

*Emory's Religion Department
presents a series of talks by its faculty*

Joyce Flueckiger on

When the World Becomes Female: A South Indian Goddess Tradition



For the week-long festival of the goddess Gangamma, the goddess proliferates through a wide range of guises, whereby the streets of Tirupati are quite literally feminized. We get a hint at the gendered understandings and experiences of the goddess by looking at the repertoire of festival guising/masking. This repertoire of practices suggests that guising is primarily a process of recognition: recognition by the goddess of her true self, recognition of males as female, recognition of women as (sharing in the nature of) the goddess, and in this festival world, recognition of ultimate reality as female.

**Wednesday
April 23, 2003
3:00 pm
Callaway S101**

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