



## Biography

Dr. Wittmer draws upon mixed qualitative methods and insights from low-income Dalit women recyclers to argue that while urban waste management is often framed in depoliticized techno-managerial terms, it is a highly charged social and political terrain which is implicated in the continual reproduction of urban inequality in India. Situated within a feminist, anti-colonial approach to urban political ecology, her research advances theorizations of sustainable urban development by delving into the complex and often contradictory articulations of urban infrastructural transformation in the urban margins. The research also promotes interventions to inform the imagining and production of more equitable and reparative urban futures.

# The Urban Political Ecologies of Dirty Work in the 'Clean City'

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## Abstract

Solid waste is one of the most urgent environmental crises affecting growing global urban populations. In this presentation, Dr. Josie Wittmer explores the ways in which urban developmental imaginaries, governance mechanisms, and struggles for justice materialize within urban solid waste infrastructures. With reference to her research in urban India, she details how the politics of cleanliness enrolled in recent efforts to 'clean up' city streets and modernize solid waste management are experienced by people who work with waste on the streets to generate daily incomes.

**Date: Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022**

**Time: 10:30-11:30am**

**Location: 1004 ssc**

**Zoom Meeting ID: [975 2299 9964](https://westernsocialscience.zoom.us/j/9752299964)**



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