



“Life, Labour and Infrastructures: Indian Cities in Historical Perspective”

ICAS:MP TM3 International Workshop

July 8-9, 2019, University of Göttingen

CeMIS Board Room

Waldweg 26, 37073 Göttingen

Concept Note:

The Workshop is intended to discuss the participants’ individual ongoing research projects under the overarching theme ‘Life, Labour and Infrastructures: Indian Cities in Historical Perspectives’. The whole motivation to bring together scholars working in and on various urban and temporal contexts is to create a platform for horizontal interaction between different geographies of knowledge on urban conjuncture, and thereby to develop a toolkit for understanding urban polity and society through the parameters of what we call a ‘trans-city interrogation’. The idea of trans-city interrogation is to make use of one spatio-temporal context to ask questions of another, given the wide variability in urban economies, governance structures, and histories across different Indian cities.

Schedule

Monday, July 8

9:00- 9:15/Introduction with Coffee

9:15-11:15/Panel 1: Understanding the Urban in Colonial India

Planning, Nationalism, Exclusion and Inclusion

1. Partho Datta (JNU): Planning Histories in India, Themes and an Overview
2. Kaustubh Mani Sengupta (Bankura University): An Ambiguous Relationship: The Nation and the Urban in Colonial India

Chair/Moderator: Srirupa Roy (CeMIS & ICAS:MP)

11:15-11:30/Coffee break

11:30-1:30/Institutions of Property-Making

1. Ritajyoti Bandyopadhyay (IISER Mohali & ICAS:MP): The Hidden Will of Recoupment: Street-Building as Property Making in Calcutta, 1910-1920
2. Nabaparna Ghosh (Babson College, USA): The Calcutta Improvement Trust: Racialized Hygiene and Resistance by Religion

Chair/Moderator: Partho Datta (JNU)

1:30-2:30/Lunch

2:30-4:30/Communication and Geographies of Improvement

1. Anna Sailer (CeMIS and ICAS:MP): What is the 'hinterland' of the city – the development of the jute belt in colonial India
2. Ritajyoti Bandyopadhyay (IISER Mohali and ICAS:MP): Street-Building as Boundary-Making: Rent and Demographic Reorganization, 1910-1950

Chair/Moderator: Lalit Vachani (CeMIS)

4:30-6:30/ Spatial Negotiations

1. Anwesha Sengupta (IDSK): Living on the Edge: The Platform Refugees of Calcutta, 1950s-1960s
2. Gayatri Rathore (CeMIS) "World-class heritage city" and the spatial politics of expulsion of street commerce in Jaipur

Chair/Moderator: Nate Roberts (CeMIS)

6:30 onwards/Dinner

Tuesday, July 9

9:30-9:45: Coffee

9:45-11:45/Civic Politics, Neighbourhood and the Nation

1. Maria-Daniela Pomohaci (CeMIS): "Our Bustees Are Our Shame": Calcutta Municipal Corporation, Landowners, and the Living Conditions of 'Scavengers' in Late-colonial Calcutta
2. Nabaparna Ghosh (Babson College): A City-Nation: Paras, Hygiene, and Swaraj

Chair/Moderator: Nate Roberts (CeMIS)

1:45- 12:00/Coffee

12:00-2:00/Working Class Life and Livelihood

1. Camille Buat (CeMIS): Tenancy regulation, political mobilization and social differentiation in Calcutta's slums (1940s-1950s)
2. Lisa Björkman (University of Louisville, USA): Waiting Town: Life in Transit at Mumbai's Edge

Chair/Moderator: Anwesha Sengupta (IDSK)

2:00-3:00: Lunch

3:00-4:00/ Alternative Visions of City Planning Partho Datta (JNU): Geddes and Planning

Chair/Moderator: Ravi Ahuja (CeMIS and ICAS:MP)

4:00-4-15/Conclusion

Ritajyoti Bandyopadhyay (IISER Mohali, ICAS:MP)

6:00 onwards/Dinner