

## Anthropos India Foundation, Guest Lecture Series.....

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23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2015  
4 – 6 pm  
Committee Room, CSRD  
SSS- III  
**JNU**

### **Care, Cure, Cater – Healthcare Between Sympathy and Profit: Insights from Corporate Hospitals Accommodating Foreigners in Delhi**

**Heidi Kaspar**

The increasing praxis of crossing national boundaries in the search for affordable medical treatment and the growth of medical tourism industry in India & elsewhere have been viewed as inherently intertwined with globalization, increasing ease in traveling and communicating around the globe as well as marketization and corporatization of healthcare. However, little has been said so far how these intertwinings unfold on the ground in the everyday practice of giving and receiving care. Therefore, the paper discusses how for-profit healthcare provision to foreigners unfolds in corporate hospitals in Delhi NCR. Feminist economists have pointed out that conventional economics and care work rationales diverge greatly. Drawing on Arlie Hochschild's concept of emotional labor and Sarah Ahmed's concept of affective economies I identify and describe instances within the practice of international medical travel where these different rationales collapse. This merge has both positive and negative effects for those who give care as well as for those who receive care. Furthermore, the paper problematizes common portrays of international medical travelers that so far have been predominant in both academic & popular literature and draws a more varied picture of who becomes mobile for health.