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## OPEN LECTURE

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Dr. Sirpa Tenhunen (Director, Nordic Centre India and University of Helsinki):

### **‘Smart phones in rural India: gender, intersectionality and mediation’**

2. April, 1.30 pm  
Room 1467-215

The lecture explores how mobile telephony mediates social interaction, communication and intersecting hierarchies in rural India. I examine differences in phone use and especially in the way people use smart phones and avail the internet. Is the ideology about the need to bridge the digital divide in internet access simply an extremely powerful utopia or does internet access empower people in some ways? How does people's use of the internet and smart phones differ according to their social position? Theoretically, I aim to develop a research strategy to understand new media and social change through exploring how different forms of mediations interact as part of local hierarchies when a powerful new medium is appropriated.

All are welcome