

# SPACES of ENCLOSURE

White Stockholm, Katsan, Östgötagatan 100 June 9 2-5 pm

## AMITA BAVISKAR Delhi University

The shifting visibility of the river Yamuna in the social and ecological imagination of Delhi is a key element in the transformation of the city. This presentation delineates how the riverbed has changed from being a neglected 'non-place' to prized real estate for private and public corporations. It argues that the transformation of an urban commons into a commodity is not only embedded in processes of political economy, but is also driven by aesthetic sensibilities that shape how ecological landscapes are valued.

Amita Baviskar is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi. Her current research focuses on urban environmental politics and spatial restructuring in Delhi. Her publications include *In the Belly of the River: Tribal Conflicts over Development in the Narmada Valley* (Oxford University Press) and *Elite and Everyman: The Cultural Politics of the Indian Middle Classes* (co-edited with Raka Ray, Routledge).



## FRAN TONKISS London School of Economics

A range of struggles around current practices of enclosure - from the appropriation of land to the privatisation of cities and the hyper-securitisation of space - raise the always complicated relations between property, protest and access in particularly acute ways. The rights of property, of use and of access represent conflicting 'rights' to the city that splinter urban citizenship into various categories of rentier and squatter, speculator and dissenter, householder or trespasser. In this discussion we will consider how a diverse politics of the commons might respond to these conflicts, in a manner which allows us to think about land, space and resources beyond the categories of public and private.

Fran Tonkiss is Reader in Sociology, and Director of the Cities Programme at the London School of Economics. Her research is in the fields of urban and economic sociology, cities and social theory, urban development and design, urban inequalities, spatial divisions and public space. Her publications include *Space, the City and Social Theory* (Polity, 2005), and a forthcoming book on *Cities by Design: The Social Production of Urban Spaces*.



Discussion with LARS MIKAEL RAATTAMAA, Poet and Architect, and BEPPE KARLSSON, Associate Professor, Department of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University

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CITY AXIOMS

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