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## SEMINAR

### The Anatomy of Failure:

### An Ethnography of a Randomized Trial to Deepen Democracy in Rural India

Seminar organized with the collaboration of the Department of Economics of Sciences Po

Wednesday 10 September 2014  
5 - 7 pm

Sciences Po  
Room Goguel  
56, rue des Saints-Pères  
75007 Paris

#### Speaker



#### Vijayendra Rao (World Bank Institute)

Vijayendra Rao is a Lead Economist in the Development Research Group of the World Bank. He combines his training in economics with an interest in anthropology and social theory to study the social, cultural, and political context of extreme poverty in developing countries. Dr. Rao has published on a wide variety of topics using this interdisciplinary approach including dowries, domestic violence, sex worker behavior, festivals, and the political economy of village democracy. He has co-edited *Culture and Public Action*, and *History, Historians and Development Policy*. One stream of his current work examines the determinants of citizen engagement in poor societies, with a goal towards understanding how best to mobilize citizens to improve public services and alleviate poverty. Another line of his work examines

the inter-relationship between social and economic mobility in India. Jointly with Ghazala Mansuri, he is currently working on the World Bank's Policy Research Report on Localizing Development.

Vijayendra Rao holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania, was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Chicago, and taught at the University of Michigan and Williams College before joining the World Bank. He serves on the editorial boards of *Economic Development and Cultural Change* and *Journal of Development Studies*. He is a member of the Social Development Board of the World Bank, the Advisory Committee of the Successful Societies Program at CIFAR, and advises research institutes and NGOs in India, the US, and the UK.

#### Discussion

**Ruben Durante** (Associate Professor at Sciences Po, Department of Economics)

Free entrance according to available places

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