

Mapping Urban Protest Cultures in India: Campus Spaces as Generational Communities



Jean-Thomas Martelli Ethnographer in political science and sociology Abstract: As centrally funded public universities have turned into both arenas for and subjects of political challenges in India, it has become increasingly crucial to understand what politics mean in such universities, at a time when higher education is progressively being privatized. Focussing on the intersections of state narratives and campus-grounded political aspirations, this talk examines universities as public spaces contributing to the everyday practice of democracy in contemporary India. Moving inductively, it starts by differentiating between educational spaces that reproduce social norms and others that renegotiate them. Focusing on the latter type of educational spaces, five campus-levels dynamics are addressed: political socialisation through inter-cohort learning, political spillovers fostered by competition among student groups, political representation via activist self-fashioning, political mobilization animated by offline and online ideational pamphleteering and political brokerage resulting from organizational and career-centric strategies.

Date: 28 Oct 2020, Wed Time: 04:00 – 5:30 pm <u>Google Meet: https://meet.google.com/zab-ysva-awu</u>