



Sanctuary Spaces: Reworlding Humanism

- Speaker:** Professor Ananya Roy
University of California, Los Angeles
- Chair:** Professor Henry Yeung
Department of Geography, NUS
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, 17 January 2024, 3:30pm
- Place:** Earth Lab, AS2 #02-03

Abstract

This talk examines the promise and problem of sanctuary at a time of resurgent white nationalism and organized right-wing violence in Europe and the United States. Seeking to interrogate the terms of protection (asylum, refuge, humanitarianism) through which liberal democracies in the West recognize and include racial others, Ananya Roy foregrounds the colonial relationalities that undergird migration regimes. By reinterpreting Europe as the Black Mediterranean and the United States as occupied land, the talk investigates the limits of liberal inclusion and humanitarian reason and also uncovers models of solidarity, liberation, and resistance that remake sanctuary. Roy argues that this is also a reworlding of humanism, a way of thinking the West otherwise.

About the Speaker

Ananya Roy is Professor of Urban Planning, Social Welfare, and Geography and The Meyer and Renee Luskin Chair in Inequality and Democracy at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is inaugural Director of the [UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy at UCLA](#), which advances research and scholarship concerned with displacement and dispossession in Los Angeles and elsewhere in the world. Ananya's work has focused on urban transformations and land grabs as well as on global capital and predatory financialization. With enduring theoretical commitments to postcolonial critique, feminist thought, and critical race studies, she refuses the whiteness of canons of knowledge, forging theory and pedagogy attentive to historical difference. Currently, Ananya leads a National Science Foundation Research Coordination Network on [Housing Justice in Unequal Cities](#) and (with Robin D.G. Kelley) a Mellon Foundation Race & Racialization project on *Housing the Third Reconstruction*. Her own research is concerned with "racial banishment," the expulsion of working-class communities of color from cities through racialized policing and other forms of dispossession. For this work, Ananya was named a [Freedom Scholar](#) by the Marguerite Casey Foundation in 2020. Ananya's academic books include *City Requiem, Calcutta: Gender and the Politics of Poverty*; *Urban Informality: Transnational Perspectives from the Middle East, South, Asia, and Latin America*; *Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global*; *Territories of Poverty: Rethinking North and South*; *Encountering Poverty: Thinking and Acting in an Unequal World*; and the forthcoming *Sanctuary Spaces: Reworlding Humanism*.

Convenors

Prof Henry Yeung

Prof Brenda Yeoh

Prof James Sidaway

Prof Lu Xi Xi