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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
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SRINIVAS SEMINAR ROOM, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

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VAID



AGAINST THE ODDS:
GENDER AND SOCIAL MOBILITY IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA

Abstract:

The study of social mobility is crucial since the absence of mobility is tied to the intergenerational reproduction of inequalities. But while it has been an important strand of inquiry in the sociology of developed countries, research on mobility is more recent in Indian sociology, and has not focussed on the experiences of women. This presentation reports on research establishing macro trends in mobility and the impact of education as its driver. It looks at both 'how much' mobility is there in absolute terms, as well as whether India is becoming relatively more 'open' with greater equality of opportunity over-time. It compares mobility patterns for women and men by drawing on national level datasets as well as data from a city-specific study. The patterns of mobility for urban women are seen to be distinct not only from other women, but also from urban men.

The Speaker:

Divya Vaid has a D.Phil. from Oxford University and currently teaches Sociology at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her research interests include the study of social mobility and inequalities, social stratification and educational attainment, and the application of quantitative methods. She is the author of *Uneven Odds: Social Mobility in Contemporary India* (2018), and her work has appeared in the *Annual Review of Sociology*, *Contemporary South Asia*, *Asian Survey* and the *Economic and Political Weekly*.