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Violent Entanglements: The Transgressive Gendered Body in Transnational Work Environments

The presence of information technology industries in India has radically altered the social and cultural experiences of everyday life especially for young women workers. With India being drawn into global marketplace as the high-tech solution center for business problems and operations, new types of labor demands and work environments have surfaced. This presentation explores how the growing influence of new media technologies and mediated workplaces have created conditions of labor for women that simultaneously and often violently entangle the categories of the national and transnational, the cultural and economic, the private and public. Using the discourse surrounding the rape and murder of an information technology worker in Bangalore, I elaborate on how transnational work environments operate as spaces of exception and the overwhelming power of a neoliberal consumerist ethos that can only read and respond to violence in terms of the technological.