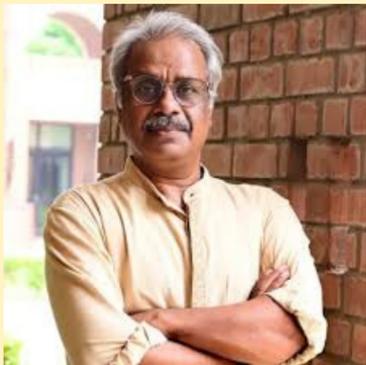# DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

THE DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

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Anthropological conceptualization of shared space: From conflict to cooperation

Speaker: Avanish Kumar

Professor and Dean,
School of Public Policy and Governance,
Management Development Institute, Gurgaon. 2

Abstract

The impetus for this study is to search for an explanation of why communities endowed with natural resources remain poor and excluded from the global governance framework. It raises two questions of exploration for this paper: how do domains of sustainability embedded in anthropological exploration co-create value for business and society? And does the anthropology of sustainability offer an opportunity to integrate diverse knowledge to transform conflict into cooperation in the shared space? The detailed policy analysis since 1987 on sustainable development suggests the adoption of syntactic ambiguity in the use of 'people' as 'social' in policymaking. Further, it indicates that, while syntactic ambiguity improves the capacity for lexical absorption of diverse policy consensus, the lack of coherent conceptualization in policies remains key to the contested shared space, impeding collaboration. To convert contestation into cooperation, the study recommends an anthropological conceptualisation of the shared space to empower the decision-makers with operational direction for overlapping consensus between companies and communities.