



January 20, 2020

## SEMINAR NOTICE

Topic: 'The Men can't do it because they would go straight to Jail':  
Everyday political action in North Indian informal, migrant settlements

Speaker/s: Febe De Geest  
Ph. D. student, University of Melbourne  
[fdegeest@student.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:fdegeest@student.unimelb.edu.au)

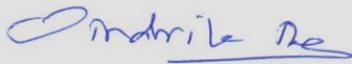
Chair: Professor Sanjay Srivastava

The seminar details are as follows:

Date & time: **FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2020 AT 03.30 P.M.**

Venue: A.M. Khusro Room  
Institute of Economic Growth,  
Delhi-110 007

All are welcome.

  
(Oindrila De)

### **Abstract**

Some scholars have pointed towards the various ways in which youth are 'shaping the city' as an outcome of their social and political actions, such as cleaning the neighbourhood, building community spaces and organizing dance and theatre workshops (e.g. Simone 2005; Thieme 2010, 2017; Makau 2011). However, these studies mainly focus on the actions of young men and downplay the role of young women, who are often portrayed more passively in relation to the hardships that they face. Based on 8 months of ethnographic fieldwork in a multi-ethnic, migrant settlement in the North Indian city of Dehradun, this paper show young women play an important role in shaping the urban space they live in. Preliminary data from the fieldwork period reveals that the social and political actions of young women are crucial in, for example, negotiating land rights, maintaining political relations and resisting eviction. I argue that through these actions they challenge the patriarchal norms in the urban environments that they live in – the city, their neighbourhood and their household. I conclude with observations about how the extent to which young women are able to be active across social and political domains varies within the community and depends on class, race, migration status, citizenship, family history and community relations.