

Desis in the House: Indian American Youth Culture in New York City

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Presenter: Ali Hassan

THIS SOURCE:

- She show's how second generation South Asian American youth construct and contest ethnic identity in the U.S.
- Ethnographic/Qualitative Research
- Key Finding (The Term's Function) Youth created the "Desi" term to feel united across national borders as a way to define themselves in American Society
- People pick and choose which parts of the culture they follow(selective),and this is used to create strict internal rules about who truly belongs in the group and who is an outsider.

RELEVANCE TO MY RESEARCH:

- Confirms "Desi" is a diaspora identity created in the U.S. context, not an ancient regional label.
- Maira shows the term creates internal conflict ("Fake Indian") and boundaries among youth.
- This internal boundary-making is the foundation for my study on the term's external appropriateness for the entire, diverse South Asian region.
- Also Justifies using personal interviews to capture the real-world contestation and nuance of the "Desi" label.

APA Citation

Maira, S. M. (2002). *Desis in the house: Indian American youth culture in NYC*. Temple University Press.