

South Asian Studies Center, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

BOOK TALK

Leisurely Feelings:

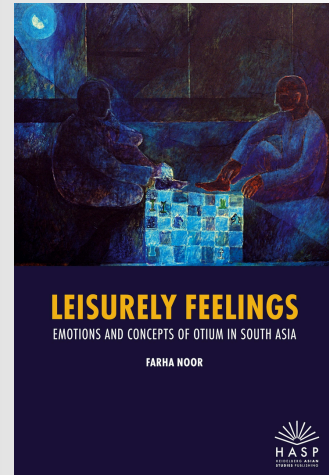
Emotions and Concepts of Otium in South Asia

This book traces a conceptual history of literature, leisure and emotions in modern South Asia. Reading colonial capitalism as entwined with the 'myth of the lazy native', it focuses on vernacular literary contestations in Urdu and Bengali. It foregrounds otium, leisure and idleness as entangled with emotions and temporalities. The book approaches literary spheres through the lenses of emotions, the self, and the community. Literary discourses of otium are analysed in stylistic innovations, negotiations of colonial modernity and postcolonial uncertainties. Highlighting key literary-conceptual expressions, discussions, and processes, the author explores nostalgia, melancholy, topophilia and haunting as emotions deeply attached to South Asian literary cultures while also resonating with concepts of otium across global modernity.

Farha Noor is a scholar of South Asian literature, culture, and history. She completed her doctoral studies at Heidelberg University, with the support of the DFG-funded project Otium/Muße (University of Freiburg). She currently teaches English at the Rheinland-Pfälzische Technische Universität Kaiserslautern-Landau. Her research interests include history of ideas, concepts, and emotions with a focus on literature and literary cultures.

A PDF version of the book can be downloaded for free from the following link:

<https://hasp.uni-heidelberg.de/catalog/view/1348/2569/117865>



Speaker: Farha Noor
(RPTU)

Discussant:
Ananya Jahanara Kabir
(King's College London)

Chair: Tariq Sheikh
(TUFS)

15 January 2025 18:00-20:00 (Japan Standard Time)

Format: Online (Zoom) Language: English

Participation fee: Free

Prior registration required. Please register by 13 January using the QR code on the right.



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Co-organised by Center for South Asian Studies, The University of Tokyo