

In Search of Home

In Search of Home explores a new yet less explored space of urban poverty – rehabilitation housing for the displaced poor, which increasingly dots the peripheries of Indian cities. This longitudinal ethnography examines these new liminal zones suspended between a slum and the legal city, producing ‘citizenship in-limbo’ and relegating the poor to perpetual dependence on the state albeit legal residence. It examines how the flexible governance of such housing produces illegalities, and how state institutions and actors stand to gain through systemic corruption that co-opts urban poor groups, pre-empting radical resistance. This book makes central the gendered nature of such politics, detailing the everyday political work of women, vital to the development of poor neighbourhoods and political struggles for housing. This analysis of rehabilitation housing policies and their implementation chronicles the myriad strategies employed by the urban poor, from documenting to political performances, in their struggles for a home.

Kaveri Haritas is Associate Professor at the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, at the OP Jindal Global University, Haryana. Her research focuses on urban poverty; housing, land and property rights; gender; and law and citizenship in India. She is an anthropologist and draws inspiration from legal and political anthropology. Her past research has included solidarity economy practices of women in India and technology and its impacts on employment in India. She has been a north–south mobility fellow at the Institute for Research on Development, Paris.

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In Search of Home

*Citizenship, Law and
the Politics of the Poor*

Kaveri Haritas



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