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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
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FRIDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 3:00 PM

SRINIVAS SEMINAR ROOM, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

**SANJAY
SRIVASTAVA**



THE ANTHROPOLOGIST'S STONE:

Mussavis, satellite mapping and the social life of digital technologies at the rural-urban frontier in Gurugram

Abstract:

Over the past 10-15 years, Gurugram has become an important site of the unfolding of a 'digital' and technological turn in planning and land management. This presentation is a preliminary report on-going fieldwork that investigates the social and political lives of technologies of urban planning. The presentation focuses on the Digital India Land Record Modernisation Project (DILRMP) that utilises satellite mapping and drones to 'upgrade' centuries old land records but must also contend with local (mainly rural) structures of family, kinship and power; historically specific land holding patterns, terminologies and mapping techniques (such as Mughal era stone markings and *Mussavi* or cloth maps); dramatic changes in land values and rural aspirations; shifting relations between the state and private capital, technical and civil bureaucracies; and the multiple meaning of 'boundaries' in the lives of families, the state and private capital at the juncture where the village meets the city.

The Speaker:

Sanjay Srivastava is British Academy Global Professor at SOAS, University of London. He works on urban cultures, consumerism, middle-class cultures and the relationship between new forms of work and identity. His publications include *Entangled Urbanism* (2015), and *Masculinity, Consumerism and the Post-National City* (2022). He has taught at JNU, been on the faculty of the Institute of Economic Growth, and was co-editor of *Contributions to Indian Sociology* (2012-2016).