

# Book Review: Ayona Datta - The Illegal City: Space, Law And Gender In A Delhi Squatter Settlement

<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk>. The Illegal City explores the relationship between space, law and gendered subjectivity through a close look at an 'illegal' squatter settlement in Delhi. Since 2000, a series of judicial rulings in India have criminalised squatters as 'illegal' citizens, 'encroachers' and 'pickpockets' of urban land, and have led to a spate of slum demolitions across the country. This book argues that in this context, it has become vital to distinguish between illegality and informality since it is those 'illegal' slums which are at the receiving end of a 'force of law', where law is violently encountered within everyday spaces. **Ayona Datta** does not shy away from asking difficult questions, writes Alex Vasudevan.

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