



SCHOLARS IN THE SQUARE



Arvind Kumar



The Statue of Mahishasura,
Mysuru, India

The (Sacred) Stories We Tell: Stigma and Myth in India

Adivasis, the de-facto Indigenous peoples of India, are the object of many prejudices in their homeland. These oppressive cultural attitudes are often understood to be a result of British colonialism. I argue that this is not the whole story. More than the British categorization of Adivasis as 'savages', 'backward', and 'primitive' peoples, it is the Brahmanical stories that have contributed to the creation of a 'lowly' image of Adivasis in the minds of ordinary Indians. In this talk, I critically analyze the role of Brahmanical stories and worldview in the stigmatization and demonization of the Indigenous peoples of India.

Arvind Kumar is a PhD Candidate in Law at UVic. His research seeks to understand Adivasis historical struggle for self-governance and autonomy.

7 March 2024
5:00-6:00pm PT

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