



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT KOZHIKODE



Working Paper

IIMK/WPS/659/OBHR/2025/05

December 2025

**Caste as an Assemblage of Touch:
Developing a Deleuzian Approach to Caste**

Rajeshwari C ¹

© All rights belong to their respective author.

Please contact the corresponding author, if you would like to access the full paper.

¹Assistant professor, Organizational Behaviour and Human Resources Area, Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, IIMK Campus PO, Kunnammangalam, Kozhikode, Kerala 673 570, India; Email - rajeshwari@iimk.ac.in, Phone Number - 0495 2809243

Caste as an Assemblage of Touch: Developing a Deleuzian Approach to Caste

Abstract:

How to study caste in organizing? While caste remains arguably one of the oldest ways of organising work and workers into hierarchical systems in one of the most efficient ways: by birth; it remains understudied and unacknowledged within the organizational theory for its non-Western context, non-stagnant form and complex socio-historical origins (Bapuji et al, 2024; Chrispal et al, 2021). This manuscript is a part of onto-epistemological process of developing away to “touch” caste, to interact with the ongoing process of caste, simultaneously changing it and being changed by it, acknowledging the materiality and spatio-temporality of Deleuzian (2004) (de)territorialisation of caste processes and interactions.

By developing a way to approach caste and the connected processes of organising work and life, we argue that caste is relational, and is in the process of becoming.



भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान कोषिकोड
Indian Institute Management Kozhikode
Globalizing Indian Thought

Research Office
Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode
IIMK Campus P. O.,
Kozhikode, Kerala, India,
PIN - 673 570
Phone: +91-495-2809237/ 238
Email: research@iimk.ac.in
Web: <https://iimk.ac.in/publications>

