

# **SPATIAL JUSTICE IN UNEQUAL CITIES**

## **ORGANIZING KNOWLEDGE ACROSS UNIVERSITIES AND MOVEMENTS**



**PROFESSOR ANANYA ROY**  
UCLA Luskin Institute on  
Inequality and Democracy  
UNIGE Doctor Honoris Causa  
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## ABSTRACT

What is the role of research and scholarship in the advancement of spatial justice? In this talk, Ananya Roy critically examines the role of universities in unequal cities and also explores the possibilities of knowledge formations that connect academia to social movements. Drawing on postcolonial studies, feminist theory, and the Black radical tradition, she foregrounds how such an inter-institutional space can generate epistemologies and methodologies for challenging dispossession and displacement. In particular, she highlights the importance of “research justice” in the struggle for spatial justice in unequal cities.

## BIOGRAPHY

Ananya Roy is Professor of Urban Planning, Social Welfare, and Geography and The Meyer and Renee Luskin Chair in Inequality and Democracy at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is the founding Director of the UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy.

Ananya Roy is a scholar of global racial capitalism and postcolonial development whose research is concerned with the political economy and politics of dispossession and displacement. With theoretical commitments to postcolonial studies, Black studies, and feminist theory, she seeks to shift conceptual frameworks and methodologies in urban studies to take account of the colonial-racial logics that structure space and place. As a researcher, Ananya Roy strives to advance research justice, by which she means accountability to communities directly impacted by state-organized violence. At the very heart of her work is an insistence on the transformation of the public university – through teaching, public scholarship, and community engagement – so that it can be a force for social justice.

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