

The Social Observatory: integrating the social sciences for adaptive practice

Tuesday 12 December 12.30 – 1.30pm

Speaker

Vijayendra Rao

Lead Economist, Development Research
Group, World Bank

Location

Brindabella Theatre

Level 2, JG Crawford Building 132
Lennox Crossing, ANU

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This seminar is free and open to the
public.

Presented by

Development Policy
Centre

Crawford School of
Public Policy &

ANU College of
Asia & the Pacific



Photo by World Bank Group

The Social Observatory (SO) is a unit within the World Bank's Development Research Group. It has worked for seven years with a \$5 billion portfolio of community-based livelihoods projects in India. This work combines rigorous impact evaluations with ethnography, process evaluations, and the development of new citizen-led data systems to transform how such projects learn and adapt. This talk will report on some aspects of this work, showing how randomised control trials (RCTs) and ethnographies can be meaningfully combined, and demonstrating new tools to deepen collective action. For more see: <http://socialobservatory.worldbank.org/about>

Vijayendra Rao is a Lead Economist in the Development Research Group of the World Bank. His research has spanned subjects that include gender, inequality, mixed-methods, culture, decentralisation, community development, and deliberative democracy. He obtained a PhD in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania and taught at the University of Chicago, Michigan, and Williams College before joining the World Bank.