**The diverse socio-economic contexts of a ‘just transition’ from coal in India**

There is now a growing recognition that India’s gradual transition away from fossil fuels will have far-reaching implications for coal mining-affected communities in the country. These discussions also point to the specific challenges of pursuing a ‘just transition’ in India, linked particularly to the highly informal character of mining employment. Yet, local contexts of coal linked economies and livelihoods vary widely both across and within mining regions.

The presentations in this seminar focus on different settings - one where coal mining has led to the displacement and resettlement of affected villages, and one where they remain located in the vicinity of an operational mine. Through a comparative analysis of the dynamics of mining-related dispossession and livelihoods in these two very different contexts, we hope to develop insights to further nuance and broaden the scope of ‘just transition’ discussions.

**Negotiating with Dispossession in the Coal Economy of Eastern India**

*Presentation by Pooja Narnoli (PhD Researcher, JNU)*

This presentation discusses the socio-economic impacts of dispossession on communities living in the vicinity of the Jharia coal mines in Jharkhand, India, a region increasingly engulfed by underground and surface mine fires. It relies primarily on a household survey of these coal communities who, in the past decade, have been displaced and resettled by the state in a newly created township situated away from the coalfields. The findings highlight how the previously artisanal coal miners of Jharia witnessed a shift in employment towards proletarianized labourers, as petty commodity producers, and as inter-state migrants. While now protected from the dangers of coal-fires, this growing population of informal surplus labour continue to negotiate with their own socio-economic vulnerabilities within the township. Accounting for the intersectional dynamics of caste, class and gender, this research exposes the extent of marginalization across different socially vulnerable groups in the locality. Through these reflections on a displaced coal community of Jharkhand, it also calls attention to the Indian state’s responsibility to recognize the diverse socio-economic realities that need to be accounted for ensuring a just transition away from the coal economy.

**Rural Dispossession and Livelihoods in an Emerging Region of Coal Extraction in India**

*Presentation by Amod Shah (PhD Researcher, ISS)*

This presentation discusses the impacts of a recent expansion of coal mining in the Tamnar region of Chhattisgarh, India through the case of two villages situated in the vicinity of an operational coal mine. Mining-related dispossession in these villages has significantly altered processes of agrarian production, agricultural and non-agricultural wage labour, and practices of daily and intergenerational social reproduction. At the same time, local responses to this increasingly challenging context of household livelihoods have generally involved efforts to combine agricultural and non-agricultural livelihoods, rather than a significant withdrawal from agriculture and into employment in the mine. The presentation argues that such outcomes reflect the wider socio-economic context of such ‘emerging’ regions of coal extraction, where the aggregate dynamics of mining-related dispossession and coal dependence are relatively nascent.