

**Fissures, Mediation, and Theories of Empowerment: Dalit Politics and  
Anti-Politics in Modern India**

Center for Modern Indian Studies, University of Göttingen  
April 16-17, 2015

**April 16**

14:00           **Opening Remarks**  
Gajendran Ayyathurai and Rupa Viswanath

14:15-16:15   **Panel I: Working Worlds and Politics**

*Left-Liberals and Hindutva Strategies of Delegitimizing Dalit Politics*  
Sumeet Mhaskar, CeMIS, Göttingen

*Anticaste Thought and the Political Economy of Caste*  
Anupama Rao, Barnard College/ Humboldt University, Berlin

*On Being a Congress Harijan: Valmiki Politics in Lucknow, 1947-70*  
Joel Lee, MPI Berlin

Respondent: Uday Chandra, MPI Göttingen

16:15           Tea Break

18:00           Workshop Dinner: Mazzoni Restaurant (participants only)

**April 17**

9:00-11:00   **Panel II: Civility, Social Space and Violence**

*Performance of Solace: Violence, Administration and the People in Postcolonial South  
India*  
Rupa Viswanath, CeMIS, Göttingen

*We are not Pallars but Mallars, the erstwhile rulers of Tamil Land ”: Re-ascriptions and  
Fissures in Dalit Identity Politics in Tamil Nadu*  
Karthikeyan Damodaran, University of Edinburgh

*From Hierarchy to Hindu Politeness: Why Civility Matters in the Study of Dalit Politics*  
Suryakant Waghmore, TISS, Mumbai/ CeMIS, Göttingen

Respondent: Joel Lee, MPI Berlin

11:00-11:15   Tea

11:15-13:15 **Panel III: Political Representation, Real and Symbolic**

*Expressing Reservation: Representation, Reservations, and Election Campaigns in Modern India*

Michael Collins, University of Pennsylvania

*Empty Symbolism or Signs of Change? The Materiality of Symbolic Politics in South India*  
Hugo Gorringer, University of Edinburgh

*Quest for Autonomy: Changing Patterns of Mobilisation of the Matuas in Rural West Bengal (2004-2015)*

Praskanva Sinharay, CSSS, Kolkata/ CeMIS, Göttingen

Respondent: Lisa Bjorkmann, MPI Göttingen

13:15-14:15 *Lunch*

14:15-15:35 **Panel V: Thinking across the Terrain**

*Race and Caste: From Hierarchies of Value to Analytics of Power*

Nate Roberts, MPI Göttingen

*Fissures in Dalit Movements: What Regional Political Differences Can We Identify as Salient?*

John Harriss, Simon Fraser University

Respondent: Srirupa Roy

15:35-15:50 *Tea*

15:50-17:10 **Panel IV: Conversion and Politics**

*Citizenship in Religious Clothing? The Dalit Movement and Navayana Buddhism in Uttar Pradesh*

Nicolas Jaoul, CNRS Paris

*Tamil Buddhists' Critique of Caste and Patriarchy: Towards A New Framework for Caste and Gender Analysis in South India*

Gajendran Ayyathurai, CeMIS, Göttingen

Respondent: Hugo Gorringer, University of Edinburgh

17:10-17:30: **Concluding Remarks and Discussion**

Gajendran Ayyathurai and Rupa Viswanath chairing.

18:00 *Workshop Dinner: Abessina Restaurant*