



**IGDS**

INSTITUTE FOR GENDER &  
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

# LUNCHTIME SEMINARS WEDNESDAYS – 12 NOON



**Dr. Harjant Gill** is an assistant professor of Anthropology at Towson University. He received his PhD in Anthropology from American University. His research examines the intersections of masculinity, modernity and transnational migration in India. He is also an award-winning filmmaker and has made several films that have screened at film festivals, academic conferences and on television networks worldwide including BBC, Doordarshan (Indian National TV) and PBS. His films include *Mardistan (Macholand)* which explores Indian manhood focusing on issues of sexual violence, son preference and homophobia, and *Roots of Love* which looks at the changing significance of hair and turban among Sikhs in India. His forthcoming film *Sent Away Boys* looks at how provincial communities in India are transformed by the exodus of young men giving up farming to seek a better future abroad. Dr. Gill has also served on the board of directors of Society for Visual Anthropology (SVA) and co-directed the SVA Film and Media Festival (2012-14). He is fluent in Hindi and

You are invited to the IGDS, St. Augustine Unit Lunchtime Seminar

## Mardistan (Macholand)

Film screening and Q&A

with

**Harjant Gill**

Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 2016

12 Noon

IGDS Seminar Room, The UWI, St. Augustine Campus

***Mardistan (Macholand)*** is an exploration of Indian manhood articulated through the voices of four men from different generations and backgrounds. A middle-aged writer trying to make sense of the physical and sexual abuse he witnessed studying in an elite military academy, a Sikh father of twin daughters resisting the pressure to produce a son, a young 20-year-old college student looking for a girlfriend with whom he can lose his virginity, and a working-class gay activist coming out to his wife after twenty years of marriage. Together, their stories make up different dimensions of what it means to be a man in India today. *Mardistan (Macholand)* starts a conversation on critical issues including patriarchy, son preference, sexual violence and homophobia in a nation increasingly defined by social inequalities.

### REVIEWS:

"*Mardistan* presents Indian masculinities in all their complexities as they emerge in a context of a powerful and shifting debate in India on sexual violence, sexual rights and citizenship. This is a powerful, insightful, and teachable film that overturns simplistic notions of gender and seeks to widen the debate on the relation between patriarchy, masculinity, sexuality and gender."

— **Inderpal Grewal**, Women Gender & Sexuality Studies (Yale University) and author of *Scattered Hegemonies, Home and Harem*, and *Transnational America* "...a thoughtful documentary that hopes for a brave new kind of Indian macho man"

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