

KKC-LECTURE

SOUMYAJIT BHAR

(BMU Munjal University, India)

Subtle Harm and Structural Violence: Environmental Injustice and the Illusion of Consumer Freedom in the Age of Inverted Quarantine

The talk examines how environmental harm in the Global South is increasingly privatized and individualized under neoliberal consumerism. Drawing on Andrew Szasz's concept of inverted quarantine, Soumyajit Bhar explores how strategies such as purchasing bottled water, organic food, or air purifiers may appear as rational acts of self-protection, but in effect undermine collective responsibility and obscure structural forms of violence. The talk reflects on how "consumer freedom" is celebrated as a form of agency, while it simultaneously deepens social fragmentation and environmental injustice. By unpacking these contradictions, the presentation invites a critical rethinking of harm, freedom, and justice in a world marked by ecological crisis and deep inequality.

Organisation:
KKC
Lehrstuhl für Sozialtheorie
und Sozialpsychologie
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