

The **UCSC Sociology Colloquium Series** presents:

Domesticating Marx: The translation and untranslatability of Marxism in interwar Bombay



Juned Shaikh

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12:00-1:30 p.m.

301 College 8, UCSC

Indian Marxists came to terms with the foreignness of Marx by translating and transmitting his messages of capitalist exploitation, egalitarianism, and social transformation to a vibrant public of workers, labor leaders, and intellectuals. In Bombay city, the message was delivered to the public in a language they were most conversant with – Marathi. In the process of translating his visions of universal egalitarianism, Marxists affiliated with the Communist Party of India encountered other hierarchies. The two hierarchies that this paper considers are caste and language. Shaikh explores how such translation altered the theoretical significance of Marx, and can serve as a lesson about how theory 'travels', and is transformed in the process.

Juned Shaikh is Assistant Professor of History at UC Santa Cruz. His research lies at the intersection of urban history, labor history and Dalit Studies. Shaikh studies the ways in which marginalized groups negotiated and created urban spaces, navigated institutions of the modern State, produced social movements, and how these groups fashioned an intellectual corpus including a field of literature in 20th century Mumbai. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Washington in 2011 with a dissertation entitled *Dignity and Dalit Social Imaginaries: Entanglements of Caste, Class, and Space in Mumbai, 1898-1982*. Shaikh received the Best Graduate Student Paper award from the South Asia Council in 2010 for his paper, "Kamyunista Jahirnama [The Communist Manifest]: Mavali, Dalit and the Making of Mumbai's Working Class." In 2011 he received the Social Sciences Dean's Medal from the University of Washington to recognize his exceptional work. In 2014 he published an article for *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, that examined the role of images in the formation and understanding of caste in Mumbai during the first quarter of the 20th century. Shaikh is currently working on expanding his dissertation into a book and a second article for *Social History*, focused on the translation of Marxist texts into the Marathi language, which will be the subject of this talk.

For **Information about access**, please contact Barbara Laurence at bal Lauren@ucsc.edu.
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