



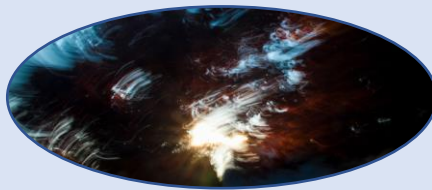
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South Asia Forum

## Lecture Series Spring Semester 2022

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Everyone is cordially  
invited to participate!



ISEK University of Zurich  
Andreasstrasse 15

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25th April 2022, 10-11.45 am (Lecture) and 1:30-6 p.m. (Workshop, registration required)

**Paul Boyce** (University of Sussex)

**Viral Sexualities: Problems with Context, Culture and Sexualities**

ISEK, AND 3.46 (for online access to lecture, please inquire with [banhishikha.ghosh@uzh.ch](mailto:banhishikha.ghosh@uzh.ch))

**Abstract:** In this talk I will explore ways in which sexual and gender diversity is imagined and represented in research praxis - taking India as the context for such reflections. Taking up vignettes assembled from over a 25-year period of I seek to look back, and forward, at the same time, querying the linear nature of research processes. In so doing, I open out 'patchwork perspectives' of sexualities and gender as attributes of life-worlds that come into being with other entities, in the case of the present talk, HIV and COVID 19. The coeval relation I seek to trace proffers 'the viral' not just as a global health problem but as a domain term for thinking of queer forms of being and knowing that always hover out of easy reach, confounding the empirical. While this may seem like an abstract way of thinking, I want to consider some of the practical consequences for such a standpoint, with regard to how data and evidence about 'sexual cultures' and viral risks are composed and acted upon.

*Paul Boyce is a Reader in Anthropology and Sexuality Studies at the University of Sussex. He works at the interface of anthropological research with queer theorizing on sexual and gendered subjectivities and critically applied work in policy and programme development internationally. His research has predominantly focused on sexual and gendered subjectivities, seeking to relate theory to practice. Across his work, he aims to develop practical and analytical connections between ethnographic practice, community work, queer theory, and anthropological conceptualizations of gender, sexualities, health, socio-economic change and continuity. He is one of the co-founders of the European Network for Queer Anthropology (ENQA). Recent publications include *Queering Knowledge: Analytics, Devices and Investments after Marilyn Strathern* (co-edited and winner of the Ruth Benedict Prize for Outstanding Edited Collection) and *Researching Sex and Sexualities* (co-edited). His co-edited book, *Covid 19 Assemblages: Queer and Feminist Ethnographies from South Asia* is in press.*

As a lecture and workshop in the series *Ethnographies of Contemporary South Asia: Touchpoints Between Ethics and Politics*, funding from the UZH Graduate Campus is gratefully acknowledged for this event.