



DIGITAL DELHI
CONCLAVE 2020

***URBAN SCIENCE FOR
SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND
COMMUNITIES***



Created by Aif Anshad
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INDRAPRASTHA INSTITUTE OF
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, DELHI





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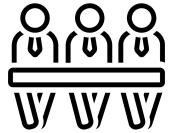
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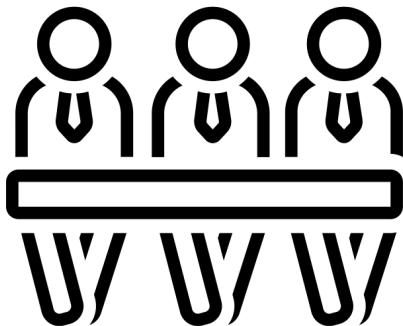


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SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



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KEYNOTE 1: SMART ENOUGH CITY



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Cities are centers of high interconnections between subsystems of substantial complexity; these interconnections are at varying levels of abstractions, whether physical (water, roads, etc) or "virtual" (finance, culture, etc). Smart cities are, arguably, about understanding these high interconnections for the public good; these involve finding them in the first place (such as mobile location data), collecting them, analyzing them, and using the insights gained. Estimating link traffic in a large Indian city, for example, is a non-trivial technical problem, given the density, heterogeneity, and cost factors. However, technical perspectives should be informed by the policy implications involved in the methodologies selected for deciding what type of data to collect or types of phenomenon to observe.

Data collection itself and its cleansing, sharing and analysis, and the types of corrective measures chosen for the betterment of cities cannot be deliberated from the technical perspectives alone. For example, how does one decide what interconnections are important or strong? How does one deal with failures of interconnections (intentional and malicious) in the system, at various levels, for a resilient city? Interconnections are also matters of influence and prestige in a city's polity, given its diverse communities. Given the large digital footprint of these interconnections, some important questions are "who decides what to observe, who controls what is collected, and to what uses are they put?". Security and privacy of the data are also naturally important dimensions of the problem.

Challenges Tackled:

- There are serious concerns with respect to data protection. How do we ensure that citizen data is not compromised while creating/planning smart cities?
- How can we ensure that community data involving the privacy and security of citizens is safeguarded from business and political interests in prospective smart cities?

KEYNOTE 2: FROM CHIMNEYS TO SMOG TOWERS: TECHNOLOGY AND AIR POLLUTION IN MODERN INDIA.



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AWADHENDRA SHARAN

Professor, Centre for the
Study of Developing
Societies



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The second keynote at the DDC 2021 conclave was delivered by Prof Awadhendra Sharan, Director CSDS, Delhi. The talk was titled, "From Chimneys to Smog Towers: Technology and Air Pollution in Modern India."

In the talk, Prof Sharan lectured on the history of atmospheric modernity in India, beginning from the time that modern industry came to India, and how concern grew around the pollution of air. In part, he argued, this was for aesthetic reasons, with the imperial administrative elite keen to ensure that Oriental cities did not look and feel like English industrial towns. In time, an emerging Indian middle class also took up the challenge of ensuring pollution free cities, prompted as much by health concerns as by notions of economic efficiency.

In Prof Sharan's words we need to "look at the articulation of these concerns over time and the technological options that have been periodically proposed to deal with the issue. The first part of the presentation shall look at air pollution and its proposed solutions in colonial cities – greater use of electricity, better design of chimneys that could disperse smoke at a height and use of better combustion engines. Prof Sharan also explored the more recent interventions, from the choice of alternative fuels for transport to the proposal for smog towers. Through all this Prof Sharan argued that there is a need to underline the social nature of technological choices made towards the management of urban air."

Challenges Tackled:

- How can the intractable relationship between wider socio-political processes and technological choices be conceptualized to tackle air pollution?
- How can a contextualized understanding of air pollution enable better technological judgment?

ABSTRACT: DIVERCITY WORKSHOP



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from Neat Project

FAIZ ULLAH

School of Media and
Cultural Studies, Tata
Institute of Social
Sciences, Mumbai



Created by mohamed
from Neat Project

The Developing DiverCities is a workshop that will introduce participants to the DiverCity Web Archive initiated at the School of Media and Cultural Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. The unique online project is built around an interactive website that hosts a group of compact online archives which allow the users to access and explore a particular issue or theme through different perspectives and materials produced and curated collaboratively by the students and faculty. In the workshop participants will learn how to develop similar archives for Delhi and understand the value of developing projects that actively seeks to resist the politics of forgetting central to the realisation of the project of creating a homogenised and sanitised 'world-class' city at the expense of its vulnerable communities and their histories and their geographies.

Faiz Ullah, Asst. Professor at TISS, who led the workshop discussed how the objective of such digital initiatives is to expand the horizon of independent documentary as a form, by enabling its interaction with other texts, by permitting incremental and non-linear participatory engagement with content in ways that escape the regimes of state and market control that apply to documentary film and other alternative media in India. In the workshop, Faiz demonstrated how they developed, conceived, and designed the archive in such a way that it not merely brings various kinds of media and resources together but also presents them in a manner that is accessible, interactive, and allows for different levels of engagement.

**"The DiverCity is a response to
those erasures and
Amnesia of the realities of different
communities."**

**"HISTORIANS HAVE
MERELY INTERPRETED
THE ARCHIVE. THE
POINT; HOWEVER, IS TO
FEEL IT."**

DEVELOPING DIVERCITY WORKSHOP

Challenges Tackled:

- Why is it important to analyze the impact of working classes and migrants in the shaping of a city?
- Would utilizing alternative media to documentaries such as print and civil society groups increase its reach or impact?
- What is the broader impact and importance of creating digital archives in the politics of forgetting?

access actively archives around built central city collaboratively
communities compact creating cultural delhi developing different
divercity explore faculty forgetting geographies group hosts http
interactive introduce issue materials media mumbai online
participants particular politics project resist
sanitised school sciences seeks social students tata theme tiss understand unique users vulnerable
workshop world-class

ABSTRACT: URBAN MOBILITY PANEL

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This panel discussed questions crucial to the relationship between urban mobility and communities. The discussion began by centering around the ways in which technology is reshaping urban mobility in Delhi and other cities. An important point was raised about how urban communities are responding to technological interventions in the modes of urban transportation.

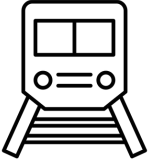
The panelists spoke at length about mobility being intertwined with larger city planning processes and its implications. An important question raised here was whether the logic of urban mobility should guide the idea of urban planning, and how the urban space and community can integrate certain kinds of movement in its planning.

Finally, the panelists sparked a conversation about the manner in which mobility planning in urban spaces needs to negotiate with community resilience. This flowed smoothly into a concluding dialogue on the economy of urban mobility and how it can be defined.

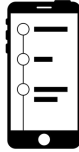
“CITIES SHOULD BE PLANETS FOR CITIZENS AND PEDESTRIANS; NOT FOR CARS AND MOTORS.”

A new frame is added to urban mobility by discussing moving not to work but for work and the movable work itself.

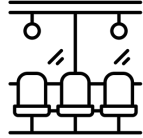
PANEL 1: URBAN MOBILITY AND COMMUNITIES



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from Noun Project



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Challenges Tackled:

- How can we better design transit to address the needs of the people who use it the most?
- Introducing technology in mobility and its implications - how can digital technology make community interface with public transit better?
- What roles do small/roadside vendors play in ensuring road safety?
- What is the relationship of the 15-minute city concept to private/exclusive spaces? How has the ratio of private vs public spaces in the city changed over time?

ABSTRACT: AIR POLLUTION PANEL

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The worsening quality of air in the city, peaking during the onset of winter, remains a curious subject- one which led to much furore but has not translated into wide social or political change on the ground. As a public good, the quality of air is presumed to affect everyone equally and consequently support for improving its quality is presumed to be unanimous. However, the past few years have highlighted the conflictual terrain of measuring, studying and legislating on air.

Disputes on the primary source, the unequal consequences of air pollution, and social tensions that shape legislation indicate that pollution is an issue that requires wider and collaborative consideration.

The panel brings together experts from domains of technology, social science and policy to discuss the problems but also the possibilities present in thinking through the current crisis of pollution.

**STREETS
BELONG TO
PEDESTRIANS
MORE THAN
CARS.**

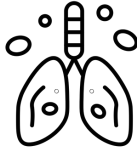
**AIR
POLLUTION
IS NOT A
HOAX.**



PANEL 2: AIR POLLUTION MENACE AND THE FUTURE OF DELHI



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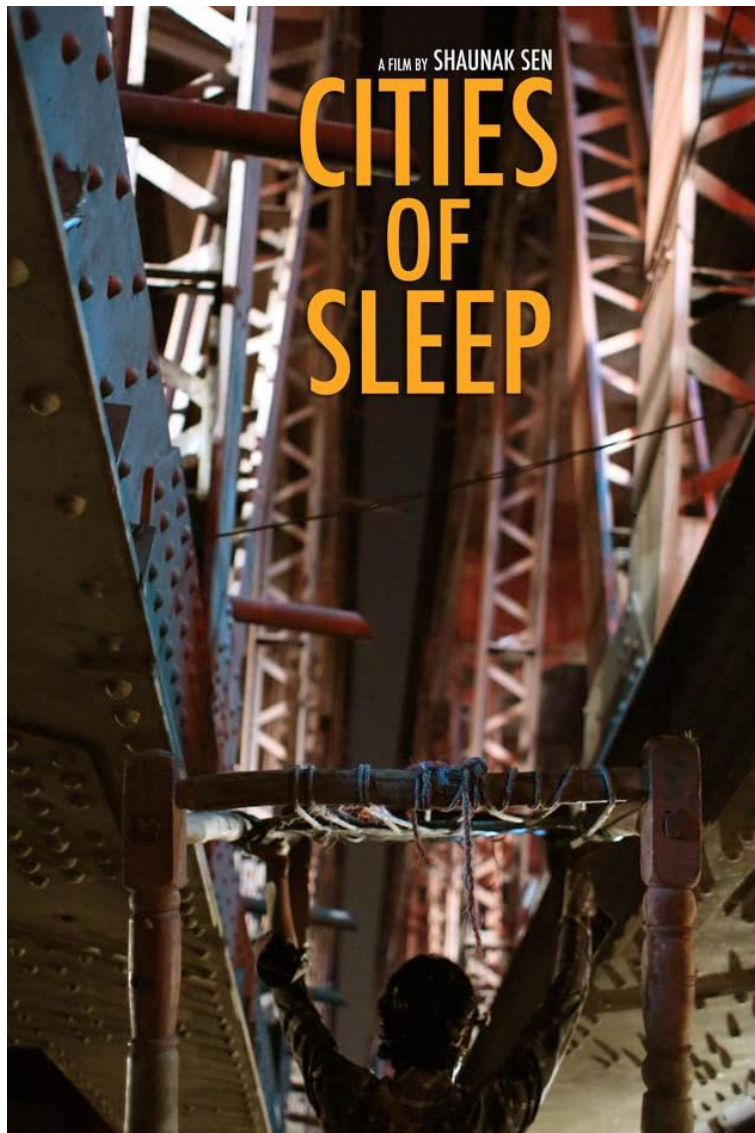


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Challenges Tackled:

- Does improving the data collection and visualization of air pollution data build awareness and engagement that can then be translated into policy solutions?
- What is the role of an individual agency as citizens in forefront action towards air pollution?
- What is the practitioner's perspective on addressing the root cause of air pollution instead of its current effects?
- How can local neighborhoods and communities map interventions around air pollution, given that air pollution can be understood in localized areas as sites of production?
- Similar to climate change where there is now a sense of public accountability, how can air pollution be recognized as a vital social issue?

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING: CITIES OF SLEEP



DOCUMENTARY SCREENING: CITIES OF SLEEP

Cities of Sleep is a 74 minute feature length documentary, directed by Shaunak Sen and produced by Films Division (India) 'Cities of Sleep' takes us into a heady world of insurgent sleeper's communities as well as the infamous 'sleep mafia' in Delhi where just securing a safe sleeping spot often becomes a question of life and death for a large number of people.

The film trails the lives of two individuals, Shakeel and Ranjeet. Shakeel, a renegade homeless sleeper has for the last 7 years slept in a diverse range of improvised places like subways, under park benches, parking lots, abandoned cars and lately, at areas controlled by the sleep mafia. The film follows his attempts to secure a safe sleeping space just around the time the infamous winter rains of Delhi are due. Ranjeet runs the 'sleep-cinema' community in Loha Pul in Delhi, a huge double-storey iron bridge straddling the banks of the river Yamuna. A thin strip of land under Loha Pul houses shanty cinemas where over 400 odd homeless come and sleep through the day for a nominal price. The flooding of the river Yamuna poses a threat to the people sleeping there every monsoon.

The film looks at not only the tremendous social and political pressure that sleep exerts on the homeless in the city but is also a philosophical exploration of sleep at large.

Film-maker Shaunak Sen joined the conclave for a one-to-one interaction, and shared his thoughts with the audience who watched the film screened online by the convenors.

THOUGHTS FROM THE FILM: CITIES OF SLEEP

"Kisi ki ameerī ya gareebi dekhni hai to uski neend ko dekho."



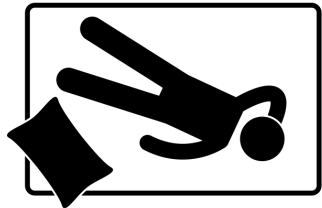
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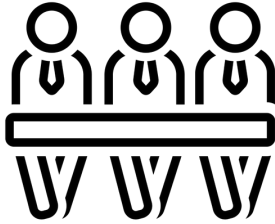
"Film ke beech sona achha lagta hai. Sapne aur film mix ho jati hai. Aap vahan na rikshewale ho, na majdoor; jo banana chahte ho, ban jao."

How do you relate the psychological aspect of sleep with the social reality?



Icon from Noun Project
Created by Garu Kuroou Tava

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