

FRIDAY

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

Conversations on society since 1960

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi

<http://sociology.du.ac.in/sociological-research-colloquium/>

FRIDAY, 11 MARCH 2022 AT 3:00 PM

Srinivas Seminar Room, Department of Sociology

DHIVYA JANARTHANAN



SPACE, FIELD AND METHOD: RHYTHMANALYSIS AND THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE CONTEMPORARY INDIAN VILLAGE

Abstract:

Where, and what, is the contemporary 'Indian village?' If the village – once a mainstay of the anthropology and sociology of the region – now stands eclipsed by an urban-centric and presentist scholarship, how may we reinsert it into our fields of inquiry? I address these issues by drawing on field research in Madurai, Tamil Nadu from 2007 to 2015. I return to my investigation of social space and social relations with two aims. By parsing different aspects of space and time, I shall demonstrate how the conditions of my ethnographic research coincided with, and revealed, the objects of my anthropological inquiry. I also reconsider methods of studying the contemporary village by engaging with anthropologists' recent reflections on their discipline's enduring interest in field, fieldwork, and method, as well as the call to renew anthropological interest in the village.

The Speaker:

Dhivya Janarthanan has taught in the Department of Sociology, University of Delhi since 2016. Her doctoral thesis from SOAS, University of London, was an anthropological exploration of space and dominance in south India.