

THE UNF *PAST TO PRESENT SEMINAR* PRESENTS



*Between Archive and Ethnography:
Connecting Histories of Criminalization with the
Contemporary Marginalization of the Banjara
Denotified Tribe in Rural India*

DR. JESSICA CHANDRAS

UNF Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work

This talk examines British colonial efforts to assimilate members of “Criminal Tribes” in pre-independence India, tracing how these policies shape the social marginalization that formerly criminalized communities face today. National identity ideologies, especially those within education policy that I examine in this project more broadly, frequently characterize formerly nomadic communities as “anti-modern” or “anti-national,” positioning them as inherent threats to Indian national progress and cohesion.



*Friday, January 30, 2026
3–4:30 p.m.
Building 9, Room 2401*

*Sponsored by the
Department of History*

*An RSVP by end of day
January 28 is required for
this event. Please send your
response to Chellie Jones-
Harris at charris@unf.edu*

Refreshments will be provided

Image: Taken by an officer with the Salvation Army at a Criminal Tribes settlement in Bareilly, India. *Sewing women at the Bareilly Criminal Tribes Settlement*. c. 1911-1914. Salvation Army Heritage Center archive in London.