

# Annual Pierre du Bois Doctoral Workshop: *Seas of Change: Indian Ocean Mobilities at the End of Empire*

Organisers: Saheli Chatterjee (IHEID), Christian Jones (FU Berlin), Paul Deshusses  
(IHEID)

June 5 and 6, 2025

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## Thursday, June 5

**Welcome and Introduction**

10:00-10:30

**Room S12**

### **Panel 1**

*Bordered Lives: Migration, Citizenship, and Sovereignty across Oceans*

10:30-13:00

**Room S12**

**Aiswarya Sanath (Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur)**

Othered at Home: Statelessness and Politics of Belonging in Post-Partition Malabar

**Christian Jones (Free University of Berlin)**

The “Problem” of Dual Nationality: Chinese British Subjects facing the Global Colour  
Line, c. 1900-1955

**Cherene Aniyan (Rutgers University)**

The Protector and the Rebel: British Shipping and Decolonization in Oman, 1960-70

**Aratrika Ganguly (University of Calcutta)**

Transitioning from Coolitude to coalitude: Mapping Solidarity and Conflict in Imperial  
Mining Stories

Discussant: **Professor Bernard Keo (IHEID)**

**Lunch**

**13:00-14:30**

### **Panel 2**

*Beyond Dichotomies*

14:30-16:00

**Room S12**

**Lucas Gatignol (University of Lausanne)**

Challenging Colonial and Free Labour Conceptual Borders: Mid-20th Century  
Seychellois Migrations at the Margins of Empire

**Jodie Marshall (Washington State University)**

Seeking Lost Connections: Immobility, Gendered Social Labor, and Fractured Transnational Identities

**Paul Deshusses (IHEID)**

Ethological Methods for Recovering Oceanic Animal Histories

Discussant: **Professor Kalyani Ramnath (Columbia University)**

**Friday, June 6**

**Panel 3**

10:00-12:30

*Interpreting Burmese Pasts Post-Partition*

**Room S12**

**Noel George (London School of Economics)**

Networks of Enterprise: Displacement, Informality and 'Economic' Self-Fashioning of Burmese Returnees (1964-1995)

**Pratim Das (University of Calcutta)**

Repatriation and Resettlement: The Making of Burma Colonies in Bengal

**Saheli Chatterjee (IHEID)**

Articulating "entitlement": Repatriates navigating the Government of India's rehabilitation plans

**Azrin Afrin (University of Edinburgh)**

Present Bangladeshi Identity and Concealing Memory of Burmese Past in a 'Tin-trunk'

Discussant: **Professor Sana Aiyar (MIT)**

**Lunch**

**12:30-14:00**

**Roundtable Conversation**

**14:00-16:00**

Thinking with the Indian Ocean: Temporalities, geographies and migrant pasts

With Professors Kalyani Ramnath and Sana Aiyar

Chair: TBD (IHEID)

**Concluding Remarks**

**16:00-16:30**

**Dinner**

**19:00**