

Professor Alka Menon, Yale University, presents:

**"Refashioning Race:  
How Global Cosmetic Surgery Crafts New Beauty Standards"**



**Description:** As cosmetic surgery has become more accessible worldwide, changing beauty trends have led to a proliferation of beauty standards for members of different racial groups. Drawing on fieldwork in the U.S. and Malaysia, this talk shows how cosmetic surgeons generate and apply knowledge using racial categories and how this process is affected by transnational clinical and economic exchanges. Acting as gatekeepers and producers of desired appearances, cosmetic surgeons reshape race—both on patients' bodies and at the broader level of culture.

**Alka V. Menon** is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Yale University, where she is also affiliated with the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, the Program in the History of Science and History of Medicine, and the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies. Her research examines the relationship between medicine, technology, and society, with a focus on race, racism, and globalization. She received her Ph.D. in sociology from Northwestern University in 2018.

**Thursday**  
**March 28, 2024**  
**12:30-2:00pm**

**Wildcat Room**  
**Norris University Center**  
**1999 Campus Dr.**  
**Evanston, IL 60208**

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