TERROR TRIALS

Life and Law in Delhi's Courts

Mayur R. Suresh

MY CHOICE of book of the year is Mayur Suresh's ethnography *Terror Trials: Life and Law in Delhi's Courts* (Orient Blackswan, 2023). Departing from established streams of socio-legal research on terror laws, which frame them as exceptional, or as performances of the sovereign power of the state, Suresh views terror trials as a "descent into the ordinary", no different really from any criminal trial. His insistence on foregrounding mundane technicalities – the often

inscrutable language of law, the piles of paperwork – surprisingly does not turn the book into a dry technical treatise. Quite the opposite, *Terror Trials* is poignantly – even racily – written. By showing how terror accused engage with, and mobilise technicalities, Suresh renders them into active agents who collaborate in the production of legal meaning. This is an important intervention.

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