



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

THE DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

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**Reading 'Rampura', The Remembered Village, in the times of Hindutva
Social Anthropology and the Making of the Indian Commonsense**



Speaker : Prof. Surinder S. Jodhka

Surinder S. Jodhka is a professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University. He works on caste, agrarian change, and rural society, and writes on issues of inequality and social transformation in India.

Abstract

If the book-view of India was embedded with ideology, the textbook-view, too, carries a heavy burden of a different kind of ideology. Besides embedding the village in the framework of methodological nationalism, it also produces an exclusionary view of India. Drawing on my own field studies of rural settlements across regions of north and northwest India, I aim to demonstrate the limitations of the 'book' – 'field' binary. By doing so, I also hope to underscore Srinivas's central point that our views of Indian society should not be constrained by the cultural preoccupations of a particular historical moment and the politics they embed. However, such a shift would also require us to learn from the parallel tradition of critical sociology, which foregrounds the need for a historical imagination in approaching the social as it presents itself in the field.