

Research Question: How are performances of ceremony and ritual in the Indian Parliament reflective, constitutive or are otherwise related to the processes of engendering (and reproducing) political legitimacy?

Aims

- ◆ Examine the validity of Norton's (1993) claim that parliament's primary function is that of legitimisation
- ◆ Explore how legitimating discourses are embedded in procedures or processes of ceremony and ritual, both formal and informal as part of parliament's larger organizational ethos
- ◆ Investigate the presence of organisational sub-texts that are often deeply gendered, and/or racialised in operation within the Indian Parliament
- ◆ Study the Indian Parliament as an organisation seeking to ensure its survival and maintenance

EMPIRICAL FOCUS: PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS, OATH OF AFFIRMATION, MOTION OF THANKS, DEBATES ON PREVENTION OF TERRORISM BILL/ ACT AND WOMENS' RESERVATION BILL

Methodological Eclecticism

QUALITATIVE, ETHNOGRAPHIC APPROACH

Data Collection:

- ◆ Observation
 - Public Gallery Televised Footage
- ◆ Interviewing
 - MPs, Parliamentary Officials, Media persons and academics
- ◆ Documentary materials
 - Transcripts of parliamentary proceedings
 - Publications by government or by MPs
 - Media reportage

Data Analysis:

GROUNDING THEORY, CRITICAL DISCOURSE, TRIANGULATION OF SOURCES

Fieldwork

FIRST TRANCHE OF FIELD WORK COMPLETED

(MAY—AUGUST 2009)

- ◆ 22 interviews conducted with MPs, approx. 1 hr each
- ◆ Primary and secondary literature including memoirs and accounts by MPs and official documents of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- ◆ Coverage of media reportage, commentary and live televising of first session of 15th Lok Sabha (Lower House)
- ◆ 46 hours of debate proceedings
- ◆ Live observation of election of first female speaker of Lok Sabha →→
- ◆ Data analysis in progress



