

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
DELHI – 110 007

1 / 4 / 2024

FRIDAY RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

You are cordially invited to the
Friday colloquium of the Department

By

DR. MAITRAYEE DEKA
(Senior Lecturer of Sociology, University of Essex)

who will present a paper

on

“BAZAARS AS AN ECONOMIC CATEGORY”

on

Friday, 5th April, 2024 at 3:00 PM

in

Room No: 10 (First Floor),

Prof. M. N. Srinivas Seminar Room

Department of Sociology



(DR. TILA KUMAR

&

PROF. JANAKI ABRAHAM)

Co-Convenors,
Friday Research Colloquium (2023-24)

Friday Research Colloquium

5/4/2024 (3:00 PM)

Dr. Maitrayee Deka

(Senior Lecturer of Sociology, University of Essex)

Bazaars as an Economic Category

Most historical and anthropological writings of the bazaars have touched upon the category as a central yet unique feature of any economic life. Whether it is a place of ‘chicanery’ and ‘higgle and haggling’ to settle prices or under colonial bazaars that get entangled in the financial networks of the day, both indigenous webs of commerce and networks of capital consolidation, bazaars have developed in tandem with the dominant logic of accumulation—capitalism—yet seem to preserve their otherness. The excesses have been about social and legal transgressions and economic ingenuity of being in the middle area of profit-making and close to the rhythms of everyday life. This talk, through vignettes of small-scale traders in Delhi’s Lajpat Rai Market, Nehru Place and Palika Bazaar and Whitechapel Market in London, probes why and how the category of bazaar applies to contemporary economic life, mainly arguing that the excesses of the social that appear to get its head out as the trimmings of bazaars as economic spaces come in through the e-commerce platforms. Increasingly, dialogues on self-formation and political discussions take center stage as traders sell goods online and offline, leaving the bazaar’s physical space to resurge as an intellectual arena.

Dr. Maitrayee Deka is a Senior Lecturer of Sociology at the University of Essex. Her research is in the area of economic sociology, STS, consumer culture, and social theory. She is the author of *Traders and Tinkers: Bazaars in the Global Economy*, Stanford University Press, 2023.