



The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Center for Biographical Research

Brown Bag Biography

Thursday, October 29, 2009

12:00 noon to 1:15 p.m.

Henke Hall 325, 1800 East-West Road

# Monisha Das Gupta

## *“Don't Deport Our Daddies”: Gendering State Deportation Practices and Anti- Deportation Organizing*

New York City-based Families for Freedom (FFF) is among a handful of organizations that directly organizes deportees and their families. In its public rallies, vigils, and archives, the figure of the immigrant father torn away from his children and partner appears again and again. This talk is based on the testimonies of deportees, their family members, and their advocates, and from photographs available from the organization's website, as well as preliminary fieldwork I conducted this summer. I will examine the way in which FFF's work makes men of color publicly visible in their role as fathers—as immigrant men whose fathering and carework becomes the basis for demanding a stop to deportation. Working with frameworks that caution us against the valorization of heterosexual families, and those that ask us to attend to the historical specificities that have shaped people of color's right to have families, the paper explores the state's gendering of deportation practices, and the gendered discourses in anti-deportation organizing.

**Monisha Das Gupta** is Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Her book *Unruly Immigrants: Rights, Activism, and Transnational South Asian Politics in the United States* (Duke University Press, 2006) looks at feminist, queer, and labor organizing in post-1965 South Asian communities in the United States. It won two national awards in 2008. Her recent publications focus on the post-9/11 political terrain, immigrant rights, transnational feminism, and approaches to the South Asian diaspora that connect the Atlantic and Pacific communities. Her current research looks at the interface between immigration reform and the immigrant rights movements.

Contact the Center for Biographical Research at 956-3774 or [biograph@hawaii.edu](mailto:biograph@hawaii.edu) for more information.