



Panel's title : .. The Microsociology of Violence, Displacement and Relocation in Contemporary India: a Methodological Toolkit

Titre du panel :

Pour une étude microsociologique de la violence en Inde post-coloniale :. outils et méthodologies

Coordinator (Affiliation, University...) : .. Charlotte Thomas (NORIA)

Language : English

Topics : Politics

Panel presentation :

Social scientists working on political violence in contemporary India focus on the producers of violence but barely analyse consequences of violence on targeted minorities. By adopting the recipients' angle our panel intends to fill a gap in the study of violence. Our scholarship emphasises the effects of violence on its recipients without restricting it to a victimized approach. Starting from an interactional point of view, we consider violence as a relation of power. Hence, despite being unequal, this relationship does not limit the recipients to mere "victim" status. Recipients also develop agency capabilities. Agency helps them to restore "normality" in their daily life after a violent shock and allows them to resist attempts of physical and political domination from the attackers.

For this first collaboration of our nascent working group, we propose a methodological panel dedicated to tools we use to document the effects of violence on its recipients. A microsociological approach to study violence, which is based on the informants' perceptions (bottom-up approach) is a common theme in the papers. Papers focus on violence, displacement and relocation (permanent or temporarily) of Muslims in Gujarat, Kashmiris in Delhi and Sikhs in Uttar Pradesh and come from diverse disciplines such as sociology, political science and geography. They bring important methodological insights ranging from quantitative, qualitative, ethnographic, spatial analysis, and archival research to this emerging domain of study. The panel includes scholarship from institutions located in India, the United States, France and United Kingdom. Its ultimate goal is to form an international working group dedicated to the study of political violence and its effects.

Résumé du panel :

Les recherches portant sur la violence politique dans l'Inde post-coloniale se concentrent principalement sur les producteurs de cette violence, mais beaucoup plus rarement sur les conséquences de celle-ci pour les minorités visées. En adoptant majoritairement l'angle des récipiendaires, notre panel souhaite documenter cet angle mort de la recherche. Notre travail porte sur les effets de cette violence sur les récipiendaires, sans réduire ceux-ci à leur seule condition victimaire. Pour ce faire, nous adoptons un point de vue interactionniste nous amenant à considérer la violence comme une relation de pouvoir. Bien qu'inégale, celle-ci induit des capacités d'*agency* pour les acteurs. Ces capacités aident les acteurs à recréer une vie « normale » après les violences, et à résister aux tentatives de domination physique et politique des attaquants.

Pour la première collaboration de ce groupe de travail en formation, nous proposons un panel méthodologique consacré aux outils que nous avons mobilisés pour documenter les effets de cette violence. L'approche microsociologique de la violence, fondée sur l'étude de la perceptions des acteurs, est un thème commun aux communications présentées. Celles-ci portent spécifiquement sur les cas des Musulmans du Gujarat, les Cachemiris vivant à Delhi et les Sikhs d'Uttar-Pradesh et du Cachemire, et couvrent différentes disciplines telles que la sociologie, la science politique et la géographie. Elles mobilisent des outils variés : méthodes quantitative et qualitative, ethnographie, analyse spatiale ou encore analyse des archives et du discours. Ce panel inclut des chercheurs venus d'institutions basée en Inde, aux Etats-Unis, au Royaume-Uni et en France. Il a vocation à se constituer en groupe de travail dédié à l'étude de la violence politique en Inde.

Key words : methodology- microsociology- violence- India



Participants :

1) Name(s) (Affiliation, University...) : Charlotte THOMAS..... (.....NORIA.....)

Communication's title : .. How to document long-distance nationalism? Kashmiris perceptions on the Indian nation

Titre de la communication :Comment documenter le nationalisme à distance? Les perceptions des Cachemiris sur la nation indienne

Language : Français / English :

Presentation :

... This paper shows the use of microsociology and ethnography to enlighten and analyse Kashmiris perceptions on the Indian nation. It is based on a recent fieldwork conducted among the Kashmiris who live in Delhi. This work was carried on whereas insurgency and military repression had been shaking the Valley since July, the 8th. The context was therefore highly tensed. Informants were afraid of being monitored by the Indian authorities, and indeed most of them were, besides being in psychological disarray because of the situation. This was a first challenge to overcome. More central to this communication is my will to document “normal people” perceptions on Kashmir and India. I did not want to rely merely on speeches of people use to publicly convey their opinion, such as activists or journalists. I will explain how I proceed to do so. I consider this angle to be of a specific interest for a twofold reason: methodologically wise, it provides a more accurate wide range of opinions; theoretically wise, it helped me to stress the agency capabilities of the Kashmiris living in Delhi. The paper will pay a special attention to these aspects.

Key words : .Kashmir.. ; nationalism... ; ..India . ; ...bottom-up approach

2) Name(s) (Affiliation, University...) : .. **Sanjeevini Badigar Lokhande**..... (....Adjunct faculty, Temple University...)

Communication's title : ... Towards Understanding the Displaced Citizen.....

Titre de la communication :Pour une compréhension des déplacés internes

Language : Français / English :

Presentation :

.... Violence in the westernmost state of Gujarat in India according to official estimates caused one and a half lakh people to flee their homes. Many of them permanently moved to places of Muslim concentration and an 20 940 families moved to makeshift houses built by Muslim organisations who labelled them as displaced while the government claimed that they had moved to these ‘resettlement’ colonies of their own volition. In addition to the state government’s denial of displacement, tracking people’s movement that constitute masses of unaccounted population within the border of a country provides methodological challenges. It is also difficult to gather evidence that is not discernable in existing forms of aggregate data such as census or property market data. In



my work on displaced persons therefore, analysis was mainly informed by a grounded analysis based on interviews with displaced persons, community workers, NGO practitioners, officials and party functionaries. In order to discern institutional practices governing population flows a complex of archival work, government resolutions, policies and correspondence of the Government of Gujarat with Human Rights Commission and National Minorities Commission were also used to study population movement due to communal violence.

Key words : policy analysis, archival legislative debates, grounded analysis, ethnography

3) **Name(s) (Affiliation) : Adil Hossain (University of Oxford)**

Communication's title : Questions of land and everyday politics in the resettlement colonies of Ahmedabad: listening to the voices from the ground

Titre de la communication : .Questions terriennes et vie quotidienne dans les colonies de réhabilitation d'Ahmedabad : une approche du terrain par le bas

Language : Français / English :

Presentation :

The question of resettlement colonies in Ahmedabad, India that came up in the aftermath of the 2002 riots to relocate and rehabilitate the survivors is not just about unplanned urban infrastructure and misgovernance. It is more about issues concerning land and the everyday politics around it. In my paper, I am going to argue that people living in the resettlement colonies in the Bombay Hotel area demand secure land tenure to establish a break from the past. It is also about their identity as "Visthapit" or displaced people along with issues connected to livelihood. I have focussed on the voices on the ground through ethnographic insights and oral history interviews to understand how these displaced people construct everyday life with constant struggle around land. These negotiations often take place with local civic body officials, elected representatives and powerful builders who develop specialised networks of knowledge and access. To look beyond the ephemeral nature of violence it is very important to look at things from such a microsociological approach. This paper also focuses on the idea of victimhood and how survivors of 2002 riots look at justice not only from a legal perspective but also from a materialistic viewpoint too where they are active agent in claiming rights as displaced people.

Key words : Politics of land, Politics of settlement, everyday life, post violence

4) **Name(s) (Affiliation) : . : Saurabh Das (.....MICA.....)**

Communication's title : .. Right-Wing Populism in India: Analyzing the Contemporary Discourse.....

Titre de la communication :Populisme d'extrême droite en Inde: une analyse de discours.....

Language : Français / English :

Presentation :

This study contains two objectives: 1. To study the narratives of the Hindu Nationalist leaders as found in the media discourses of two English dailies during the time the violence occurred and 2. To interview the affected people in the violence inflicted by the right wing populist rhetoric. Snowball sampling method would be further used to find the victims. Subsequently, Sociological



Discourse Analysis (SDA) as a research method will be adopted to analyze the collected data. SDA enables us to analyze the discourse through sociological standpoint and is further understood through two approaches: a textual approach and a contextual one (Ruiz, 2009). These approaches lead to different levels of analysis, viz. textual, contextual and interpretive levels. Through textual analysis, I would understand and characterize the media discourses and the interviews; characterization in terms of the kind of ethos (viz. nationalist, anti-state and so forth) the messages carry. In the contextual level, understanding the context on which the discourse has evolved would become important. Lastly through interpretation, sociological aspects are addressed, viz. the existence of different cleavages and the construction of different realities, viz. objective and subjective as espoused by Berger and Luckmann (Berger & Luckmann, 1966).

Key words : Right-Wing Populism, Violence, Hindu Nationalism, Sociological Discourse Analysis, India

5) **Name(s) (Affiliation) :** . Khusdeep Malhotra (Geography and Urban Studies, Temple University)

Communication's title : .. After the Fire: Geographies of the Anti-Sikh Violence in India.....

Titre de la communication :Après le feu : géographie des violences anti-Sikh en Inde.....

Language : Français / English :

Presentation :

Between the 1st & 4th of November 1984, at least 3000 Sikhs were lynched or hacked to death by organized mobs in as many as 40 cities across India after then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination by her Sikh bodyguards on 31st October, 1984. The event saw as many as 20-50,000 families displaced from their homes all over India, with Delhi and Kanpur bearing the brunt of the violence. In yet another event of violence in March 2000, 34 Sikhs were executed in an incident meant to create communal tensions in Chittisinghpora, Kashmir. Yet, reports suggest that the Sikh community in Chittisinghpora stayed rooted despite the communal intent of the event. In what is a major departure from the scholarship on communal violence, my study focuses on the geographies of communal violence away from the centre of the conflagration and in the small city and documents the experiences of the Sikh community. Using a mix of ethnographic, interview, archival and quantitative data, I employ a spatial lens to ask how communal violence alters the geographies of a community post-violence. By comparing Kanpur and Chittisinghpora, I examine how space becomes an enabler of displacement or rootedness after violence.

Key words : communal conflict ; anti-Sikh violence; state formation; Kashmir; geographies of violence