# CASTE A Global Journal on Social Exclusion

Volume 3 :: Number 1 April 2022 ISSN 2639-4928

brandeis.edu/j-caste

# FREEDOM FROM CASTE: ANTI-CASTE THOUGHT, POLITICS AND CULTURE

## **EDITORIAL AND INTRODUCTION**

Meena Dhanda and Karthick Ram Manoharan - Guest Editors

### **ARTICLES**

## **Thought**

Dalit Resistance during the Bengal Renaissance: Five Anti-Caste Thinkers from Colonial Bengal, India Mahitosh Mandal

Between the Global and Regional: Asia in the Tamil Buddhist Imagination Shrinidhi Narasimhan

The Dominant Post-constitutional Indian Feminist Discourse: A Critique of its Intersectional Reading of Caste and Gender Santvana Kumar and Ekata Bakshi

#### **Politics**

Conceptions of Community, Nation and Politics: The Ezhavas of South Malabar, India and their Quest for Equality Anish KK

Periyar's Spatial Thought: Region as Non-Brahmin Discursive Space Ganeshwar

Caste, then Class: Redistribution and Representation in the Dravidian Model Vignesh Karthik KR and Vishal Vasanthakumar

### Culture

Barishaler Jogen Mandal: Construal of the Undisputed Dalit Leader of Undivided Bengal through a Twenty-first Century Bengali Novel Suhasini Roy

Struggling for Freedom from Caste in Colonial India: The Story of Rettaimalai Srinivasan Malarvizhi Jayanth

Maadathy - An Unfairy Tale: Caste, Space, and Gaze Swarnavel Eswaran

Pariyerum Perumal and a Periyarite Note on Political **Engagement** Antony Arul Valan



CASTE: A Global Journal on Social Exclusion is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve, and extend access to our journal

#### **POLICY ARENA**

"When I tell them my caste, silence descends": Caste-based Discrimination among the Nepali Diaspora in the San Francisco Bay Area, USA Prem Pariyar, Bikash Gupta and Ruvani W. Fonseka

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

Memory, Grief, and Agency: A Political Theological Account of Wrongs and Rites Helen Chukka

Dalits and the Making of Modern India Gaurav J. Pathania

Majority of the research papers in this issue were presented at the conference 'Anti-Caste Thought: Theory, Politics and Culture' convened by the guest editors at the University of Wolverhampton, UK on 29-30 October 2021, as a part of the project Freedom from Caste: The Political Thought of Perivar E.V. Ramasamy in a Global Context funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Sklodowska-Curie grant agreement no. 895514.



## **CASTE**

## A GLOBAL JOURNAL ON SOCIAL EXCLUSION

FREEDOM FROM CASTE: ANTI-CASTE THOUGHT,
POLITICS AND CULTURE
VOLUME 3. NUMBER 1

^~~~

#### JOINT EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Laurence R. Simon Brandeis University, USA

Sukhadeo Thorat (Emeritus) Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

## EDITOR

Joseph K. Assan Brandeis University, USA

## **REVIEWS EDITOR**

Jebaroja Singh St. John Fisher College, USA

## SENIOR EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Afia A. Adaboh Brandeis University, USA

## EDITORIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS

Jaspreet Mahal Brandeis University, USA

## PRODUCTION EDITOR

Vinod Kumar Mishra Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, India

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

Matthew Sheehy Brandeis University, USA

## OJS TECHNICAL MANAGER

Brian Meuse Brandeis University Library, USA Kaushik Basu, C. Marks Professor of International Studies and Professor of Economics, Cornell University, USA; former Chief Economist of the World Bank; President, International Economics Association; former Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India

Krishna Bhattachan, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Kevin D. Brown, Professor of Law, Maurer School of Law, Indiana University, USA

Ipsita Chatterjee, Associate Professor, Department of Geography and the Environment, University of North Texas, USA

Ashwini Deshpande, Professor of Economics, Ashoka University, India

Meena Dhanda, Professor in Philosophy and Cultural Politics, University of Wolverhampton, United Kingdom

Jean Drèze, Honorary Professor, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, India

Ashok Gurung, Associate Professor, Julien J. Studley Graduate Program in International Affairs , The New School, New York, USA

John Harriss, Professorial Research Associate, Department of Development Studies, SOAS, University of London, United Kingdom

Eva-Maria Hardtmann, Associate Professor and Director of Studies, Department of Social Anthropology, Stockholm University, Sweden

Susan Holcombe, Professor Emerita of the Practice, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University, USA

Sushrut Jadhav, Clinical Associate Professor of Cross-cultural Psychiatry, University College London; Consultant Psychiatrist & Medical Lead, Focus Homeless Services, Camden & Islington NHS Foundation Trust; Clinical Lead, C & I Cultural Consultation Service; Founding Editor, Anthropology & Medicine journal (Taylor and Francis, United Kingdom); Research Associate, Department of Anthropology, SOAS, London, United Kingdom

Chinnaiah Jangam, Assistant Professor of History, Carleton University, Canada

S. Japhet, Vice Chancellor, Bengaluru Central University, Bengaluru, India

Sangeeta Kamat, Professor of Education, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, USA

Joel Lee, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Williams College, USA

David Mosse, Professor of Social Anthropology, SOAS, University of London, United Kingdom

Samuel L. Myers, Jr., Roy Wilkens Professor of Human Relations and Social Justice and Director, Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, USA

Balmurli Natrajan, Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology, William Patterson University, USA

Purna Nepali, Associate Professor, Kathmandu University, Nepal

Katherine S. Newman, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Massachusetts system, Torrey Little Professor of Sociology, USA

Martha C. Nussbaum, Ernst Freund Distinguished Services Professor of Law and Ethics, Law School and Philosophy Department, University of Chicago, USA

Devan Pillay, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Sociology, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Thomas Pogge, Leitner Professor of Philosophy and International Affairs, Yale University, USA

Christopher Queen, Lecturer on the Study of Religion, and Dean of Students for Continuing Education (Retired), Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, USA

Jehan Raheem, Former Founding Director, Evaluation Office, United Nations Development Programme and Former UNDP Resident Representative, Burma (Myanmar)

Anupama Rao, Associate Professor of History, Barnard and Columbia Universities, USA

Amilcar Shabazz, Professor, W.E.B. Du Bois Department for Afro-American Studies, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, USA

A.B. Shamsul, Distinguished Professor and Founding Director, Institute for Ethnic Studies, The National University of Malaysia

Kalinga Tudor Silva, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka; Research Director, International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Harleen Singh, Associate Professor of Literature, and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Brandeis University, USA

Ajantha Subramanian, Professor of Anthropology and South Asian Studies, Social Anthropology Program Director, Harvard University, USA

Abha Sur, Scientist in the Science, Technology and Society Program; Senior Lecturer, Program in Women and Gender Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

Goolam Vahed, Associate Professor, History, Society & Social Change Cluster, University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa

Gowri Vijayakumar, Assistant Professor of Sociology and South Asian Studies, Brandeis University, USA

Annapurna Waughray, Reader in Human Rights Law, Manchester Law School, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

Cornel West, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Professor of Philosophy and Christian Practice, Union Theological Seminary , USA

# Copyright © 2022 CASTE: A Global Journal on Social Exclusion ISSN 2639-4928

brandeis.edu/j-caste

#### **EDITORIAL AND INTRODUCTION**

Meena Dhanda and Karthick Ram Manoharan – Guest Editors

..... 01-10

## ARTICLES Thought

Dalit Resistance during the Bengal Renaissance: Five Anti-Caste Thinkers from Colonial Bengal, India *Mahitosh Mandal* ...... 11-30

Between the Global and Regional: Asia in the Tamil Buddhist Imagination Shrinidhi Narasimhan

..... 31-48

The Dominant Post-constitutional Indian Feminist Discourse: A Critique of its Intersectional Reading of Caste and Gender Santvana Kumar and Ekata Bakshi

..... 49-68

#### **Politics**

Conceptions of Community, Nation and Politics: The Ezhavas of South Malabar, India and their Quest for Equality *Anish KK* 

..... 69-88

Periyar's Spatial Thought: Region as Non-Brahmin Discursive Space *Ganeshwar* 

...... 89-106

Caste, then Class: Redistribution and Representation in the Dravidian Model Vignesh Karthik KR and Vishal Vasanthakumar

...... 107-122

#### Culture

Barishaler Jogen Mandal: Construal of the Undisputed Dalit Leader of Undivided Bengal through a Twenty-first Century Bengali Novel Suhasini Roy

...... 123-136

Struggling for Freedom from Caste in Colonial India: The Story of Rettaimalai Srinivasan *Malarvizhi Jayanth* 

...... 137-152

Maadathy - An Unfairy Tale: Caste, Space, and Gaze Swarnavel Eswaran

...... 153-170

Pariyerum Perumal and a Periyarite Note on Political Engagement Antony Arul Valan

...... 171-188

#### **POLICY ARENA**

"When I tell them my caste, silence descends": Caste-based Discrimination among the Nepali Diaspora in the San Francisco Bay Area, USA Prem Pariyar, Bikash Gupta and Ruvani W. Fonseka

...... 189-202

#### **BOOK, ESSAY, FILM REVIEW**

Memory, Grief, and Agency: A Political Theological Account of Wrongs and Rites Helen Chukka

..... 203-206

Dalits and the Making of Modern India Gaurav J. Pathania

..... 207-210