“We all wait. Waiting is a characteristic feature of modernity; during the twentieth century the increasing regimentation of time in the West created multiple settings – such as traffic jams, offices, and clinics – in which people waited. But what of long-term waiting? What of situations in which people have been compelled to wait for years, decades, or whole lifetimes not as a result of their voluntary movement through modern spaces but because they are durably unable to realise their goals? This presentation examines these questions through describing the cultures and politics of educated unemployed young men in north India. I highlight a widespread culture of “timepass” (passing time) among young men and the manner in which they respond to waiting, culturally and politically. I conclude that waiting, far from being a passive activity, can be the seed-bed for novel cultural experiments and forms of radical politics.”