

The Politics of Yoga: Sex, Religion, and Power in a Global Industry

Andrea R. Jain *Indiana University, Department of Religious Studies*

11:00 am - 3:30 pm | Friday, August 4, 2017

University of Victoria | Harry Hickman Building | Room 110

In recent years, North American yoga culture – including the popular Iyengar, Ashtanga, Hatha, Flow, and Bikram (or “hot”) yoga forms – has come under attack for its commercialization, (dis)connection with its Indian roots, and penchant for cultural appropriation. Arguably, the controversies around yoga reflect anxieties regarding religion, spirituality, post-colonialism, capitalism, gender, and identity.

In this workshop, Andrea Jain, Indiana University religious studies professor and author of *Selling Yoga: From Counterculture to Pop Culture* (Oxford, 2014), will present the keynote lecture about the religious, social, and political forces animating contemporary debates about yoga. Angela Jamison, adjunct professor at the University of Michigan and level-two authorized teacher in the Ashtanga yoga lineage, will offer a formal response to Jain’s lecture based on her experiences as a scholar, activist, and teacher. An open discussion between presenters, workshop participants, and invited scholars and practitioners will follow.

RSVP to csrs@uvic.ca or 250-721-6325 by Monday, July 31 to confirm your attendance. Lunch is provided. Space is limited and will be granted on a first come first served basis.

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