

Beyond Emasculation

Beyond Emasculation is based on long-term ethnographic research with *hijras*, the emblematic figure of South Asian sexual and gender difference, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It proposes the hijra as a counter-cultural formation that embodies not only a direct contrast to hegemonic patterns of masculinity but also as an alternative subculture offering the possibility of varied forms of erotic pleasures and practices otherwise forbidden in mainstream society. While most studies view hijras as an asexual, emasculated, third sex/gender, this book calls into question the phallogocentric logic that obscures alternative sites and sources of bodily power and pleasure, emphasizing how hijras craft their own subject position. Ethnographically rich and theoretically engaged, this book will cause a new, global re-examination of both hijras in particular and the wider range of 'male femininities' in general.

Adnan Hossain is Assistant Professor of Gender Studies and Critical Theory at Graduate Gender Program, Utrecht University. His research concerns gender and sexual diversity, heterosexualities, masculinities, transgender and intersex studies, race and ethnic relations, bodies, nationalism, de/post-colonial studies and global inequalities in knowledge production.

Beyond Emasculation
Pleasure and Power in the
Making of *Hijra* in Bangladesh

Adnan Hossain



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For abba and amma

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