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Centre for Society, Technology, and Development

Hype Infrastructure: Code-switching, violence and development in India

Moyukh Chatterjee

McGill University

In the aftermath of the anti-Muslim pogrom in 2002 in India, the Hindu nationalist regime in the western state of Gujarat sought to transform itself into a model for rapid economic development in India. In the aftermath of the massacre in 2002, the legitimacy of the Hindu nationalist regime under the leadership of then Chief Minister of Gujarat and current Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, came under attack from national and international actors. In response, the Hindu nationalist regime launched a series of media spectacles that attracted large sums of FDI (foreign direct investment) and proposed a series of mega infrastructure projects. Building on over a decade long project around legality, collective violence and statecraft in Gujarat, I will present ongoing fieldwork to ask: what is the relationship between spectacles of violence and global infrastructures of postcolonial development? I will examine the role of mega projects like riverfront redevelopment and the development of 'smart cities' as modes of resignifying and reorienting postconflict environments that help us make new connections between infrastructure and violence.

Date: Friday, March 10th, 2016

Time: 12:30 pm

Location: Peterson Hall, 3460 McTavish Street, Room 116

***Due to construction, use the left side entrance**

Refreshments will be served.

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standd.anthro@mcgill.ca

www.mcgill.ca/standd



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