

# Archives, Urdu Literature, and Stranger Intimacy: A Genealogy of *Jinnealogy*

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**Anand V. Taneja** is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Islamic Traditions of South Asia at Vanderbilt University. His first book, *Jinnealogy: Time, Islam, and Ecological Thought in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi* (Stanford University Press), center on Firoz Shah Kotla, a ruined medieval palace that has become a prominent *dargah*, or Muslim saint shrine, in contemporary Delhi. His next research project focuses on Indian Muslim ethical responses to Hindu nationalism and Islamophobia.

MON | SEPT 23 | 12:30 – 2:00 PM | Callaway S107

Light Lunch provided

In this session, I will talk about three aspects of the research for my book *Jinnealogy: Time, Islam, and Ecological Thought in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi*. One, archival work as ethnography. Anthropologists tend to approach the “archive” and the “field” in methodologically different ways, and also tend to think of them as producing different kinds of knowledge. Here, I will reflect on the insights I gleaned by approaching my quest for archival documents ethnographically. Secondly, I will reflect upon the way in which reading Urdu literature about Delhi—literary memoirs, popular theology, and antiquarian literature—while doing fieldwork, deepened and enriched my ethnographic engagement with place. Finally, I will reflect upon how a great part of the “stranger effect” of anthropological fieldwork might come not from the effect it has on one’s interlocutors, but rather, from the ways that participant-observation can be an act of radical estrangement: defamiliarizing one not just from a landscape one thought was familiar, but also from the habits and pre-conceptions of the self.



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