

Pedagogy and Medical Know-how: Creating Texts and Knowledge Transmission in the Ayurvedic Gurukula

Anthony Cerulli

This paper looks at the institution of the gurukula as a central site of knowledge transmission in the education of Ayurvedic physicians in south India. It considers the history of the gurukula during the Raj and after, paying special attention to medical education in Kerala, and it utilizes my fieldwork in Kerala between 2003-2015 to examine ways in which the traditions have persisted and changed over the past century. Examining the guru-shishya relationship, the paper queries the ways in which knowledge is delivered from teacher to student, how texts are created and used in this transmission, and the expectations for using this knowledge in clinical practice.