

# RIVER GODDESSES, RIVER LINKING:

From Sacred to Transferable Waters

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**Speaker:** Dr. Kelly Alley

**Date:** 9 OCT 2007

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** CSE E119

Kelly D. Alley is Alumni Professor of Anthropology and the Director of the Anthropology Program at Auburn University. Her book titled, *On the Banks of the Ganga: When Wastewater Meets a Sacred River*, explores Hindu interpretations of the sacred river Ganga in light of current environmental problems.

**D**r. Alley will outline the Hindu reverence for river Goddesses in India, connecting faith, ritual, social organization and political movements to illustrate the centrality of sacred water to everyday life. She will then examine policy debates spanning the last fifteen years, arguing that a shift in priorities is moving attention away from pollution prevention and water quality, toward river water transfers and water quantity. Finally, she will examine the implications of this shift for river basin science, policy and management, public users and religious worshippers as stakeholders, and the future of public water uses.