

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi
Shodhotsav: Third Annual Research Festival

National Conference for Young Scholars
On
Understanding the Social: Theories, Methods and Practices
22 and 23 August 2023

Concept Note

Overview:

Social sciences and humanities research aims to understand the complex and dynamic nature of the human world and societies. Social sciences and humanities research methods, theories, and approaches are diverse and constantly evolving and changing. As researchers in the field of social sciences and humanities increasingly engage in-depth with complex and intersectional social realities, the methodological boundaries in the conventional knowledge formations have become porous. The methods that have been central to the identity of the core social science and humanities disciplines are changing and thereby also indicating transitions in the epistemological orientations across knowledge domains.

The conference "Understanding the Social: Theories, Methods and Practices" seeks to bring together young scholars, researchers, and practitioners to explore wide ranging themes across social sciences and humanities and make-sense of the emerging directions and implications for social inquiry. The conference aims to provide a platform for sharing research work, experiences, insights, and practices using diverse social science research methods. It seeks to promote dialogue and collaboration among young scholars across disciplinary formations on the intersecting themes, nature of inquiry, and methodological challenges and possibilities for engaging with the social.

Objectives:

The conference's main objectives are:

- To reflect on the emerging directions in social science and humanities research
- To engage with a wide range of themes in social science and humanities research
- To explore the interplay and intersections between different theories, research methods, and approaches in social science and humanities research
- To explore emerging research methods and approaches that can address emerging social issues
- To discuss ethical issues and challenges in social science research

Conference Themes:

The conference invites research studies on different topics that engage with theories, methods and practices from all domains of social sciences and humanities organised under the following themes:

Qualitative Research Methods: The theme will explore on various qualitative research methods, such as ethnography, case studies, interviews, and focus groups. The discussion will focus on the strengths and limitations of these methods, their applicability in different social contexts, and their role in generating new theoretical insights.

Quantitative Research Methods: This theme will explore various quantitative research methods, such as surveys, experiments, and statistical analysis. The discussion will focus on the strengths and limitations of these methods, their applicability in different social contexts, and their role in testing and refining existing theories.

Mixed-Methods Research: This theme will explore the use of mixed-methods research designs that combine qualitative and quantitative methods. The discussion will focus on the benefits and challenges of using mixed-methods approaches, their role in triangulating research findings, and their potential for generating new insights.

Critical Social Science: This theme will explore various critical social science approaches, such as feminism, postcolonialism, and critical race theory. The discussion will focus on the role of critical social science in challenging dominant social norms and power structures, and its potential for promoting social justice.

Emerging Research Methods: This theme will explore innovative research methods and approaches that can address emerging social issues, such as digital ethnography, visual methods, and participatory research. The discussion will focus on the strengths and limitations of these methods, their applicability in different social contexts, and their potential for generating new insights.

Ethics in Social Science Research: This theme will explore ethical issues and challenges in social science and humanities research, such as informed consent, confidentiality, and power dynamics between researchers and participants.

Expected Outcomes:

The conference is expected to generate the following outcomes:

- An understanding of the broad directions of social science and humanities research in terms of theories, methods and practices
- Insights into the interplay and intersectionality(/ies) between different research methods, theories, and approaches

- Exploration of emerging research methods and approaches that can address emerging social issues
- Discussion of ethical issues and challenges in social science research and practices for ensuring ethical conduct.

Target Audience:

The conference is open to scholars, researchers, and practitioners from various social science and humanities disciplines and domains, including philosophy, sociology, history, anthropology, political science, economics, psychology, language and literature, creative expressions, education, law, gender studies, development studies, ecology, design, management, and others. It is specifically aimed at doctoral students and early-career researchers and practitioners.

Call for Abstracts:

Abstracts for the Conference are invited doctoral students and early-career researchers and practitioners. The word limit for the abstracts is 250 words. The abstracts will be received only through the online form available at: <https://forms.gle/WFjoGQwPHRgZPe1J9>. The participants whose abstracts are selected will be notified by email by 20 June 2023.

Last Date for Abstract Submission:

11 June 2023

Paper submission:

The selected participants must submit their completed papers by 23 July 2023 through the online submission form that will be circulated with the email confirming the acceptance of the abstract. The word limit for the papers is 5000 to 6000 words (excluding references).

Mode of Organisation:

This will be a place-based conference that will be organised at AUD. No accommodation or travel allowance will be provided. Refreshments will be provided to the participants.

[Note: Only in exceptional circumstances on request with clearly stated reasons stated few requests for online presentation may be considered.]

Conference Fee: There is no conference fee for the participants enrolled in the AUD programmes of study. For all other participants, Rs. 800/- will be payable towards registration fee after the acceptance of the abstract.