

# Eco-Imagining Occasional Seminars

You are invited to attend a discussion on

## Civil Society, Local Government & Poverty Relief Programmes: Comparing India and South Africa

**Discussant: Søren Jeppesen (Copenhagen Business School)**

**Facilitator: Vijay Makanjee**

**Place: Ruliv, 48 St James Rd, Southernwood, East London**

**Time: Friday, 26 August, 2.30 – 4.00pm**

This discussion will explore attempts by civil society organisations in both India (with an emphasis on West Bengal) and South Africa (with an emphasis on the Eastern Cape) to address issues of poverty – in particular relating to access to water, energy and food – and to see what lessons can be learned from poverty relief and local development interventions. It will also focus on how these efforts are embedded in existing social institutions, in particular local governance mechanisms.

Søren, an associate professor at the Copenhagen Business School in Denmark and currently a visiting scholar at the University of Fort Hare, has for over 30 years been involved in poverty relief programmes in India as part of a partnership between Danish and Indian NGOs.

---

The discussion is hosted by the programme on “Ecological Community Engagements: Imagining sustainability and the water-energy-food nexus in urban South African environments” funded by the NVO (Netherlands) and the NRF (South Africa)

The programme is focused on water, energy and food insecurity and precarity, synthesised as the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus, and highlights the need for creative imagining, using a trans-disciplinary approach to engage critically with these complex problems. It aims to discover and understand the imaginations and innovations that could steer us to a sustainable future, we propose to work in very local, urban contexts, where WEF challenges reflect the legacies of Apartheid and colonialism.

This panel discussion is the first of a series of seminars to be hosted by Ruliv and the Department of Development Studies at the University of Fort Hare.

---



University of Fort Hare  
*Together in Excellence*