



## Finding Their Place: Social Change and Merasi Identity

For generations, the Merasi of northwest Rajasthan, India have been scorned as "Manganiyars", meaning beggars. Considered "untouchable", they have been denied access to education, healthcare, and political representation. Traditional folk music is the Merasi's only recognized means of social worth and today despite on-going caste prejudice, they persist in their roles as oral genealogists, storytellers, and musicians. With the assistance of two non-governmental organizations, US-based Folk Arts Rajasthan (FAR) and India-based Lok Kala Sagar Sansthan (LKSS) the Merasi envision a tomorrow where they can live in peace and celebrate their heritage with dignity.

**Tuesday, October 4, 2016**  
**12:30 pm**  
**341 Eggers Hall**

**Lunch will be served.**  
**RSVP to [elbridge@syr.edu](mailto:elbridge@syr.edu)**



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