

**SEMINAR**  
**7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017: 11:00-13:00**  
**VENUE: IERI PREMISES**

**THE VIABILITY OF SYSTEMS OF INNOVATION – PERSPECTIVES FROM THE  
IBSA**

This seminar will explore the concept of viability as an assessment tool which can be applied to systems of innovation, defined broadly, at the national, supra-national and sub-national levels. Following the biological metaphor inherent in evolutionary economics, we can assess the viability of systems of innovation in terms of their ability to survive outside a host system, i.e. to be self-sustaining, to reproduce, to grow, and to mutate and evolve. The specification of the parameters of these several viability categories depends to a large extent on the type of juridical/territorial space with which a particular system is linked. The original, and still the most common, formulation of the system of innovation is tied to the sovereign (multi)nation state which forms the basic delineation of governing authority over a clearly specified political economy. Following the end of the Second World War and the end of the imperial state, the modern mosaic of sovereign states emerged and with that the increasing relevance of a wide range of interstate associations which led to the consideration of the supra-national system of innovation as an object of study. The other level at which systems of innovation may be considered is the sub-national one which may or may not be legally defined. The national system of innovation has to be assumed as given in the case of the sovereign state, as long as that sovereignty is not threatened by internal strife or cross-border military interventions. In the case of supra and sub-national systems, the legal enforcement of the system is significantly less binding.

This seminar will draw on inputs from academics from the IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) group to develop this concept with a specific focus on commonalities and specificities across the three national systems of innovation.

**Presenters:**

**Dinesh Abrol**

Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), New Delhi

**Thiago Renault**

Fundação Carlos Chagas Filho de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (FAPERJ), Rio de Janeiro

**Mario Scerri**

Institute for Economic Research on Innovation (IERI), Pretoria