



Xavier University Bhubaneswar University Dialogue Series (UDS)

Date: 23 March 2018

Time: 03.00 pm

Venue: Class Room 302

Smart Wise and Inclusive Cities in India

Speaker:

Dr. Joe Ravetz

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Cities are in transformation in all corners of the world. In India as elsewhere, there is rapid expansion, restructuring, innovation of many kinds – social, technological, economic, environmental, political and cultural. In particular the smart city agenda, and the rapid spread of SMAC (‘social, mobile, analytics, cloud’) technologies is a catalyst of change at every level of society. Many smart systems are very efficient, but too often, public services are disrupted, workers are exploited, taxes are avoided and data is extracted. Overall there are powerful forces of inequality and exclusion. In contrast we look for ‘wise’ systems, where profits are recirculated, data is open, public services are integrated and workers / customers are valuable stakeholders. Here, urban systems are steered towards societal benefit, with urban planning, energy / water systems, housing systems, social care or social enterprise. All this depends on a collective urban intelligence, a ‘deeper city mind’, which links between all parts of society. The research question here is how to map and explore the pathways ‘from smart to wise’ – from a technology-driven ‘smart’ city, towards a more societal ‘wise’ city? And then the question for policy is what is to be done?? This interactive seminar follows on a UK-funded pilot project on Smart Cities in the Global South, a critical comparison on smart cities in their social / political context.



Keywords: Smart, Inclusive, City, India.

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