

SCHOOL OF HUMAN STUDIES (SHS)

SHS is an exploratory, interdisciplinary space for thinking and reflecting on the myriad meanings of being human. Academic programmes housed in the School focus as much on the promise and potential of the human, as on actual historical exclusions and marginalization.

PH.D. PSYCHOLOGY

The School of Human Studies at Ambedkar University Delhi is an explorative space where a self-critical version of psychological enquiry is encouraged even as the psyche is kept in the forefront of engagement and empathic imagination. In keeping with the philosophy and central concerns for which the School of Human Studies stands, the doctoral programme in Psychosocial Studies too is guided by a vision. Its method is to retain ethical engagement with forms of life and cultural modes of being that are rendered invisible and voiceless by the dominant discourses and politico-social structures and processes. Moreover, a psychosocial framework of research is facilitated by a concern about relating to nuances of human subjectivity and an attempt to feel the psychic recesses, dilemmas, resilience, life choices and conflicts in the participant's inner world. Guided by a critical perspective that constantly seeks to question both knowledge and power—questioning given structures within the discipline of psychology as also outside, historicizing/sociologizing knowledge, and orienting towards an inter-subjective world view within which affects, feelings and the phenomenological flow of life are received—the programme seeks to generate in the participants a nuanced sensibility to facilitate their clinical-critical, participatory and dialogical work.

In such research, the self of the researcher serves as an instrument through which processes of interpretation and meaning making are filtered, even as the momentum of work oscillates between recognition of self-reflexive moments (in the researcher and to an extent in also the participant) in which awareness of “sameness and otherness” leads to a deepening and broadening of human relatedness. Research in this mode welcomes the possible avenues through which the unknown (often preserved as the ‘excess’ and the ‘initially incomprehensible’ in the data) gradually unfolds in significance within the relational space between the researcher and the researched.

Serving life and its struggles, and focusing on qualitative work wherein sustained engagement is valued and the transformative potentials in the self of the researcher and researched are opened up, the doctoral programme will acquaint students with thinkers and researchers whose efforts are in line with the above objectives. It will also help to hone the skills of future practitioners to ask searching questions in clinical and cultural domains. It shall teach them to read texts with a critical, clinical and political focus, to meditate on fieldwork and chosen methodological perspectives, and to situate their own work within a culturally relevant perspective. Courses help participants enter into the layers of human subjectivity, the formation of the psyche, the body and the soma. The participants shall appreciate the genesis of the psyche as emerging from ‘our ‘being babies and having ‘mothers and fathers’, to critiquing gender, interrogating cultures and empathically understanding the world of historical survivors. In that sense, the programme will be a space for critical reflection on the triad critical-clinical-cultural. In particular, a course on ‘Reading Texts’ from a methodological perspective will prepare candidates to develop their respective research proposals by acquainting them with research/writing which is not only grounded in the empirical tradition but also animated by a searching

theoretical perspective. Orientations from literature, history, politics, disability studies, sociology and anthropology will be intricately interwoven into the curriculum, just as narratives, life histories, psychobiographies and case studies will suggest directions for work to be undertaken.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Total Credits: 20 credits for taught courses and PhD thesis

Nature of programme: Interdisciplinary (drawing from psychoanalysis, clinical psychology, psychohistory, disability studies, sociology, political thought, anthropology, literature, cinema, arts and aesthetics, history and philosophy)

COURSES

The total pool of courses on offer for PhD Psychology (Psycho-Social Studies) is the following:

1. Reading Texts: A Methodological Focus (4 Credits)
2. Culture, Subjectivity and Psychoanalysis: The Politics of (Secret) Selves in Colonial India (4 Credits)
3. Critical Cultural Psychology (4 Credits)
4. Subjectivity, Life history and the Psyche: Researching into the world of survivors (4 credits).
5. On Mutuality in Research Thinking (4 credits)
6. An allied course from Anthropology, Sociology, Gender Studies, Literature, Film Studies, History, Philosophy or any other Discipline which meets the research interests of the candidate (4credits)
7. Guided Reading Course
8. Pro Seminar

Course work requirements:

1. Course No.1 is compulsory.
2. A candidate may opt for any four (4) courses from amongst 2 to 6.
3. Course 7 and 8 are optional. If a candidate undertakes a Guided Reading course or organizes a non-credited pro seminar in consultation with the faculty, it will be appropriately noted on their doctoral transcript but not counted in the overall calculation of the Grade Point Average (GPA).

Every candidate would have to successfully complete at least five, 4-credit courses (i.e. 20 credits in all). A candidate must earn minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of B to fulfill the course work requirements.

The PhD course work is normally of two semesters' duration.

ADMISSION PROCEDURE

Admission procedure for PhD Psychology will comprise of three stages:

- Research Proposal
- Written Test
- Interview

APPLICATION FEE

As per University norms

Medium of Instruction: English

Nature of Programme: Interdisciplinary

Number of Seats 2017- 10 seats

Eligibility: Masters with 55% in Psychology and allied disciplines

Fee: As per University norms

Stipend: As per University norms

Reservation of Seats: In accordance with Government of NCT Delhi rules

ONLINE APPLICATION

Opens: 5 June 2017; Closes: 10 July, 2017

SELECTION DATES

- **Research Proposal Submission:** Latest by 10 July, 2017 (at Office of School of Human Studies, Ambedkar University Delhi)
- **Entrance test:** 8 August, 2017
- **Interview:** 11 August, 2017

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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Ph.D. Psychology
School of Human Studies



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