

Ian Reed

Project Title: *Building Pandals, Building Ta'ziyahs, Building Identity: Public Religious Celebrations by Bangladeshi Immigrants in Kolkata*

Abstract:

Over the last few decades, there have been a significant number of ethnographic studies of ritual performances in South Asia. However, many of these studies assume that participation in these festivals is primarily the result of pre-existing religious affiliation. This is often times not the case, as public religious festivals carry a wide variety of meanings for those who participate in them, both religious and non-religious. This is often particularly true for immigrant communities; public religious festivals are often powerful venues where these communities can develop and manage their own public identities, as well as manage their relationship with other communities in the area. This study will focus on the various roles that public religious performances play for Bangladeshi immigrants in Kolkata, India.