

Careers in Asia Series

hosted by CAPI and the Faculty of Law

Amplifying Local Community Voices: Accountability in International Development Finance

Speaker: Siddharth Akali

Event Date: Monday, February 27, 2017

Event Time: 3:00-4:30pm

Event Location: Sedgewick C168

(across the Ring Road from the Fraser Building)

UVic law graduate Siddharth Akali (JD 2014) will discuss strategies employed by local communities around the world who find themselves [negatively affected](#) by internationally financed development projects. He will focus on one particular strategy that communities can access: filling a complaint with non-judicial (i.e. not court) complaint offices (also called accountability mechanisms, or grievance mechanisms). Siddharth will share some experiences from Accountability Counsel's [Nepal](#) and [Assam](#) cases, where communities affected by World Bank Group funded projects are defending their rights despite challenging ground realities. This will be an interactive and discussion-oriented session and Siddharth would be pleased to discuss how his law background led him to his current career path.

Speaker's bio:

[Siddharth](#) works as a South Asia Consultant for [Accountability Counsel](#), a San-Francisco based NGO, that amplifies the voice of communities around the world to protect their human rights and environment. Previously, he has practiced Aboriginal law and health law in Vancouver, unceded Coast Salish Territories, and has worked as an energy and environmental consultant to banks, energy companies, across the US and Canada. Siddharth is also a Board Member of [BankTrack](#), an international tracking, campaigning and NGO support organisation focused on private sector commercial banks and the activities they finance.