

BETWEEN THE BALLOT
AND THE BLOCKADE

A public book conversation on
Drama of Democracy and Hailing the State



Photo: Shashank Parade/PTI

- LISA BJÖRKMAN

(University of Louisville)
- LISA MITCHELL

(University of Pennsylvania)
- TARINI BEDI

(University of Illinois Chicago)

discussant
- PATRICK HELLER

(Brown University)

moderator

MONDAY28 SEPTEMBER

5:30-7:00 PM

EAST 403

Two recent books on democracy, crowds and representation in urban India meet in conversation. Lisa Björkman’s Drama of Democracy: Political Representation in Mumbai (Minnesota, 2025) follows the everyday theatre of political work in the city; Lisa Mitchell’s Hailing the State: Indian Democracy between Elections (Duke, 2023) reconceives collective assembly - sit-ins, strikes, blockades - as fundamental to how Indian democracy actually functions between elections. Together they ask how people hold officials to account and claim inclusion when the ballot is not in play.

RSVP QR

