

1. **Head count:** 18

2. **Prompt questions**

a. *Anonymous responses*

i. **How does caste compare to class**

1. Caste includes socio-econ status as well as who and what your ancestry is.
2. Caste is comparable to how pedigree is understood in the south where you can't cross over into higher or lower caste systems by default to status quo of understanding and honoring how the caste system work
3. Living outloud as trans or queer creates another layer of caste

ii. **Is there any caste mobility**

4. There is not much caste mobility and there is a great resemblance to racism in the united states.
5. Just as one is born with their race... one is born with caste. Caste is associated with darker skin but is not synonymous. Outing someone caste is real. People will probe to learn more about a person to identify ones associate caste.

iii. **What would caste protection look like in America**

6. Solutions for caste protection: east and west coast have lots of organizations and universities that list caste as a protected category. Humphrey is the first university to include caste protections in their "list of protections."

iv. **How do you see the "fetishism" of South Asian Culture affecting caste**

7. The practicing of yoga and mindfulness is an example of how people use higher caste privelleges without context. Lower caste individuals didn't have access to yoga and music for example.

v. **What caste is Gahndi from**

8. Upper for sure

vi. **How will I be treated if I go to Nepal**

9. Being white your whiteness will trump your appearance as trans.

vii. **How does caste impact policing in south asia**

10. Lower caste is policed differently than higher caste.

Session Summary

South Asia: Geography location Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Topic: What is a Caste system?

3. Caste systems in south Asia is identifiable by card and jobs can and do discriminate based on a persons caste
4. Similar to affirmative action there is a certain number of lower caste citizens that are required to receive admission into jobs and university

Hindoo .v Sindhu... Hindoo is the colonizers

5. High-level overview

Upper caste make up to about 30% of the population and the remain caste makes up of the rest.

Bhrmain (priests, academics): Born from the head of the higher being and are viewed as the holders of knowledge

Kshatryia (Warriors, Kings): born in to the caste and can't get out because it is handed down by the ancestors. They are born from the shoulders of the higher being.

Vaishya

Sudra

Untouchables: out caste (out of caste) and include street sweepers and latrine cleaners people are currently killed for trying to exist outside of this caste system.

Other aspects of caste oppression

Transness & caste oppressive system: In IT there is a large South Asian population. They are from higher caste societies. Cisco and google are experiencing lawsuits including Samsung because of caste based discrimination. An employee is suing because the manager at a company looked up his caste system and stop supporting the employee's growth and professional development. HR at google stated that there are no protections against caste discrimination. Trans-ness is now included in the "affirmative action" in india. There are actually trans folk from higher caste. It can relate to how white transwomen are often the greatest benefactors of Trans protections. Higher caste trans folk in South Asian community actually risk their status when coming out as Trans.

Call to Action

White trans bodies can hold and curate space for "othered" trans bodies. Whenever a marginalized person expresses a need, offer a lived solidarity with that person. Literally actual bodies offer protection for "othered" bodies. Build connection and resources for trans bodies that experience violence and exile.

SEWA-AIFW

Smiley "I don't want our story, of lower caste, to be one of violence but one of joy and empowerment and beauty and spiritual wisdom"

Reading material

Equality labs

Caste and the trans/queer experience in india

Silicon valley lawsuit

Coming out as dalit by Yshica dutt (visiting maclaster college on 9/29 at 7p

Karukky