

# *Two-day Workshop*

on

## **Infrastructure and the Right to the City**

A two-day workshop on *Infrastructure and Right to the City* organized by IDSK in collaboration with ICSSR was held on 15 and 16 February 2018. The coordinators were Dr. Anvesha Sengupta and Dr. Supurna Banerjee. There were 18 paper presenters and the keynote was delivered by Dr. Priya Sangameswaran (CSSSC, Kolkata). The workshop critically engaged with various forms of urban infrastructure in Indian cities, and how they fashioned colonial and post-colonial urbanism and urban life in the subcontinent. Infrastructure does not only mean the built environment or the physical artifacts; it also includes the way these material entities shape or sought to shape people's conduct in the city. Building of roads, sewerage, bridges, monuments have been a staple of urban history for a long time now. Numerous studies have discussed the ideas and thinking of the planners and the government in creating the city. They have laid bare the political exigencies, financial constraints and various ideological imperatives that governed the state and its planners in shaping the city. Likewise, scholars have focused on the ways in which people negotiate, challenge or subvert the expected uses of these artifacts. Conflicts and negotiations between the planners' vision and people's reality are part of any urban system. We tried to bring these two strands in conversation by focusing on the politics of infrastructural programme of a city which helps certain groups, while at the same time makes life difficult for some other groups. The following questions were important: What are the considerations of the planners when they conceive a particular project? Which groups of population benefit? How do people bend norms and structures to shape their own city? In short, how do they articulate their right to the city?

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