

Indian rivers have been the locus of projects both spiritual and secular. Diverse practices, ranging from devotion to dam-building, have radically transformed how different social groups relate to rivers. This lecture will discuss the various cultural meanings that rivers embody in contemporary India, and how these meanings are contested in ongoing struggles over the place of rivers in nature and culture. In particular, it will focus on the conflicts around the Narmada river in central India and on the Yamuna river in the city of Delhi.

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