

Energy and Resources Group Fall 2009 Colloquium Series (ER295)

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Outsourcing the State? Public-Private Partnerships and Information Technologies in India

110 Barrows Hall – 4:00 P.M.

This presentation examines public private partnerships (PPPs) for development through the example of telecenters in two Indian states. How might a developmental state position itself with respect to civil society under a PPP model of service delivery? The research finds that each state's political economy is reflected in its PPP strategy, but that in both states the emerging middle classes rather than the poor benefit most from ongoing telecenter projects. Outsourcing development services to private entities need not "privatize" the state but does alter the way in which citizens "see" the state. Service delivery through telecenters becomes a symbol of government efficiency and responsiveness.

Renee Kuriyan is a research scientist in Intel Corporation's People and Practices Research group. She holds a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley in the Energy and Resources Group. She has a Masters degree in Public Affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School with a focus in development studies and science and technology policy. She has extensive experience conducting research on a range of technology and development topics in East Africa and India. This includes projects with the World Bank, United Nations Development Program, NGOs, and Microsoft Research India. Her current research focuses on the cultural politics of consumption, the middle class and globalization. She continues to conduct research on the political economy of information and communication technologies and development (ICTD).