

EDITING IS WOMEN'S WORK: AN ANTHRO-HISTORICAL STUDY OF FEMALE EDITORS IN INDIAN MEDIA INDUSTRIES

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IAAW, room 217



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In this talk, I foreground the embodied and affective experiences of film editing in Bollywood and show how and why it has been classified as feminized labour. My two-year long ethnographic data collection reveals the nuances of film editing by denoting how editors mediate as a bridge between production houses and audiences. I analyse the anthropological and historical gaps in scholarship that have also justified the low pay, contractual/ outsourced employment and lack of acknowledgement across post-production marketing events of editors in India. Instead, I focus on highlighting their significance and contribution in film production and distribution. The two questions guiding this study are: What distinguishes editing processes within the relationalities of film production cultures, especially now within the increasingly networked societies, dynamic viewership patterns and relatively easy access to diverse global media cultures? Why did/ do women pursue film editing in India and what challenges have they encountered historically and across contemporary times?



(c) Priyam Sinha