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## **Second Honeymoons, Jurassic Babies: Identity and Play in Chennai's Post-Independence Sabha Theater**

Kristen Rudisill

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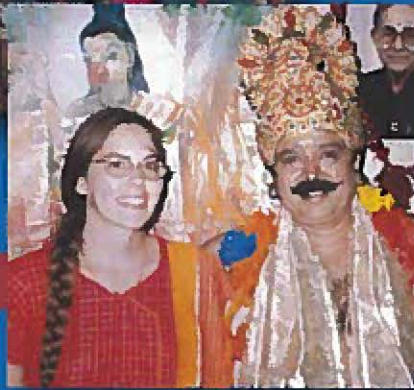
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**Dr. Kristen Rudisill**  
**Tuesday October 30, 2:30-4 pm**  
**BTSU 207**



## ***Second Honeymoons, Jurassic Babies: Identity and Play in Chennai's Post- Independence Sabha Theater***

This talk will present an overview of Dr. Rudisill's book project concerning what she terms the Sabha Theater genre. Dr. Rudisill will discuss *Second Honeymoon* (1977) and *Jurassic Baby* (2000), two popular Tamil-language plays from the Sabha Theater genre that is based Chennai, the capital of the South Indian state of Tamilnadu. This genre relies on the patronage of voluntary organizations known as sabhas, which are dominated by middle-class members of the high-caste Brahmin community.

Dr. Rudisill's book demonstrates the social and ideological significance of regional language popular theaters in developing and projecting community identity. The talk will include a brief history of the development of this theatrical tradition that despite its cultural importance has been largely ignored by scholars. Additionally, Dr. Rudisill will sketch generic boundaries for Sabha Theater and briefly explore the cultural facets of the humor, using *Honeymoon Couple* as an example of a typical play from the genre.

### **About the presenter:**

Kristen Rudisill is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Popular Culture. Her PhD is in Asian Studies from the University of Texas, Austin, and her research focuses on Indian theater and dance. She has published several articles in journals such as *Text and Presentation*, *Asian Theatre Journal*, *South Asian Popular Culture*, and *Studies in Musical Theatre*.

Dr. Rudisill's lecture is part of the ICS Faculty Fellows Lecture Series.  
All events are free and open to the public. For more information call (419) 372-0585.

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