

Secret Publics, Subversive Erotics?

Kothis' Micro-narratives of Mobile
Phone Use and Sexuality in
Bombay/Mumbai

Pre-Ambling

- Intersections: gender; sexuality, the crucible called Feminism, politics, academia, media
- Media, Indian culture and sexuality – a history of bans and moral panics
- On media, culture and nation – cinema, TV and nation-building in India; ‘national integrity’, the body of woman as the body of the nation; ‘Indians don’t kiss’; the ‘upliftment’ of the ‘masses’.
- On Kothis – clips

Background Theory & Context

- This project
- Locating Kothis
- The theoretical bits – SCOT, ANT and the ‘domestication of technologies’ approach
- Mobile media, hand-held, convergence & 3G

Why and What

- The mobile as a means for kothis to establish presence and identity?
- How does the mobile phone create shifts in their state of marginality, or not?
- What this means for the expression/experience of sexualities.
- What does 'being mobile' mean to the socially immobile?
- The relentless tension of the real and the virtual

“...the focus of communication has shifted from the instrument to the drama in which existing groups perpetually negotiate power, authority, representation and knowledge with whatever resources are available. New media intrude on these negotiations by providing new platforms on which old groups confront each other. Old habits of transacting between groups are projected onto new technologies that alter, or seem to alter, critical social distances.” (Marvin 1990: 5).

Prelim Findings

- Technology and the consumer society; commodities and 'aspirationality'; social and sexual capital
- Mobile Sex
- Mobile Love
- Virtual Harm & Real Harm

More Things to Talk About

- The construction of sexuality; a range of intimacies and the expansion of an understanding of sexuality; reality and virtuality.
- Strategies and tactics of survival
- The notion of harm and agendas in defining what constitutes harm
- ICT4D
- Mobile citizenship, perhaps? Individuality and not mobility: the future of the community;