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'Let us Live as Hindus': Narrating Hindu Identity Through Temple Building Processes in Amsterdam Zuidoost (1988-2015)

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Propositions

1. Hindu identity in Amsterdam Zuidoost has been articulated through the ongoing processes to establish a purpose-built temple in the neighbourhood.
2. Hindu identity in Amsterdam Zuidoost is often strategically represented through the narratives and experiences of Hindustanis who migrated to the Netherlands from Paramaribo in the 1970s and 1980s.
3. Since 2010, community actors across gender and class backgrounds have begun to emphasise the importance of grassroots political involvement as a form of ideal Hindu behaviour. This involves valuing democratically elected temple boards and voting rights.
4. The moral economy of 'active Hinduism' parallels some aspects of culturalised citizenship that currently circulate in the Netherlands.
5. Since the 1980s, scholarship on Hindustani groupings in the Netherlands has perpetuated the stereotype that 'the Hindustanis' are a monolithic, apolitical community.
6. Ethnographic studies of Hindustanis in the Netherlands since the 1980s have focused more on issues of ethnicity among socio-economically successful middle-class communities, which obfuscate the experiences of working class and working poor Hindustanis.
7. Current discussions of Indo-Caribbean identity in the Netherlands highlight the relationship between Hindustanis and India and often ignore narratives that articulate the legacy of indenture and the traumas associated with colonial rule in Suriname.
8. Culturalisation of citizenship in the Netherlands often implies that Dutch identity is explicitly secular: However, Hindu actors in Amsterdam Zuidoost strategically entwine 'Dutchness' and 'Hinduness'.
9. Conducting research in the city where you live means that ethnographic fieldwork can happen spontaneously—including during a borrel.
10. Being able to carry out interviews in Dutch with native speakers is a marker of how well immersive language courses in Amsterdam work.
11. The 'areas' of Area Studies are complex constructions that may hinder more than help to contextualise space and locality.
12. Doctoral research is best conducted on a full stomach.