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## **Dressing Lord Jagannatha in Silk: Cloth, Clothes, and Status**

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**KEYWORDS** Jagannatha; temple authority; contem-porary ritual practices; Gitagovinda; cloth; weavers.

**ABSTRACT** Particular cloths in Orissa such as a silk ikat with verses from the *Gitagovinda*, function in specific, highly codified ways within a ritual domain at the Jagannatha temple in Puri. Drawing on both historical documents and contemporary practices, this paper focuses on the circulation of cloth in various ritual and social arenas related to the temple, underscoring a dynamic process of status negotiation, contestation or enhancement.

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