



# Lecture Series in Social Anthropology

Spring  
Semester  
2025

Tuesday 20 May 2025 | 4.15 p.m. | Room AND-4-06

## Mask, Mirror, and Modification

**Prof. Parvis Ghassem-Fachandi (Rutgers University)**

India is a country with a celebrated tradition of hierarchies: ranked relationships between adults and minors, parents and children, teachers and students, humans and animals, as well as masters and disciples. Such traditions of authority run parallel to modern state institutions but have also corrupted. The current Indian government invests particular emphasis on the expression and performance of traditional authority, modified as it appeals to contemporary sensibilities. Through a politics of mask and mirrors a mood is sustained that is anticipatory of a fabulous future modernity yet always invoking a romanticized past. The final implication of these modifications and the politics of masks and mirrors are unclear, yet the subsequent political ambiguity consistently translates into maximum political benefit.

**Organization:**

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Entrance free of charge.

Subject to change. For details see: <https://t.uzh.ch/1s7>

