



**Max
Planck
Institute**
for the Study of
Religious & Ethnic Diversity

INSIDE OUTSIDE SHIFTING ARCHITECTURES OF REFUGEE IN HABITATION

Keynote

Friday 25 2019
January

15:00 - 16:30

**Anooradha
Iyer Siddiqi**

Barnard College
Columbia University

Anooradha Iyer Siddiqi is an architectural historian and Assistant Professor on the faculty of Barnard College, Columbia University. She specializes in histories of architecture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with focus on African and South Asian questions. Her work examines migration, urbanism, and modernity, and she is interested in problems of historicity and archives, decoloniality, heritage politics, and feminist historiography.

Prof. Siddiqi's book manuscript *Architecture of Migration* analyzes the history, visual rhetoric, and spatial politics of the Dadaab refugee camps in Northeastern Kenya. Through the architecture of refugees and humanitarian spatial practice, material culture, and iconography, the book examines long entanglements of migration and coloniality, drawing from historical, ethnographic, and visual approaches over several years of research in East Africa, South Asia, and Europe.

**Decoloniality in the
Camp & the University**

If we take seriously the concerns and problematics of decolonizing the mind, we might begin by looking for sources of knowledge in the refugee camp. Camps have long been sites of empirical research: in their darkest form, as sites of detention and concentration, and in their putatively lightest, as liberatory vehicles for the rescued and their saviours. What if camps did not serve empiricist ends of knowledge, but instead, theoretical ones? If so, then the humanitarian would become the student, the refugee the professor, and the architecture of the camp that of the university. This lecture imagines *this* architecture.

Respondent

**Romola
Sanyal**

LSE, London

Dr. Sanyal joined LSE in 2013. Her main interests and expertise regard the social and political implications of architecture, urban geopolitics, urban theory, housing and citizenship rights. She has written on the politics of space in refugee settlements, looking at processes of 'informalisation' in the global south with particular focus on Lebanon and India. Dr. Sanyal obtained her PhD at the University of California, Berkeley.



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