



**Colonialism and Transnational Psychiatry**  
The Development of an Indian Mental Hospital  
in British India, c. 1925–1940  
*Waltraud Ernst*

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### Description

**The first detailed and comprehensive historical assessment of South Asian psychiatry in the twentieth century, breaking new ground on questions of globalisation and medicine in colonial India.**

‘Ernst paints a fascinating picture of a mental hospital in India where doctors and patients struggle with the problems and paradoxes of modernity during an era of dramatic political change and medical innovation on a global scale.’

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‘An in-depth account wherein individual and institutional histories coalesce, a work of honest scholarship which will be useful for medical historians, sociologists and lay readers alike.’

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This book focuses on the Ranchi Indian Mental Hospital, the largest public psychiatric facility in colonial India during the 1920s and 1930s. It breaks new ground by offering unique material for a critical engagement with the phenomenon of the ‘indigenisation’ or ‘Indianisation’ of the colonial medical services and the significance of international professional networks. The work also provides a detailed assessment of the role of gender and race in this field, and of Western and culturally specific medical treatments and diagnoses. The volume offers an unprecedented look at both the local and global factors that had a strong bearing on hospital management and psychiatric treatment at this institution.

**Readership:** This book will be useful to historians of colonial and Western psychiatry, historians of South Asia, social scientists and historically interested health professionals.

### Contents

Acknowledgements; Abbreviations; Tables and Figures; Introduction; Chapter 1: Indianisation and its Discontents; Chapter 2: The Patients: The Demographics of Gender and Age, Locality, Occupation, Caste and Religion; Chapter 3: Institutional Trends and Standardisation: Deaths, Diseases and Cures; Chapter 4: Classifications, Types of Disorder and Aetiology; Chapter 5: Treatments; Conclusion; Notes; Bibliography; Index

### About the Author

**Waltraud Ernst** is Professor in the History of Medicine in the Department of History, Philosophy and Religion at Oxford Brookes University, UK.

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