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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