



MARCH 22, 2024

12:00 PM

AALYIA SADRUDDIN

Tides of Time:

**Aging and Women's
Bodies in Rwanda**

In this talk, Dr. Aalyia Sadruddin shares some ethnographic reflections from Rwanda, where she has been working with women who experienced a mixture of *imvururu* (violent interruptions) during the adulthood phase of their life course. *Imvururu* meddled with critical rites of passage such as menstruation, pregnancy, breastfeeding, and motherhood, leaving many to question their personhood and place in society. Now in the late (and final) phase of their life course, women from this generation are seeking to reexperience, or experience for the first time, those critical rites of passage through engaging in various self-fashioned bodily practices. Two such practices include singing to one's body and keeping company with expectant mothers, which emerge as essential pathways for elderly women to embody, again, the temporalities of adulthood. Countering dominant stereotypes of aging women's bodies as "unproductive" entities and the late-life phase of the life course as "stagnant," the experiences of Rwanda's elderly women reveal the corporeal registers through which healing and personhood are sought in the long-term wake of violence.

Aalyia Sadruddin is a Cultural and Medical Anthropologist at the Watson Institute of International & Public Affairs at Brown University.

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Join by Zoom: <https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/97275183523?pwd=NnpiUGVPOHVBUWwraG9tR2FYcGLOZz09>

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