



हैदराबाद विश्वविद्यालय
University of Hyderabad



The Social Sciences Student

MAY 2024

Dean's Message

The academic and outreach activities and achievements of the academic units, students, faculty, research scholars, and alumni are systematically presented to various statutory bodies of the University periodically. However, the students' newsletter is exclusively their initiative and a venture that reflects their enthusiasm.

The School of Social Sciences has always had a vibrant profile with inspiring achievements. I congratulate all our students and alumni on their interventions and achievements, and wish many more in the coming times. I hope all our students and research scholars actively access the newsletter to share the milestones they have reached as well as their journeys towards the milestones in their academic endeavours. I congratulate and thank the editorial team of the Social Sciences Student on working towards recording the ongoing history of the School.

Prof. K. Suneetha Rani

Departmental Highlights and Contributions

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Paper Presentations

- Athira Kamal – Presented "Pink Ribbons on Postcolonial Bodies: Exploring the Efficacy of Early Breast Cancer Detection Strategies in Kerala, India" at the World Anthropology Union (WAU) Conference, Johannesburg (Online), November 11–15, 2024.
- Manju J Manoj – Presented "From Heroes to Pariahs: Understanding Marginality and Stigma from Kerala Coastal Community's Pandemic Narrative" at WAU Conference, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, November 11–15, 2024.



Manju J Manoj

- **Golden Jubilee Academic Writing Workshop held in three phases.(15-16 October, 12-13 November and 3-4 December)**

- **The Department of Anthropology has organized the following guest lectures in January 2025,**

Dr. Sören Köpke (University of Kassel, Germany)

Lecture: "Human–Elephant Conflict in Sri Lanka's Dry Zone: Insights from Research 2018–2023"

Date: January 22, 2025



Dr. Sumeet Jain (University of Edinburgh)

Talk: "Ethnographic Approaches in Global Mental Health Research: Challenges, Opportunities, Partnership, and Impact"

Date: January 23, 2025

Prof. Heidi E. Fjeld (University of Oslo)

Lecture: "Anthropology of Pharmaceuticals: Antimicrobial Resistance and Antibiotic Trajectories Across the Indian Ocean"

Date: January 28, 2025



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Convenor: Dr. Asima Jena

- Department organised an International Conference on “Celebrating 100 Years of Sociology in India” in April 2024 at the University.

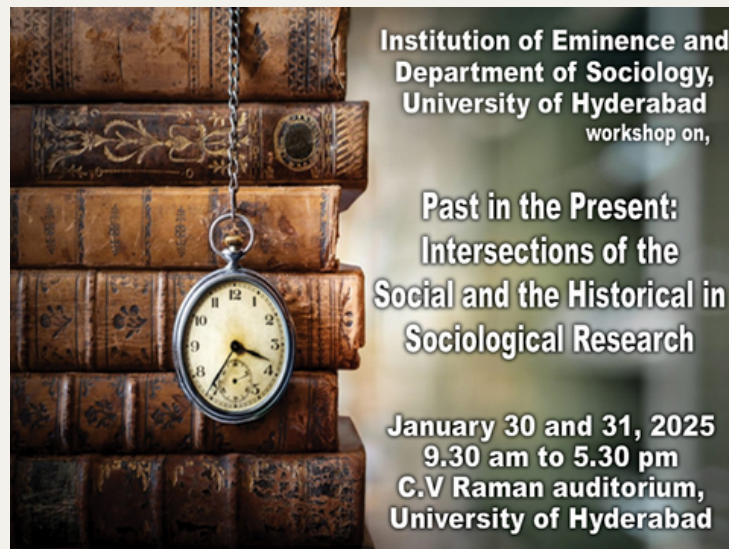


- Major International IoE Workshop on Education, Nation-Building, and Social Justice (Jan 2025).

The Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad, hosted an International Workshop on “Education, Nation-Building, and Social Justice” on January 27–28, 2025, under the IoE initiative. Bringing together scholars from India, South Africa, and the USA, the event explored the role of universities in addressing systemic inequality. Sessions addressed themes of gender, caste, disability, race, and minority rights in higher education. Discussions featured keynote talks, research presentations, and lived experiences of first-generation students. The workshop emphasized inclusion, intersectionality, and the transformative power of education in building equitable academic spaces.



- Workshop on ‘Past in the Present’ conducted on Jan 30-31, 2025.



The Department of Sociology, in collaboration with the Institution of Eminence, organized a two-day national workshop on “Past in the Present” (Jan 30–31, 2025). The event explored the role of historical inquiry in understanding contemporary socio-political realities through interdisciplinary dialogue. It brought together historians, sociologists, political theorists, and anthropologists from leading institutions such as JNU, DU, SAU, IIT-Bombay, and others. The sessions critically examined the historical foundations of modern institutions and ideologies, emphasizing the value of historical sociology in South Asian research contexts.



Distinguished Visitors to the Department

S.NO	Name	Title of Lecture/Webinar	Date
1	Prof. Sanjay Srivastava	Rethinking Sovereignty: New Land Markets and Aspirations	30 Sep 2024
2	Prof. Sanjay Srivastava	Screening of 'SURVEY CITY'	01 Oct 2024
3	Dr. Anindita Mazumdar	Tailoring your Writing for Social Science Publication	03 Oct 2024
4	Dr. Divya Vaid	Interactive session with Research Scholars	18 Oct 2024
5	Dr. Sowjanya Tamalapakula	Sexual Entertainment Market in India	14 Nov 2024
6	Goethe Zentrum	Catrine Val (German feminist photographer)	25 Nov 2024
7	Dr. Pranay K Swain	Perceptions about Science and Scientists	16 Jan 2025
8	Dr. Antony Palackal	ICT Revolution and Digital Synopticon	29 Jan 2025
9	Prof. Ursula Rao	The Great Indian Health Insurance Experiment	10 Feb 2025
10	Prof. Ursula Rao	Interactive Session	11 Feb 2025
11	Prof. Faizan Mustafa	Rights of Linguistic and Religious Minorities	20 Feb 2025

STUDENT AND FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Paper Presentations

- Rajiandai Bariam – Presented at an international conference on Naga society (Guwahati & Oxford).
- Shamshad Bashir – Presented in Vienna and London on Kashmir and resistance politics.
- Shahila A & Akash M – Presented on student consumer behaviour in platform economy (Bangalore).
- Ronjinee Chattopadhyay – Presented at Jamia, LSR, and Christ University on class, identity, and digital culture.
- Aniruddha Naik – Awarded JSS Travel Award 2024; presented at Japan Sociological Society, Kyoto.
- Resma Samal – Multiple presentations and participations in national and international workshops including ICSSR-sponsored methodology course.

Publications and Other Achievements

- Mukkera Arun Kumar – Published chapter on Farmer Producer Organisations in edited book.
- Suvolaxmi Chakraborty & Sohag Mukhopadhyay – Academic toppers in UG programs.
- Sravya Amar – Winner of quiz and essay competitions organized by CIS.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Academic Presentations and Conferences

- Joshua T Khare (PhD): Presented a paper titled "A Comparative Analysis of China and India's Climate Diplomacy" at the University of Melbourne, Australia.
- Shubham Kumar (MA 1st Year): Presented a paper titled "Digital Payments, Financial Inclusion and Social Inequality in India" at the 49th All India Sociological Conference, BML Munjal University.
- Blessy Mathew (PhD): Presented a paper titled "Politics of Refugee Policy in India: Mapping the Rohingya Experience" at the 4th Annual International Migration Conference, Department of Politics and International Studies, Pondicherry University.
- Mohammad Hanan (MA 1st Year): Presented a paper titled "Precarity and Gig Economy: Examining Youth Employment in Contemporary India" at the All India National Scholar's Conference on Political Economy, University of Hyderabad.
- Amritha V (MA 2nd Year): Presented "Maritime Cyber-security in the Indo-Pacific" at the International Conference on The Indo-Pacific in an Era of Changing Power Dynamics, organized by GITAM University, CEAS-JNU, and Taiwan in India.
- Anamika P K (MA 2nd Year): Presented "Navigating Climate Action: India's Evolving Regional Leadership To Mitigate Climate Crisis For A Sustainable Indo-Pacific" at the same international conference.
- Ashmita Sharma (PhD): Presented "No voices from the valley: Coverage of the Abrogation of Kashmir's Special Status" (online) on 12th December 2024, hosted by the Brussels Institute for Journalism Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussel.
- Chiangmong Khamniungan (PhD): Presented "'The State is an Artificial Person': Ambedkar on the Nature of the State" on 10 September 2024 at the British Association of South Asian Studies (BASAS) Annual Conference, King's India Institute, King's College London..

- Amal Jose Philip (PhD): Presented "Centralisation of Welfare Credit Attribution in 2019 Indian General Elections" at BASAS 2024, King's College London.
- Emlin Thomson (PhD): Presented "Political Competition and Party Contact" at BASAS 2024, King's College London.
- Ganeshwar (PhD): Presented "Democracy Contra Nationalism: A Postcolonial Dilemma in Dr Ambedkar's Thought" at The Ambedkar and Community: Minor Figurations and Comparative Mediations Conference, University of Hyderabad.
- Nandini Das (MA 1st Year): Presented "An Emerging Space: Building a Psychological Sociogram of Human-Non-Human Interactions to Locate Rural Shops in Government Network" at a Two-day National Seminar organized by Andhra University, sponsored by ICSSR-SRC.

Publications

- Satyaki Barua (PhD): Published a review titled "A Stew of Memoirs, Reportage and Fieldnotes" on Siddhartha Roy's *The Company of Violent Men*, in *The Book Review*, Vol. 49 (2), pp. 37–38, February 2025.

Workshops, Seminars, and Fellowships

- Athul T. Dharan (MA 2nd Year): Participated in the International Summer School titled "Moving to the Threshold: Global Nuclear Trends", organized by Odesa Centre for Non-Proliferation and the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority at Malta.
- Ayan Dutta (MA 2nd Year): Participated in the NIAS-CEAP Young Scholars Workshop on "China in South Asia", jointly organized by NIAS-Bengaluru and Centre for South Asian Studies, Pondicherry University. Moreover, he also participated in the Fourth Annual NIAS-IPRI Residential Workshop on "Contemporary Conflicts" hosted by the same institutions.

- Blessy Mathew (PhD): Selected for the International Winter School Fellowship on Feminist Foreign Policy, organized by The Asia Foundation, IMPRI Centre for International Relations and Strategic Studies, and IMPRI Impact and Policy Research Institute (Oct–Dec 2024).

Internships and Policy Engagement

- Parth Lathiya (MA 2nd Year): Completed a two-month internship (Nov–Dec 2024) at Neeti Varta Institute of Policy Research, contributing to a research project on state-level health governance indicators.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Student Publications

Himani

- Published: "Reinterpreting the Ancient Art: Issues with Methodology and Terminology", in Proceedings of the Indian History Congress, 83rd Session, Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab, 2024.
- Contributed chapter to the book "Lori Traditions of India", IGNCA, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi, 2024.

Ujjwal Yadav (PhD)

- Published: "Donating Inscriptions at Kanaganahalli: Perspectives from Epigraphic Evidence", in Proceedings of the Indian History Congress, 82nd Session, Aligarh, 2024.

Debankita Das (PhD)

- Published: "Mapping the Goṇḍrama Territory and the Emergence of a Local Polity", in Proceedings of the Indian History Congress, 82nd Session, 2023.

Y. Shiva Shankar Kumar

- Published: "Festivals and Epigraphs: Donors, Temples and Social Cohesion", in Studies in Indian Epigraphy (Bhāratīya Purābhilēkhā Patrikā), a peer-reviewed journal.

Participation in Academic Conferences, Seminars & Workshops

Himani

- Paper: "From Pre-ceramic to Early Bronze Age: A Study of Anthropomorphic Figurines of Mehrgarh", Pondicherry World History Congress, 2024.
- Invited Lecture: "The Anthropomorphic Terracotta Figurines of the Harappan Civilization", GITAM, Bengaluru, 2024.

Ujjwal Yadav

- Paper: "Of Monks, Nuns, and Permanent Endowments: A Study of Kanheri Inscriptions", 26th EASAA Conference, Leipzig, Germany

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Debankita Das

Presented at:

- 2nd International Society for Regional History Conference, JNU, New Delhi.
- 12th Biennial IAAPS Conference, Sambalpur, Odisha.
- Research Methodology Workshop, UoH.
- International Workshop on Cultural Perspectives of Environmental Change, Chiang Mai University, Thailand.
- IIGRS 14, Toyo University, Tokyo, Japan.

Anjana M Nair

- Paper: "Transcultural Encounters of Religious Objects in Transit", 13th ICAS, Surabaya, Indonesia, 2024.

Tania Sharma

- Paper: "The Lasting Effects of Colonialism on Non-European Societies", 43rd South Indian History Congress, Kerala.
- "Reimagining Tradition in Early Medieval Western Europe", 83rd IHC, Patiala.

Rizvan P S

- Paper: "Mapping Early Historical Sites of Tamilakam", Workshop on GIS in Archaeology, IIT Gandhinagar, 2024.

Titas Sarkar

- Papers: "Situating the Paper Trade in Early Medieval Gujarat-China Networks", 12th IAAPS, Sambalpur.
- "Merchants and Sacred Spaces in Western India", 83rd IHC, Patiala.

Awards and Distinctions

Debankita Das

- Dr. Gyaneshwari Jaiswal Memorial Prize for Best Paper at the 83rd IHC, Patiala (for a paper presented in the 82nd session, Warangal).

Shahifa P V

- Qualified for UGC Junior Research Fellowship (January 2025), awarded by UGC-NET.

DEPARTMENT OF FOLK CULTURE STUDIES

Appointment

Ms. Amphu Terangpi (17SFPH02), a research scholar under Prof. Y.A. Sudhakar Reddy, has been appointed as Assistant Professor at the School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She joined the post on 21st October 2024. Congratulations to Ms. Terangpi on this remarkable achievement!



Presentations and Conferences

Dhruba Nanda Roy

- Young Scholars Seminar (5th September 2024): Presented “From flood to fertility: Water and metamorphosis of the Manasā myth in Assam” at the CFCS Conference Hall. The paper traced the evolution of the Manasā cult in western Assam, exploring themes of Sanskritization, water symbolism, and the interplay between myth and the natural environment.



- 15th SIEF RYManila Conference 2024 (11–13 December 2024, University of the Philippines, Diliman): Presented “Sin or Sacrality: Mediating Alcohol in the life of Assam.” This research focused on the cultural symbolism of alcohol, spiritual beliefs, and traditional rice beer practices of various communities in Assam.
- SIEF Congress 2025 (Upcoming) (3–6 June 2025, University of Aberdeen, UK): Selected to present “The Yellow of Agitation: The memory of colours by the Koch-Rajbongshi women of Assam through Patani.” This paper analyzes the traditional attire "Patani" as a marker of memory and identity amidst the ST movement, with emphasis on oral narratives and cultural-political symbolism

Workshops, Coordination & Cultural Engagement

Dhruba Nanda Roy

- Attended the Academic Writing Workshop conducted by the School of Social Sciences for CFCS and the Department of History.
- Coordinated a one-day colloquium with Sreerag T.P titled “Fitness Culture: Life and Lore’s (Artistic and Academic Perspectives).”



- Curated and performed Bihu folk dance with guest artists from Assam at Folk Fest 2025 (23–24 January 2025).
- Appointed Student Coordinator for the 2nd International Young Folklorist Virtual Conference in collaboration with CFCS and CFSR on the theme “Sustaining the Folk: An introspection into preserving and reserving the lores for the future,” scheduled for 28–30 March 2025.

Editorial Board

- Editor-in-Chief: Goudam Sivalal
- Editorial Team: Maria Rania Joseph, Goudam Sivalal
- Design & Layout: Goudam Sivalal
- Patron: Prof. Suneetha Rani, Dean, School of Social Sciences



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