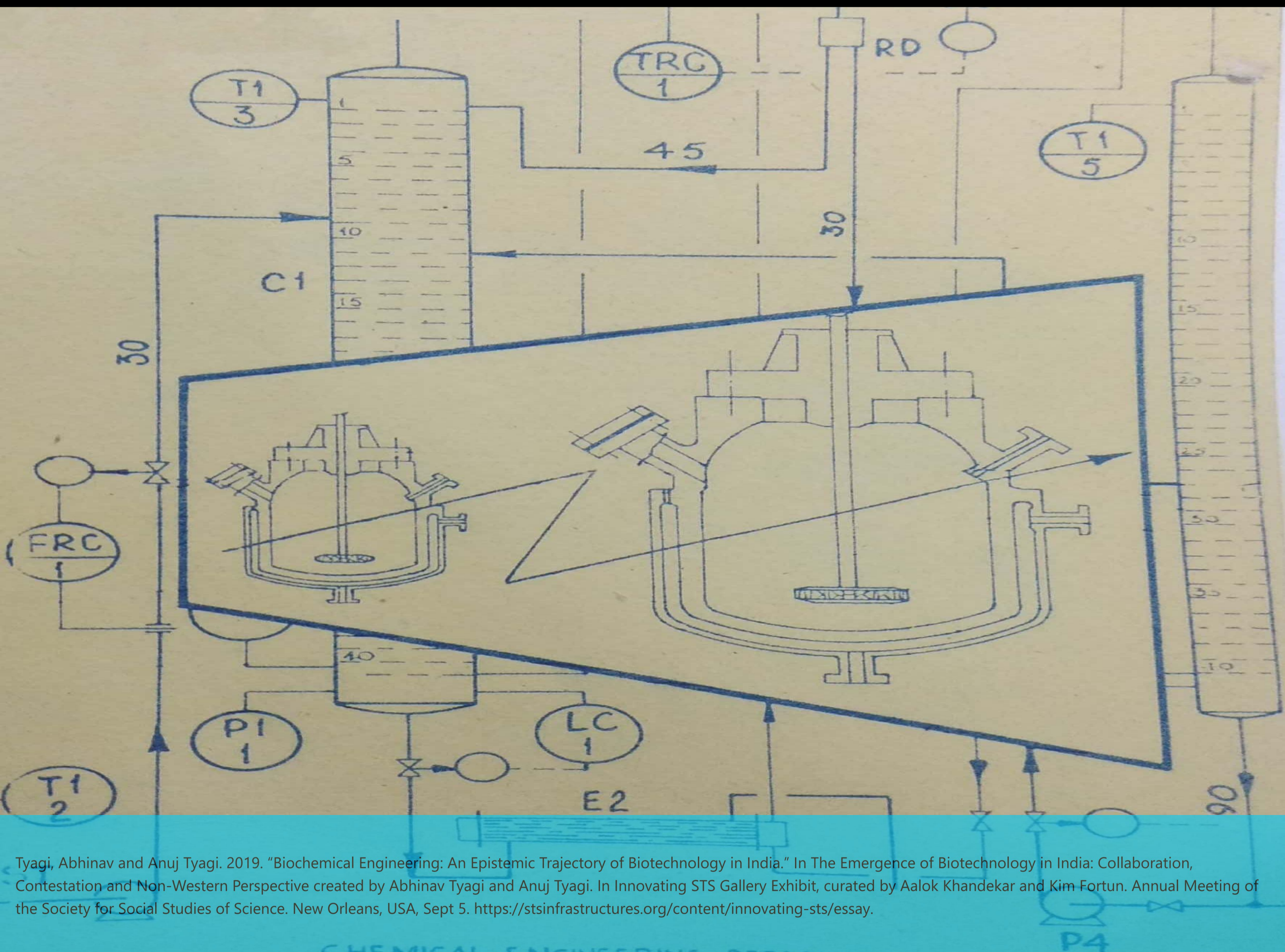


What STS innovations are being articulated?

In the Indian context, the discipline of biotechnology emerged from the intersection of the various streams of physical and biological sciences. During its inception stage, Biotechnology drew its tools, techniques and research questions from disciplines of Biochemistry, Genetics, Biochemical engineering, Physiology, and Chemistry. Beyond the hegemonic gene-centric approaches of 'west', chemical engineering coming together with biological sciences shaped the trajectory of biotechnology in India. Biochemical Engineering Research Centre (BERC henceforth) at Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India came into existence as a research cluster with the assistance from Swiss and British collaboration in 1974. Within a few years, BERC emerged as a formidable force in the areas of Biochemistry in the world. Center hosted two international conferences and led various committees on biofuels and non-conventional energy sources worldwide. This exhibit aims to depict the epistemic culture of innovation and counter-hegemonic trajectory of biotechnology in India, beyond the dominant gene-centric approaches. The exhibit aims to emphasise the role of BERC by making alterations in object-culture such as choice of technologies and design, selection of raw material and socio-cultural context of research, which eventually changed the epistemic trajectory of the discipline as a whole in the country. Through the curatorial process, exhibit further aim to complicate the dichotomous and hegemonic nature of so-called 'western' and/over 'eastern' science.

Biochemical Engineering: An Epistemic Trajectory of Biotechnology in India

The Emergence of Biotechnology in India: Collaboration, Contestation and Non-Western Perspective



Tyagi, Abhinav and Anuj Tyagi. 2019. "Biochemical Engineering: An Epistemic Trajectory of Biotechnology in India." In *The Emergence of Biotechnology in India: Collaboration, Contestation and Non-Western Perspective* created by Abhinav Tyagi and Anuj Tyagi. In *Innovating STS Gallery Exhibit*, curated by Aalok Khandekar and Kim Fortun. Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science. New Orleans, USA, Sept 5. <https://stsinfrastructures.org/content/innovating-sts/essay>.

