

Of Resistances and their Interfaces
A Collaborative Workshop
Organised by
Calcutta Research Group
Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung
West Bengal State University, Barasat
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**Calcutta and the Making of a Popular Movement: The Anti-Tram Fare Increase Resistance
Movement, 1953**

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The presentation will focus on how Calcutta, as a city, aided mass movements and popular resistance in late 1940s and early 1950s. Eric Hobsbawm has shown in his article “Cities and Insurrections” how “structures of cities have affected popular movements”. Taking a cue from this article, this presentation will discuss how the nature of the *paras* and colonies in Calcutta, the ways the tramlines were spread in the city, the location of the colleges and the lay-out of the houses helped in sustaining a popular movement like the Tram Movement of July 1953. The paper will further argue that the success of any movement depended on how well the participants managed to use the urban infrastructure. The paper will be based on autobiographies, newspaper reports, archival sources and photographs.