque body images and excessive indulgence in food and intoxicating substances bringing wholesomeness to our cultural life. Furthermore, in the carnival space and time the boundary between self/other, actors/spectators and divine/human are erased. Everyone merges into the collective crowd. I shall argue that aesthetic vision and carnival experience are two sides of the same coin, i.e., of dialogic consciousness. References will be made to living texts like *The Mahabharata* and classical performing traditions and folklore.



Dr. Lakshmi Bandlamudi is a Professor of Psychology at LaGuardia Community College, City University of New York. She works within the Bakhtinian/Vygotskian framework to explore questions about Dialogic Consciousness and Socio-historical epistemology. She engages in interdisciplinary work – bridging humanities and social sciences Indian and Western philosophies – to understand the interconnections between myths, culture, history and consciousness. Her publications include *Bakhtinian Explorations of Indian Culture: Pluralism, Dogma and Dialogue Through History*; *Difference, Dialogue and Development: A Bakhtinian World*; *Dialogics of Self*; *The Mahabharata and Culture: The History of Understanding and Understanding of History* and the travelogue *Movements with the Cosmic Dancer: On Pilgrimage to Kailash Manasarovar*.

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