



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

THE DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

Date: 9th January 2026 | Time: 3:00 PM | Venue: M N Srinivas Hall

Researching a Movement: Negotiating the challenges of the "field" and its excitement.



Speaker: Santosh K. Singh

Santosh K. Singh is a Chandigarh based Sociologist. Previously he taught at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi. His recent books include *The Deras: Culture, Diversity and Politics* (Penguin/Viking 2025) and *Remembering India's Villages* (Routledge, 2023).

Abstract

The task of mapping and following social movements pose both challenges and excitements of doing research. In particular, the role of serendipitous encounters become very critical. Setting out on a journey to investigate such a theme constantly challenges the researchers to defy its own boundaries and design.

Studying Ravidassia Movement of Punjab that got prominence in the early 21st century is a fascinating account of the making of a Movement, its religious and Political dimensions and counter currents that gets played out at the intersection of the local and global.