



Critical Group Analysis, India Fund Raising Zoom Lectures

Saturday, January 24th, 2026

1 pm to 3pm (UK times)

1 pm to 1.05 student

1.05 to 2.00 pm - Jhuma Basak

2.00 to 2.30 Small Group discussion

2.30pm to 3 pm - Whole group discussion

Fee: £20 + optional donation



Jhuma Basak

Cultural invocation of maternal-fusion in males – India

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The post-Freudian era brought about a significant shift in the cultural positioning of the Oedipus complex in the East.

Girindrasekhar Bose (the 'father of psychoanalysis' in India), as early as 1949 stated that the 'Oedipus complex offered the child two possibilities of satisfaction, an active and a passive one' (Bose, 1949, p. 225) – opening up the locus of a psychoanalytic argument on bisexuality in the Indian cultural context.

Sudhir Kakar said 'The Oedipus complex, in one variation or another, may well be universal, but it is not equally hegemonic across cultures'. Kakar explored deeper into the 'maternal-feminine' embedded in the dominant Hindu cultural mythology of the Devi imago, the all-encompassing phallic goddess-mother Maa Durga with her ten hands and weapons – a community imagination – becomes the compelling magical artistry of every Indian Hindu household and male fancy.

The popular dominant imagination of a divine maternal that equally nurtures and protects found its manifestation in the mythological creation of a warrior goddess in Maa Durga (a combined semblance of the protective phallic mother yet the bountiful, (for)giving mother with ten hands).

Some of the key concerns of this paper are:

The transformation of the universal oedipal schema in a non-western maternal cultural context, as in India.

How a patriarchal symbolic order prompts the imagination of a 'phallic mother'.

The intersection of psychoanalysis, culture, and patriarchy.

Jhuma Basak is a Training & Supervising Psychoanalyst of the Indian Psychoanalytical Society, and member of the International Psychoanalytical Association, London. She holds a Ph.D in Psychology from the Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan. Basak's interest in psychoanalysis lies in the psycho-social model along with culture & gender intersections

Basak has been the mentor of the Psychoanalytic Study Group in the Dept of Psychology at the Christ University, Bangalore, and continues to be a visiting professor there. Other academic affiliations involve – the Ambedkar University, West Bengal State University.

Basak is the co-editor of the book, Psychoanalytic & Socio-Cultural Perspectives on Women in India: Violence, Safety & Survival, Pub. Taylor & Francis Group, 2021; editor, Sculpting Psychoanalysis in India – Sudhir Kakar, Oxford Univ Press, 2025; and co-author of Psychoanalytic Explorations into Primal Relationship in Japan and India from Routledge, 2025.

Basak's clinical experience comprises working with hospitals (Max Hospital – Delhi; Woodlands, & Medica Hospitals – Kolkata); in private clinic (Crystal Clinic – Kolkata) and in private practice. She remains committed to her work in mental health, arts, and education in the community.

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