

Land-Making as State-Making

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The relationship between land and the state is co-productive. As the state makes the land, it is also shaped by this land-making in turn. Land-making as state-making cannot be read only from the perspective of the formal, high state. Using an ethnographic lens, the talk highlights the aspirational and somewhat lower status inserting themselves in contemporary land-making projects in field sites in western India. We see official and societal intermediaries messing with property documentation, indulging in forgery and fraud, illegally possessing land, and highlighting or creating disputes around its ownership and value. In the process, those on the outside edges of formalised authority, as also land-making projects, broaden the domains of both. They assert their subjecthood in the continual making and re-making of the socially embedded state via multi-dimensional land.

Date: Monday, 8 August 2022

Time: 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm

Venue: Seminar Hall 1