



# ENGINEERS and SOCIETY IN INDIA

from C.1850 to Present Times

**EHESS - PARIS**  
**190-198 AVENUE DE FRANCE**  
**ROOMS 638-641**

**27th-28th MARCH 2017**

Agence Nationale de la Recherche  
**ceias** **ANR**  
centre d'études - Inde | Asie du Sud  
centre for South Asian studies

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# **“Engineers and society in India, from c.1850 to present times”**

**EHESS, PARIS, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**27<sup>th</sup> March**

**10:00 am – 10:30 am**

**WELCOME ADDRESS**

**Ines Zupanov (CNRS, CEIAS)**

**10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

**INAUGURAL LECTURE**

**Peter Meiksins (Cleveland State University)**

**Constructing Engineers. How Comparative Analysis Can Enrich the Study of Indian Engineering.**

*12:00 pm – 1:30 pm: Lunch*

**1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**SESSION I: SHAPING A CORPS D’ETAT: COLONIAL AND POSTCOLONIAL PERSPECTIVES**

**Chair: Satish Deshpande (University of Delhi)**

**Discussion: Aparajith Ramnath (Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode)**

**Company Engineers: Water Infrastructures and the Making of a Colonial Profession**

**Debjani Bhattacharyya (Drexel University)**

**“To be sacrificed on the altar of political progress.” Indian and British Engineers in the Bombay Public Works Department (1860’s-1940’s): Analyzing Discriminations and the Policy of “Indianisation.”**

**Vanessa Caru (CNRS, CEIAS)**

**A Study on the Reservation Effects on State Engineers’ Careers: The Case of a Water Supply Service in Contemporary India.**

**Charles Gadea (Université Paris 10 Nanterre, IDHES)**

*3:30 pm – 4:00 pm: Tea Break*

**4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

**SESSION II: PUBLIC SERVICE ENGINEERS IN THE NEO-LIBERAL AREA:  
RECOMPOSITION AND RESILIENCE OF THE PROFESSION**

Chair: Stéphanie Tawa Lama Rewal (CNRS, CEIAS)

Discussion: Karen Coelho (Madras Institute of Development Studies)

**Public Civil Engineering : An Expertise from the Past? Ethnography of a Criticized Administration,  
The Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam**

Bérénice Girard (EHESS, CEIAS)

**Colonial Modernity Shaping the Pipe Dream: A Teleological Imagination of Urban Water Supply**

D.Parthasarathy & N.C.Narayanan (Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai)

**Railwaymen of Real Estate? Intimate Practices and Rationale for Changes within Railway  
Institutions in India. The Case of the Rail Land Development Authority and the Delhi Metro Rail  
Corporation.**

Bérénice Bon (Darmstadt University of Technology)

**28<sup>th</sup> March**

**9:00 am – 11:00 am**

**SESSION III: THE ROLE OF ENGINEERING PERSONNEL IN THE RISE OF NEW  
INDUSTRIAL SECTORS**

Chair: Anne Julie Etter (Université de Cergy)

Discussion: Peter Meiksins (Cleveland State University)

**Industrial Experts in the Age of Indianisation: The European Engineering Firms of Calcutta, 1914-  
47**

Aparajith Ramnath (Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode)

**State Policy, Technical Knowledge and Engineering Manpower: General Observations and A Study  
of Workforces in the Automotive Industry, c. 1943-2000**

Stefan Tetzlaff (CNRS, CEIAS)

**German Émigré Scientists and Engineers and Aeronautics in India**

Jahnvi Phalkey (King's College London)

*11:00 am – 11:30 am: Tea Break*

**11:30 am – 1:00 pm**

**SESSION IV: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF ENGINEERING  
EDUCATION**

Chair: Catherine Marry (CNRS, CMH)

Discussion: Irina Gouzevitch (EHES)

**Coaching the Masses, Creaming the Elites. The Educational Market at Kota (Rajasthan)**

Roland Lardinois (CNRS, CEIAS)

**Muslim Engineering Colleges in Bangalore: Negotiating Community Space and Profitability**

Aminah Mohammad-Arif (CNRS, CEIAS)

*1:00 pm – 2:30 pm: Lunch*

**2:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

**SESSION V: ENGINEERING THE LABOUR MARKET**

Chair: Catherine Marry (CNRS, CMH)

Discussion: Carol Upadhy (National Institute of Advanced Studies)

**Labour Market Integration and Careers Paths: The Case of IIT's Alumni.**

Odile Henry (Université Paris 8) & Mathieu Ferry (ENS Cachan)

**Learning Gender Equity from India? Comparative Studies of the IT Sector in India and the UK**

Parvati Raghuram, Clem Herman, Esther Ruiz-Ben & Gunjan Sondhi (Open University)

**The “Imagined Technologist”: The Evolution of the IT Engineer as an Occupational Category in India**

Amit Prakash and Balaji Parthasarathy (Indian Institute of Information Technology Bangalore)

*4:30 pm – 5:00 pm: Tea Break*

**5:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

**CONCLUDING REMARKS**

**Satish Deshpande (University of Delhi)**

Contact: [engindconference@gmail.com](mailto:engindconference@gmail.com)

For further details (abstracts, etc.), please check out our website: <http://engind.hypotheses.org>