



University of Mumbai

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

SPECIAL LECTURE

You are cordially invited for the Lecture on
Toward a Global History of Technology, 1850-2000

By

Mikael Hard

Professor of History of Technology, Darmstadt University of Technology, Germany

and

Aloy Buragohain

Doctoral Research Fellow, Darmstadt University of Technology, Germany

Date: 3 April 2018

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Venue: Seminar Hall, Department of History, University of Mumbai
Second floor, Ranade Bhavan, Vidyanagari, Mumbai 400 098.

Dr Manjiri Kamat
Professor and Head
Department of History
University of Mumbai

Abstract:

The notion that technologies are developed in Europe and North America and are then simply transferred to the Global South is a commonplace—both in public debates and in the scholarly literature. Globalization is said to make the world ever more uniform. In their project presentation the speakers challenge this notion. Pointing to a number of historical cases from India and East Africa, they argue that the history of technological change can better be told by adopting terms like active appropriation and creative hybridization. The development and use of tools and machinery across the globe has never been a one-way street. The world of material culture is much more complex and manifold than theories of global homogenization might have it.

Profiles:

Mikael Hard is Professor of History of Technology at Darmstadt University of Technology, Germany. His books include *The Intellectual Appropriation of Technology: Discourses on Modernity, 1900-1939* (co-edited with Andrew Jamison, 1998), *Hubris and Hybrids: A Cultural History of Technology and Science* (with Andrew Jamison, 2005) and *Urban Machinery: Inside Modern European Cities* (co-edited with Thomas Misa, 2008). Mikael's newest project is *A Global History of Technology, 1850 – 2000* (GLOBAL-HOT), funded by the European Research Council.

Aloy Buragohain is an alumnus IIT Madras. He was awarded a master's degree in Development Studies in 2016 with a thesis titled "State within an Estate: A Political Economy Perspective on Tea Enterprise in Assam" under the guidance of John Bosco Lourdusamy. Aloy is now Doctoral Research Fellow at Darmstadt University of Technology, working as part of GLOBAL-HOT.