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Exploring Urban Change in South Asia

Social Sciences : Human Geography

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Space, Planning and Everyday Contestations in Delhi

- Brings into view the ordinary spaces and spatial contestations involved in planning and urbanization in an Indian megacity
- Provides a ground-up view of the effects of neoliberal policies on the everyday lives of Delhi's citizens
- Is of novel significance in understanding how a complex society with variegated native and migrant populations negotiates with urban and developmental processes and programmes
- Contributes to theory on the themes of urbanization, neoliberalism and governance, through grounded empirical analyses from the global South

This insightful volume examines the politics and contestations around urban space in India's national capital, Delhi. Moving beyond spectacular megaprojects and sites of consumption, this book engages with ordinary space and everyday life. Sites and communities analysed in this volume reveal the processes, relations, and logics through which the city's grand plans are executed. The contributors argue that urbanization is negotiated and muddled, particularly in the spaces occupied by informal labour, resettled communities, and small-scale investors. The critical analyses in this volume shed light on the disjunctures between planning and ideology, narratives of growth and realities of immobility, and facades of modernity and the spaces and practices produced in its pursuit. The book is organized in four parts – (I) Dis/locating Bodies, (II) Claims at the Urban Frontier, (III) Informalization and Investment, and (IV) Gendered Mobility. The studies report current empirical work from a variety of sites, investigating the dynamics of capital investment, state planning and citizen response in these spaces.

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