WITCH HUNTS
Culture, Patriarchy and Structural Transformation

Govind Kelkar
Dev Nathan

Witch hunts are the result of gendered, cultural and socio-economic struggles over acute structural, economic and social transformations in both the formation of gendered class societies and that of patriarchal capitalism. The authors combine political economy with gender and cultural analysis to explain the articulation of cultural beliefs about women as causing harm, and struggles over patriarchy in periods of structural economic transformation. Starting with field data from India and South-east Asia, the analysis incorporates a large body of works on Africa, the Americas and early modern Europe. Witch Hunts is a scholarly analysis of the human rights violation of women and its correction through changes in beliefs, knowledge practices, masculinity and adaptation in structural transformation.

Govind Kelkar is a feminist scholar. She is currently Executive Director, GenDev Centre for Research and Innovation; Visiting Professor, Council for Social Development; and Distinguished Adjunct Faculty, the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok.

Dev Nathan is an economist. He is currently Research Director, GenDev Centre for Research and Innovation; Visiting Professor, Institute for Human Development; and Research Advisor, Society for Labour and Development. He is co-editor of the Press’s series Development Trajectories in Global Value Chains.
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