

PLANNED VIOLENCE

POST/COLONIAL URBAN
INFRASTRUCTURES
AND LITERATURE

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PLANNING MODERNITY

COLONIAL CONTINUITIES,
POSTCOLONIAL DISJUNCTIONS

Jawaharlal Nehru University
(South Campus), Delhi

Friday 24 & Saturday 25 October 2014

For full programme visit www.plannedviolence.org

For registration email gjvprasad.violence@yahoo.com by 30 August 2014



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PLANNING MODERNITY

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24–25 OCTOBER 2014 | JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

The urban planning history of Delhi, with its layered medieval influences, its 'New' incarnation as a colonial administrative hub, and its present status as the centre of the National Capital Region offers an incredibly rich city-site for the second workshop of the Leverhulme Research Network Planned Violence: Postcolonial Urban Infrastructures and Literature.

Held over two days at Jawaharlal Nehru University, the 'Planning Modernity: Colonial Continuities, Postcolonial Disjunctions' workshop will bring together authors, literary critics, journalists, and urban activists and commentators to discuss the imperial and post-imperial modernities of Old/New Delhi and its suburban satellite towns. Developing on issues broached at the first *Planned Violence* event in London, the workshop will encourage a shared reflection on the ways fiction, graphic art, cinema and journalism mediate and question the social-experiential effects of urban planning.

The distinctive symmetrical topography of Lutyens' and Baker's colonial New Delhi of 1911, with its contribution to the violence of imperial governmental objectives, and the older urban planning of the Mughal city will be a starting point, but the workshop will also encourage discussion of narratives of Partition and the refugee camp, the administrative and residential colony, and the mall, gated community and Special Economic Zone as expressions of planned urbanism. Recent changes in the infrastructural connectedness of different 'Delhis' through new transport initiatives will be an additional topic. The workshop will also foster reflections on the informal or semi-legal planned economies of the city and discuss instances of structural violence in interstitial spaces like the Yamuna Pushta and railway land and in the long history of slum clearance from Sanjay Gandhi's Jama Masjid beautification drive to clearances prior to the Commonwealth Games. Looking forward to the Johannesburg workshop in 2015, the JNU workshop will also explore continuities in the well-recognized bifurcated urban structures of the colonial city, and trace the different ways in which this structure has informed multiple urban futures across the globe.

The workshop will include writers in conversation, readings and a tour of the city.

Question points:

- How did the planned violence of colonial urbanism shape the cultural and societal topographies of Delhi?
- What are the narrative legacies of Nehruvian modernity in the city, and how has literature preserved or memorialized the changing city?
- In what areas does narrative/performance/graphic art intervene in or re-inscribe the planned environment / infrastructural fabric of the city?
- How are forms of violence perpetuated in the heterotopian urbanism of the post-liberalization era? How has literature engaged with this aspect of Delhi's urban present?
- How has literature rewritten Delhi as a vision of the global urban future?