



# CENTRE FOR SOCIETY AND POLICY

*Invites you to a talk on*

## Explorations in Information Architecture for Development



**DR. CHINTAN VAISHNAV**  
Sloan School of Management  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology,  
USA

Dr. Chintan Vaishnav is a socio-technologist, an engineer trained to understand and build large-scale systems with both human as well as technological complexities. He pursues this objective at the intersection of Information Technology and Systems, Development, and Public Policy. He is a Senior Lecturer in MIT's Sloan School of Management, and serve as the Academic Director of Tata Center for Technology + Design. He is also a Visiting Faculty at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. Chintan holds a Bachelors and Masters degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering, a Masters in Technology and Policy, and a PhD in Technology, Management, and Policy (or Engineering Systems) from MIT. He also holds a bachelors degree in Indian Classical Music.

### Abstract:

In this talk, Chintan will present his research on building an information architecture that is aimed at tackling those challenges confronting severely resource-limited settings that possess both technological and human complexity.

First, what are novel ways to sense information relevant to resource-limited environments accurately, efficiently and cost-effectively? Here, Chintan will discuss his research on *QuantiSoil*, an on-farm soil-testing platform that combines ion-selectivity and machine learning to provide lab-like soil analysis on farms at very low costs.

Second, how can we communicate the information generated in such environments effectively and comprehensively? Here, Chintan will discuss his research on *Dry-sampling of Water Contaminants*; an ion exchange based transduction to dry-preserve heavy metal and arsenic in rural water sources in order to easily transport them for further laboratory testing using the postal service.

Third, how can we make decisions based on the new forms of information available about resource-limited environments? Here, Chintan will discuss his research on *Decision Support Tools for Urban Local Bodies* that are beginning to help them use the large volume of citizen data in order to simultaneously improve governance efficiency and information privacy in cities of India.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**



23 August 2019  
Friday  
4 PM – 5.30 PM



CSP Seminar Hall,  
IISc  
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Refreshments  
@ 3:30 PM