

Department of Political Science

Local Elections in Uttar Pradesh: Caste, Money and Violence

Dr. Siddhartha Mukerji, Assistant Professor

Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow and Baden Württemberg Fellow, SAI

The recent studies on electoral politics have focused on national and state elections to theorize democracy in India. This suffices to arguments about either exaggerated success or failure that tends to be largely apathetic towards the dynamics of local elections and politics in rural India. Panchayat elections follows its own logic and action, and presents a distinctive picture of grassroots politics and culture. The claim is truly justifiable in a state like Uttar Pradesh where caste and gender cleavages are deep-rooted, corruption is structurally embedded covering the total administrative machinery from *Gram Panchayat* to *Zila Parishad*, and a sharp hike in the instances of violence reflects the culture of *Dabngai* and male chauvinism. My study of local elections in the recent projects explores the interplay of money, caste and violence in Pradhan elections and how these three elements shape power relations and local politics.



Dr. Siddhartha Mukerji is Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow. His areas of interest are electoral politics in India, public administration and e-governance, and political economy of industrialization. Dr. Mukerji's most recent publications are "Urban-Rural Patterns of Campaigning by BJP in Uttar Pradesh (Lok Sabha Elections 2014)" published in *Studies in Indian Politics: Sage Publications* and "Industrial Policy Reforms since 1991: The Contexts of Globalization and Domestic Politics in India" in Manish Verma's, ed., *Globalization and Environment: Discourse, Policies and Practices*, 2015, New Delhi: Rawat Publications. He has been associated with EECURI network of the India-Europe Project studying urban-rural patterns of electoral change in Indian states and presented papers in its international conferences held at JNU (New Delhi), King's College London and London School of Economics and Political Science.

Date: Monday, January 23, 2017

Time: 1600 hrs -1800 hrs

Venue: SAI, Room 316

All are cordially invited!!