

HSS Department's first YRC, IISER, Pune

Session: History, Culture, and Public Narratives-08/07/2026

The Politics of Looking: Early Indian Visual Traditions in Public Life

This talk explores how early Indian visual traditions are used today in public life to shape, challenge, and express shared memories and political identities. Through case studies focusing on the changes in early sculptural traditions, I show that these ancient images are not just historical artifacts but active participants in ongoing discussions about history, identity, and governance. By examining how these images are displayed, interpreted, and received by audiences, the talk presents methods for understanding how visual forms move through time and gain new meanings in contemporary society.

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