

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910976786203321
Autore	Mruthinti Kamath Harshita
Titolo	Impersonations / Harshita Mruthinti Kamath
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oakland : , : University of California Press, , 2019
ISBN	9780520301665 0520301668 9780520972230 0520972236
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (1 p.)
Soggetti	Social Science / Anthropology Religion / Antiquities & Archaeology History / Asia Religion
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Sommario/riassunto	Drawing on multisited ethnographic fieldwork and performance analysis, this book centers on an insular community of Smarta brahmin men from the Kuchipudi village in Telugu-speaking South India, who are required to don stri-vesam (woman's guise) and impersonate female characters from Hindu religious narratives. According to the hagiography of Siddhendra, the founding saint of Kuchipudi dance, every brahmin man from a hereditary Kuchipudi family must don stri-vesam at least once in his life, a prescription that still resonates in the village today. Impersonation, the term used to indicate the donning of gender guise (vesam), is not simply a performative mandate for Kuchipudi brahmin men but also a practice of power that creates normative ideals of brahmin masculinity in village performance and everyday life. However, the construction of brahmin masculinity against the backdrop of impersonation is highly contingent, particularly on account of the expansion of Kuchipudi in the latter half of the twentieth century from a localized village performance to a transnational Indian

"classical" dance tradition. By shifting from village to urban and transnational spaces, the book traces the technologies of normativity that create, sustain, and undermine normative ideals of gender, caste, and sexuality through the embodied practice of impersonation in contemporary South India.
