



Fellows' Lecture Series 2016

Date: November 18th 2.30 – 4.30 pm

Venue: CSDS Seminar Hall



Love, Courtship and Honour: Some aspects of intimate lives in Wazirpur.

[Dr. Rukmini Barua](#)

This paper is part of a broader project on the transformation of the domestic worlds of Delhi's contemporary working poor. My presentation examines the performance of romance, conjugality and social honour in the North Delhi industrial neighbourhood of Wazirpur. Although a designated industrial area, the majority of factories and workshops in Wazirpur operate illegally—more than 80 % of industries in the area produce steel utensils and electronic parts, activities that do not have the requisite clearances. The working population—a majority of whom are migrants— are settled in the adjacent *jhuggis* and *bastis*, which are the site of my explorations.

In my paper, I seek to examine how the precarious conditions of living and labouring in Wazirpur shape interior lives. In particular, I address some lines of inquiry: how does gossip frame the terms of intimacy? How are romance and courtship played out? In what ways do pre- and extra-marital relationships configure intimate lives? How are desires and aspirations articulated?

Rukmini Barua has completed her M.A. and M.Phil in Sociology from the Delhi School of Economics of Delhi University. She has recently submitted her PhD thesis titled, "Power, Politics and Property: Workers' Neighbourhoods in Ahmedabad, 1920s to 2000s," at University of Goettingen. Her research interests include labour history, South Asian urban history, gender, masculinity and urban conflict.

She is a Fellow of TM 2 (Labour as a Political Category), and her fellowship at ICAS:MP has been from 1.8. to 30.11.2016. From January 2017 she will hold a six-month fellowship at Re:Work Berlin for writing up her current research..