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Title: Kinship, Labor, and Patronage: North Indian Muslims Negotiating Citizenship in the Urban Mohalla

Abstract: This paper discusses Muslim working class neighborhoods in Mumbai as marginalized spaces where state practices, official discourses, local interests, and community authority are rearticulated through processes of intersection. While recognizing the constraints posed by hostile majoritarian rhetoric and the inaccessibility of mainstream opportunities, I argue against a static picture of the margin as a passive product of exclusionary urban politics. My paper emphasizes the productive capacities that emerge within these spaces through rights claims and localizing practices that map kinship affiliations and religious identities onto the material realities of neighborhoods. Problematizing the framing of Muslim neighborhoods in the city primarily as bound spaces of exclusion marked by pre-congealed identity politics, I focus on how these localities are produced through relational processes informed by shifting political and economic concerns and government policies, especially those pertaining to labor in the unorganized sector and the policing practices of the state.