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Invites you to a lecture by



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The making of land, and the making of India

Chair: Prof. Furqan Ahmad
Head, Department of Political Science

Time: 4 p.m. (IST)
Date: 4th November, 2020

Google Meet Link: <https://meet.google.com/nhr-wooo-ftk>

Abstract: What is land and how is it made? In a study drawing from sites in western, eastern and southern India, I argue that land is not simply the solid surface of the earth. It is best understood as a materially and conceptually dynamic realm, intimately tied to the social. As such, land transitions across porous registers of territory, property, authority, the sacred, history and memory, and contested access and exclusion. While states, markets and politics in post-liberalisation India try to make land suitable for 'growth' and 'development', my work reveals that the relationship between the soil and institutions is never straightforward. A state attempting to order a layered topography is frequently stretched into shadowy domains of informality and unsanctioned practices. A market may be advanced, but remains precariously embedded in sociality. Politics could challenge the land-making of the state and markets. It may also effect compromises. Attempts at constructing a durable landed order thus reveal our own (dis)orders. In attempting to 'make' the land, my research shows how the land simultaneously 'makes' us.