

Title of your paper The Exclusion Field: Politics, Institutions and Inequality in an Indian City

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The problem of growing social polarization in cities of the global south is now widely recognized but poorly understood. Structural accounts that link increasing inequality to globalization or more class-analytic accounts exemplified by the urban regime literature provide at best only partial explanations. Instead, drawing on the sociological literature on segregation in the US, I argue for a framework that focuses on actual practices of exclusion. Using data collected from 10 “unplanned settlements” in New Delhi I show how state politics and interventions have produced a system of differentiated citizenship that manifests itself in the highly uneven distribution of basic services. Taken together, these practices constitute a field of exclusion, one that is shaped primarily by the particular political and institutional nature of the local Indian state.

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