

WISC-IRIIS Exploratory Workshops
“Alternative Cosmologies & Knowledge Systems in International Relations:
Voices from the Global South”
New Delhi, January 11-14, 2016

A Personal Summary

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The WISC- IRIIS Workshop was a great space to learn the craft of academics – dissecting arguments and making helpful suggestions in a nice way! One seldom has the luxury of receiving the reflective comments and feedback of a senior academic in person. My work, which has overlaps between IR and history, often struggle in the dark and much of the suggestions come when I email drafts to professors I have never met, who respond after many weeks. The workshop was a lovely intimate academic space where the mentors (all of them were excellent) in their clarity in sincerity in helping people younger than themselves in molding and shaping their work.

The second aspect which was nourishing was just to watch how to respond to papers and arguments without making the presenters defensive, which is indeed an art. I have been to seminars and workshops where much of the attention has been on the ‘presentation’ of the paper itself and then people in the audience trying to score meaningless brownie points by asking questions which are more to do with how much they know, rather than their response to what they have just heard. The workshop did what it set out to do, that is allow people to share their work in a relaxed and safe environment.

Finally, all this with plenty of much needed good humour! I made many friends and had enjoyed myself thoroughly. A big thanks to Prof. Behera, David Blaney, Arlene Tickner, Gunther Hellman, Tamara Townsell, Pinar Bilgin and Peter Vale for doing what you do!