

Uncertain Shores: Urban Transformation and Livelihood along Mumbai's Coast

Dr. Chitra Venkataramani

Abstract:

This paper looks at how changing horizons of risk emerge for the fisher community in Mumbai as they contend with the looming threat of displacement and loss of livelihood resulting from ecological harm. Through ethnographic work in the fishing community, I show how risk is not simply suspended in an unknown future, but actively engaged in different ways through the uncertainties that characterize fishing as a profession and status of the fisher community as urban residents. The short-term risks of meeting profit margins, the medium-term risks of displacement, and the long-term risks of climate change are folded into the everyday practices of working in and inhabiting a fragile and rapidly transforming urban coastline.