



Department of English and Cultural Studies  
Panjab University, Chandigarh, India

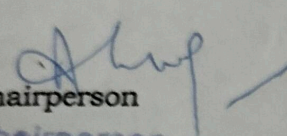
9/11/2022

Prof. Akshaya Kumar  
Chairperson

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**Notice**

The department shall hold an online lecture by Mr. Andrew Kerr, Research Scholar from University of California on the topic "Feeling (in) the Indian Public Sphere: Circulations of Urdu Poetry and Affect" at 2.30 p.m. in the Language Lab tomorrow 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. All the Research Scholars are required to attend the lecture. Those who are interested among M.A. students can also join.

  
Chairperson

**ABSTRACT of the Talk/Paper**

This paper departs from classic concepts of the public sphere and publics. Accordingly, I outline an analytical framework to investigate what publics formed through the circulation of Urdu poetry might help us understand about overall conditions of the public sphere in India. This framework privileges affective attunement over the liberal, rational-critical discursive model of exchange to consider an important way the public sphere could operate in India. Drawing on two contemporary poems for my initial case study, Varun Grover "Ham Kaghaz Nahin Dikhayenge" and Amir Aziz "Main Inkaar Karta Hun" I draw attention to not only what these poems say, but how they feel. By extension, through the affective and emotional reception of these poems the circulation of solidarity as well as offense. I argue that the implications of Urdu poetry prevalence reveal the contemporary Indian public sphere as a regime of emotional life. This initial case study invites broader questions about the relationship of theories and practices of aesthetics with mass politics and social formations.



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