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## Animating Caste: visceral Geographies of Pigs, Caste, and Violent Nationalisms in Chennai City

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- Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- 12:30 – 1:50 p.m. (PST)
- Register for Zoom webinar:



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The paper introduces porcine bodies as landscapes upon which *caste* as wildness, primitive, or savage are inscribed and asserted in India, by the Hindu Right *and* the Dalit Right, to respectively advance parochial nationalisms. Caste advances or obstructs political and economic power, and is interlocked with market capitalism, which relies on nature – and casteised subhuman/nonhuman bodies - as both profitable (and venerable), and expendable (and despicable). Focussing on Chennai, this paper focusses the pig, ecologically and sociologically wild and promiscuous, as enmeshed in a long-enduring *caste* conflict around Brahmin/Dravida; Hindu/Tamil; civilised/primitive; and even, human/animal binaries. It specifies *species* as also core to identity politics, as part of a transformative praxis to a post-casteist society.

[Yamini Narayanan](#) is Senior Lecturer in International and Community Development at Deakin University, Melbourne. Her work explores how animals are instrumentalised in sectarian, casteist and fascist ideologies in India. Yamini is a Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics (FOCAE), an honour that is conferred through nomination or invitation only.

