



# “Humoring the Saints: Mirabai and Her Guru”

PRESENTATION BY:

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East Conference Room in Memorial Union  
Reception at 5:00 p.m., Lecture at 5:30 p.m.



It is no secret that religion is a very serious thing - *de la vie sérieuse*, Durkheim says somewhere. This is no less true of *bhakti* religion than of any other kind, and in many ways more so. *Bhakti* touches the heart and is constitutive of relationship itself, the very thing that brings us into this world. Yet in the lives of the *bhakti* saints, as told in north India, there is often an element of humor. What is this humor about? Who gets to smile at *bhakti* - sometimes perhaps even poke a little fun at the saints - and who is allowed to get the joke?