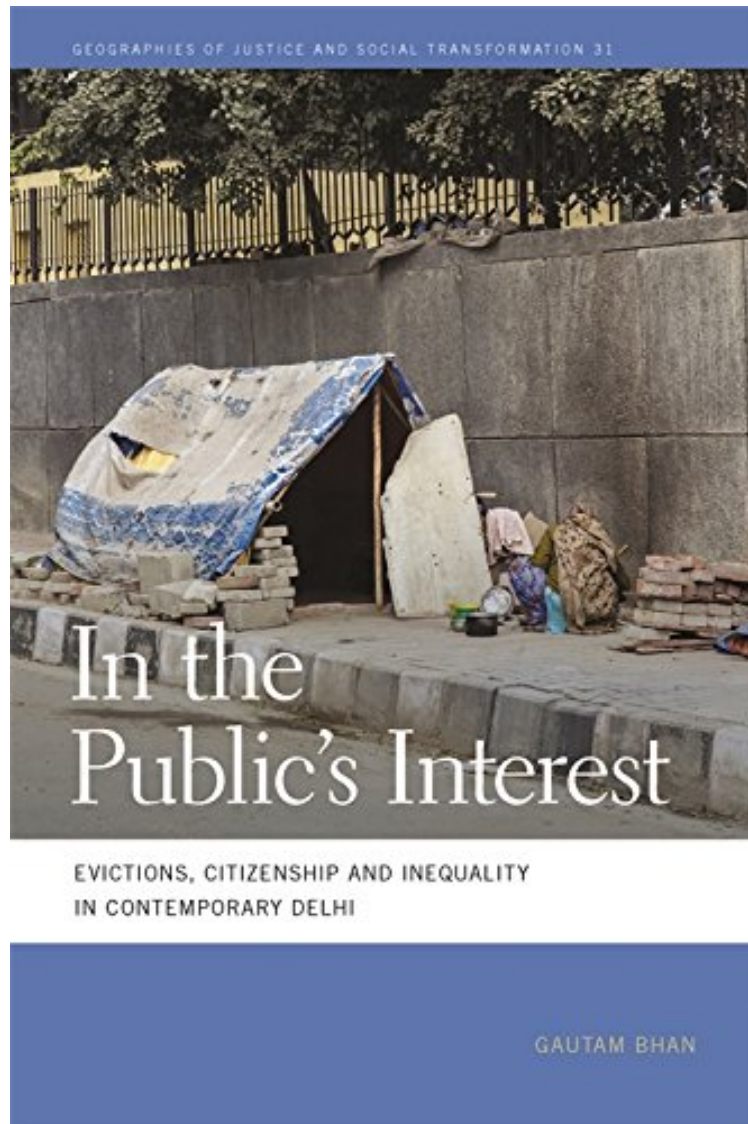


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In the Public's Interest: Evictions, Citizenship, and Inequality in Contemporary Delhi (Geographies of Justice and Social Transformation Ser.)

Gautam Bhan

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#1793478 in Books Bhan Gautam 2016-11-15 2016-11-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .70 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 0820350109308 pages In the Public s Interest Evictions Citizenship and Inequality in Contemporary Delhi | File size: 77.Mb

Gautam Bhan : In the Public's Interest: Evictions, Citizenship, and Inequality in Contemporary Delhi (Geographies of Justice and Social Transformation Ser.) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it

would be worth my time, and all praised *In the Public's Interest: Evictions, Citizenship, and Inequality in Contemporary Delhi* (Geographies of Justice and Social Transformation Ser.):

This book studies the recent legacy of basti evictions in Delhi as a way to understand how the urban poor are disenfranchised in the name of public interest and, in the case of Delhi, by the very courts meant to empower and protect them. Studying bastis, says Gautam Bhan, provokes six clear lines of inquiry applicable to studies of urbanism across the global south. The first is the long-standing debate over urban informality and illegality: the debates impact on conceptions and practices of urban planning, the production of space, and the regulation of value. The second is a set of debates on good governance, read through their intersections with ideas of planned development within rapidly transforming cities. The third is the political field of urban citizenship and the possibilities of substantive rights and belonging in the city. The fourth is resistance and the ability of a city's subaltern residents to struggle against exclusion. The two remaining inquiries both cut across and unify the first four. One of these is the role of the judiciary and the relationships between law and urbanism in cities of the global south. The other is the relationship between democracy and inequality in the city. What emerges about Delhi in particular are a set of new modes for the reproduction of inequality. When rights are lost, citizenship is unequal and differentiated, the promise of development is refused, and poverty and inequality are reproduced and deepened. The task at hand, says Bhan, is not just to explain evictions but also to listen to what they are telling us about the city that is as well as the city that can be.

This masterful book by Bhan not only opens up a range of new questions for critical urban theorists, it also offers a method of inquiry which begins with a case, embedded in a context, in place, and uses this as a lens to suggest perspectives on cities elsewhere. This will be a book of considerable value to urban and planning researchers, academics and students and particularly those interested in global South cities and critical urban theory. (Vanessa Watson *Urban Studies*)

About the Author: Gautam Bhan is a senior consultant for academics and research at the Indian Institute for Human Settlements. He is the coeditor of the forthcoming *Routledge Companion to Planning in the Global South*; coauthor (with Kalyani Menon-Sen) of *Swept off the Map: Surviving Eviction and Resettlement in Delhi*; and coeditor (with Arvind Narrain) of *Because I Have a Voice: Queer Politics in India*.