

Departmental Colloquium - History Department Summer Semester 2024

Violence and Extraction: Caste and the Welfare Regime in Postcolonial Tamilnadu 1950s-80s

Rupa Vishwanath
(Georg-August-Universität Göttingen)



The scholarship on politics in postcolonial Tamil Nadu is overwhelmingly in agreement that the state represents a laudable “exception” in the Indian subcontinent, an example of the electoral supplanting of traditional elite castes by the plebs, genuine democratization and the emergence of an anti-caste, secular public culture. Identifying a series of interrelated methodological limitations and theoretical missteps in this literature, this paper proposes an alternative account of postcolonial political settlement in Tamil Nadu. It depends on a wealth of archival data on the governance of anti-Dalit violence in the state and the implementation of its caste-differentiated welfare regime—sources the earlier literature entirely ignores—as well as a theoretical framework that explains how the postcolonial state’s regulation of land and labor sustains that violence.



More
information

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Room CATS 010.01.05 - Hörsaal
16:15 CEST

Image: Prof. Rupa Vishwanath. <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/prof.+rupa+viswanath/210623.html>