Feminism Outside the Metropole:

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3pm-5pm
University of Maryland
Francis Scott Key Hall
1102J

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Indian feminism is often depicted as a pan-national, urban and Anglophone movement. We counter such characterizations by tracking the receptivity to feminist ideas in *Stree*, the longest-running Marathi-language women’s magazine. Published continuously from 1930 to 1986, the magazine was read widely across rural, urban and semi-urban areas as well as outside India. Its commentary, debates, short fiction and advice columns presented diverse political positions, and also consolidated a self-consciously progressive identity. We interrogate what it meant, in this context, to be progressive.

Our presentation includes a traveling exhibit of over 30 reproductions of cover art from 1930-1965, and talks by a sociologist, historian and artist describing the content and visual innovations of this magazine. Our discussion of *Stree* articles and cover art focuses on two themes: 1) Shifts in understandings of marriage; and 2) Cosmopolitan aspirations of writers and readers.