Anna Schultz
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ETHNOMUSICOLOGY AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Anna Schultz specializes in the music of South Asia, music and nationalism, music and religious experience, Indo-Caribbean music, diaspora and migration, music transmission, Hindi film music, Jewish music in India, and country and bluegrass music. Her current research is focused on gender and minority identity in the paraliturgical music of the Bene Israel (Marathi-speaking Jews) of India and Israel.

“This lecture explores intersections of gender, language, textuality, and orality in Marathi Jewish songs of the Bene Israel people of Bombay. Their song notebooks occupy a border between the textual and the oral and provide a window into how sharing, listening, and reading inflect the formulation of Indian Jewish women’s song repertories. Moreover, these notebooks evince traces of Jewish men’s early dominance in and later abandonment of Marathi publishing, a trajectory that left a lacuna in Marathi-language Jewish performing arts that was filled by women, who eschewed publishing to transmit Marathi songs through this notebook-mediated oral tradition.”

Schultz’s writings concern regional performance of Hindu nationalism, style and patronage in Marathi kirtan, aesthetics of suffering in the Indo-Caribbean diaspora, mobile recording technology and ethnomusicological research, Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, and nostalgia and forgetting in the song Kentucky. Her book Singing a Hindu Nation (Oxford University Press, 2013) is on the role of regional (Maharashtrian) performance idioms in the construction of religious nationalism in India.

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