

**OPEN
SEMINAR**

Families without Wives: Kinship in the Indian Men's Rights Movement

Speaker

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Date and Time

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Venue

Fifth Floor, IDSK

Abstract:

Men's Rights Activists (MRAs) in India primarily organize their movement around legal problems with marriage and extended family living, linking their avowed antifeminism to wives' failures in these settings. The prospect of wives' entitlement to affinal family property is one of the flashpoints drawing families to join the movement. Drawing on my ethnographic fieldwork with MRAs in eight Indian cities, this paper will provide an account of the ways they conceptualize gendered labor, compartment, responsibility and resources within the familial realm, often by framing their reckonings of kinship as gender-neutral, just, and attuned to discourses of care. In constructing post-divorce futures, some MRAs seek to bring back ideal patrilineal kinship, while others abjure marriage and establish male communities based in shared trauma. I consider whether MRAs are re-routing the traffic of marriage, or benefiting from its structural advantages.

Sd/-

Simantini Mukhopadhyay
Convenor, Seminar Committee, IDSK