



Education in India: Violent Desires, Exclusionary Tendencies and Transformative Potentials
A Two-Day Conference

Organizers

Centre for Writing and Pedagogy, Krea University
Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad

Coordinators

Pushpesh Kumar
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Adjunct Faculty, Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad

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Funding

Transforming Education for Sustainable Futures – India
Indian Institute of Human Settlements



Dates

26-27 May 2023



Concept Note

Darshan Solanki, an 18-year old undergraduate student at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, died by suicide earlier this year. When seen in the context of other such deaths in recent times – that of Aniket Ambhore, Madari Venkatesh, Rohith Vemula, Payal Tadv, S Anitha, Aarvey Malhotra and several others – what emerges is a picture of education in India that not only excludes people from marginalized backgrounds, but also actively expunges those who make it into these otherwise gate-kept spaces. Thus, education institutions in India, through necropolitical mechanisms, make disposable certain bodies and identities in an attempt to preserve Brahminical, gendered and ableist ideals of merit and meritocracy. What begs critical inquiry is that educational institutions (re)produce their necropolitics against the backdrop of affirmative action policies – including reservation policies – targeting the inclusion of different marginalized groups. This compels one to ask how affirmative action policies, often a result of decades of negotiations between marginalized groups and the neoliberal nation state, intersect and are undone by historical, social and political violences that undergird education institutions. Against this backdrop, this two-day conference brings together scholars, activists and practitioners to think critically about the intensification of identity and community questions in the context of education research and practice in India.

Additionally, it is becoming increasingly recognized within education scholarship that marginalized groups and standpoints must be foregrounded to undo historical and structural injustices against them. This shift in concerns of education as a discipline presents an opportunity to discuss and deliberate on the ways in which questions of identity relate to questions of epistemology, and the ways in which intersectional and political solidarities offer ways to transform education research and practice. This theme also speaks to the global goals of reimagining and decolonizing education, and foregrounds how identity and community perspectives shape a decolonial vision of emancipatory education.

Invited participants to this conference are expected to engage with the following themes, although this list is indicative rather than limiting:

- (a) What are the structural, epistemic and ontological mechanisms that go into the (re)production of education as necropolitical spaces?
- (b) What interventions at the levels of curriculum and pedagogy can enable the foregrounding of marginalized standpoints and epistemologies in the context of education in India?
- (c) What does focusing on identity and community questions contribute to education research and practice, especially in the context of the National Education Policy 2020?
- (d) What role does political solidarity play in the reimagination of education in India?
- (e) What contemporary themes in education research and practice connect and cross-talk with global concerns of decolonizing education?

This two-day conference will invite presentations to deliberate on the themes above. Further, researchers involved in the project “(Trans)Forming Science: Towards a Trans-Inclusive Science Higher Education in India” will present findings from their research in a dedicated panel.



Link to register for the conference:

<https://forms.gle/51K3gvEM85L2F1qY7>

Schedule

Day 1 (26 May 2023; 10:00 - 5:00 PM)

Time	Event
10:00 - 10:05 AM	Welcome address and about the Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad (<i>Prof. Suneetha Rani, Head, Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad</i>)
10:05 - 10:10 AM	Welcome address and about the Centre for Writing and Pedagogy, Krea University (<i>Dr. Anannya Dasgupta, Director, Centre for Writing and Pedagogy, Krea University</i>)
10:10 - 10:20 AM	About the conference (<i>Prof. Pushpesh Kumar, Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad & Adjunct Faculty, Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad</i>)
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Keynote lecture 1 (<i>Prof. Poonam Batra, Professor of Education, University of Delhi; Co-Investigator and India Lead, Transforming Education for Sustainable Futures</i>)
12:00 - 12:10 PM	Tea Break
12:10 - 12:55 PM	Invited presentation (<i>Dr. Swati Dyahadroy, Assistant Professor, Women's Studies Centre, Savitribai Phule Pune University</i>)
12:55 - 02:00 PM	Lunch Break
02:00 - 02:45 PM	Invited presentation (<i>Grace Banu, Transgender- and Dalit-Rights Activist</i>)
02:50 - 3:35 PM	Invited presentation (<i>Dr. Renny Thomas, Assistant Professor of Sociology & Social Anthropology, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IISER Bhopal</i>)
03:40 - 04:25 PM	Invited presentation (<i>Raina Roy, Trans Activist & Founding Director of Samabhabona & Dr. Ayush Gupta, Associate Professor of Science Education, Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education</i>)
04:30 - 05:00 PM	Open Discussion



Day 2 (27 May 2023; 10:00 - 5:30 PM)

Time	Event
10:00 - 10:05 AM	Welcome address and warm-up
10:15 - 11:45 AM	Keynote lecture 2 (<i>Prof. Gita Chadha, Visiting Professor, Azim Premji University</i>)
11:45 AM - 12:30 PM	Invited presentation (<i>Dr. Anagha Tambe, Head, Women's Studies Centre, Savitribai Phule Pune University</i>)
12:30 - 2:00 PM	Lunch Break
02:00 - 02:45 PM	Invited presentation (<i>Nabamita Samanta, Research Scholar, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, on behalf of Ambedkar Periyar Phule Study Circle, IIT-Bombay</i>)
02:45 - 03:00 PM	Tea Break
03:00 - 03:30 PM	(Trans)Forming Science: Dissemination Presentation (<i>Principal Investigator: Sayantan Datta, Faculty, Centre for Writing and Pedagogy, Krea University</i>)
03:30 - 04:00 PM	
04:00 - 04:30 PM	
04:30 - 05:00 PM	
05:00 - 05:30 PM	Open Discussion

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