Entangled Urbanism:  
Slums, Gated Community 
and Shopping Mall in 
Delhi and Gurgaon 

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Abstract 

While it is difficult to grasp the particular essence of a city, its identity lies in its spaces, 
temporalities, and transformations – different from each other yet enmeshed in tangible 
and surreal ways that define both the dynamism and instability of its inhabitants. Entangled 
Urbanism looks at various sites in Delhi and the National Capital Region, unravelling the 
politics of settlement, construction, demolition, and exclusion along these locations 
through a twinned discourse of modernity and development. 

What emerges from this combination of fieldwork and historical analysis is an exploration 
of the ways in which these contrasting spaces connect with each other: What processes link 
consumerism, the middle classes, and the urban poor? How do the pleasures of the gated 
residential enclaves encompass the pain of the demolished slum locality? What kind of city 
is produced by the relationship between illegal settlements such as slums, fake documents 
that seek to stave off demolition and representatives of the legal city such as Residents 
Welfare Associations? Covering issues like notions of citizenship, symbolic order of the 
nation-state; rituals of suburban life; and emergent relations between middle classes, the 
state, and the market, this work captures the myriad overlapping meanings of the city in all 
its fragments.