Workshop
Governing India
May 7-8 2017
Department of Political Science, South Asia Institute
Universität Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany

May 7 2017 (Sunday)

Panel 1: 10AM -12:30 PM
Governing India Today

This panel will explore the problem of governance in India. It will also reflect on how the current government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party is transforming governance in India.

Welcome Remarks
Rahul Mukherji

Chair
Stefan Klonner (Economics, SAI)

Opening Address
Subrata Kumar Mitra

Speakers
Suriya Kanta Mishra
Swapan Dasgupta

12:30PM -1400 Hrs Lunch

DAY 2
May 8 2017 (Monday)

Panel 2: 9 -11 AM
Making Government Work – Rights Based Approach

This panel will reflect on how social activists and the state come together to legislate and implement legislations that are likely to improve services for the poor. These accounts will reveal the nature of the relationship between social actors and the state in the legislation and implementation of progressive laws like the right to information in India. This panel will focus on the rights based approach to development in India – How did it come about? And, how was it implemented?

Chair
Dietmar Rothermund (Emeritus, History SAI)

Speakers
Aruna Roy
Nikhil Dey
Wajahat Habibullah

11-11:30 AM TEA
Panel 3 11:30 AM - 1300 Hrs
Making Government Work: Dealing with Corruption
This panel will reflect on accountability initiatives. How did public hearings (jan sunwayis) reduce corruption at the grassroots level? And, how did grand corruption occur, despite regulatory checks and balances in India?

Chair
William Sax (Anthropology, SAI)

Speakers
Sowmya Kidambi
Shankar Singh
Paranjoy Guha Thakurta

1300-1400 Hrs Lunch

Panel 4 1400-1600 Hrs
Making the Government Work: A View from the State
This panel will discuss how the political executive and the bureaucracy view the issue of the state’s capacity to implement programs. Does the relationship between the political executive and the bureaucracy matter? What is the role of social actors in the implementation of government programs?

Chair
Aurel Croissant (IPW)

Speakers
Santhosh Mathew
Pradip Baijal
K Raju

1600 – 16 30 Hrs TEA

Concluding Session 16:30 -1800 Hrs
State, Society and Governance (State-Capacity) in India
This concluding panel will generally reflect on the nature of the relationship between the state and the society in India in the furtherance of a progressive governance agenda. Do ideas within the government, especially within the bureaucracy, matter? What is the role of political ideology and how does it connect with bureaucratic culture (technocratic rationality)? Finally, how does the state relate with social activists to construct and implement policy ideas?

Moderators
Rahul Mukherji (Politics, SAI) and K.C.Suri
(Politics, University of Hyderabad, India)