

“ *In Search of Home* sensitively unpacks the politics of the urban poor, offering a critical insight into the emerging landscape of ‘rehabilitation housing’ in the peripheries of India’s silicon city, Bangalore. Resisting the euphemism of class-based explanations, the book boldly engages with the idiom of caste and gender to illuminate a socio-political world of facilitators and mediators fraught with a messiness that might not be so easily radical. Its ‘evocative ethnography’ chronicling ‘affective’ stories from the field signals a departure in classic legal anthropology where the prism of citizenship and law is not about studying court decisions, plaintiffs, judicial proceedings or similar politico-legal documents, but about paying attention to the performative nature of political work. A refreshing and candid narrative that goes beyond the usual kind of essentialist inquiry!

**Pushpa Arabindoo**  
University College London

*In Search of Home* is a fascinating account of the everyday struggles in the new ghettos of urban poverty, providing an alternative story of the high-tech globalising city of Bangalore. Neither a miserabilist portrait of slum dwellers rehabilitated on the city outskirts, nor a glorification of their resistance, it provides a nuanced understanding of the politics of the urban poor for full citizenship in their search of a secure home, brilliantly demonstrating how a longitudinal and reflexive micro-level ethnography can illuminate city-wide processes and enrich theoretical debates on the practices of citizenship, informality and law, corruption and patronage, resistance and power, and much more.

**Véronique Dupont**  
IRD – The French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development

Kaveri Haritas provides us with a superb analysis of how claims to rights transgress their limited legal origin to take on a prefigurative dimension. In this incisive ethnographic observation of diverse transgressions of existing law by people in slum rehabilitation camps, Haritas shows how enactments and performances of rights that do not (yet) exist incrementally transform political relations. Haritas thus provides us with a nuanced position on the possibilities for change that enriches and differentiates our understanding of the modern state and law.

**Julia Eckert**  
University of Bern”

Image courtesy: Anurag Vats



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In Search of Home

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Citizenship, Law and the Politics of the Poor

Kaveri Haritas

