Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi

Research and Development Division

Shodhotsav: Fifth Annual Research Festival

Call for Papers

Time, Space and Knowledge: Doing Research in Social Sciences and Humanities

(One Day National Conference for Young Researchers)

19 September (Friday) 2025

Concept Note

Time and space as categories have long served as fundamental coordinates for understanding the world and human existence. Knowledge—its production, transmission, and contestation—is deeply embedded in spatio-temporal contexts. From the linearity of historical narratives to the cyclical rhythms of ecological time, from the spatial politics of territory and migration to the architecture of digital knowledge systems, this triad—Time, Space, and Knowledge—offers fertile ground for critical inquiry across disciplines.

Academia in recent decades have consistently been focusing on cross-cutting issues, which have blurred the boundaries between the social sciences, humanities and natural sciences, urging a rethinking of how we engage with disciplines, and build concepts and insights that are inter- and trans-disciplinary in nature. This conference seeks to create an opportunity for young researchers to explore the complex entanglements of time, space, and knowledge from multiple disciplinary and epistemological vantage points. On the other hand, to borrow from Immanuel Wallerstein's approach - time, space and knowledge connect the empirical with the 'thinking', 'unthinking' and 'restructuring' in social sciences, and thus help to move beyond the conventional idea of doing research in a discipline specific subject. In this, the world system analysis framework is useful for understanding the interconnectedness of events, episodes, phenomenon, social and political dynamics, processes and historical patterns in a global context.

Keeping in line with the current trends and developments in the academic environment, it is imperative that multidisciplinary research around areas of relevance is encouraged. While the intended objective of the conference is encouragement of knowledge production through the

application of innovative ideas and cutting edge methods, the aim is to allow free dialogue among scholars, researchers and practitioners on cross-cutting issues and address the interconnectedness of spatio-temporalities.

Envisioned as a dynamic and inclusive platform for emerging researchers, early career academics, and postgraduate students, the Young Researchers Conference invites them to present their work under any of the following broad themes to engage in critical dialogue and build intellectual networks across disciplines.

Key Themes:

(1) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): While SDGs are globally endorsed, critical scholarship often raises questions like -How is development measured? Are SDGs achievable within current global power structures? Whose development is prioritised? What are the global and local development challenges?

(2) Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Society: What is AI? How does it challenge our understanding of cognition and consciousness? How does it reflect the progression of time in human society? What kind of knowledge production are we anticipating from AI?

(3) Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge Systems: What is traditional? What is indigenous? What is the contemporary relevance of these knowledge systems? How to examine power dynamics in knowledge production and circulation?

(4) Languages, Literatures and Art Forms in contemporary India: How cultural expressions become critical sites for negotiating identity, resistance, memory, and social change? What is the role of language and literature in shaping contemporary Indian identities? How do you understand the intersections between traditional and contemporary art forms? How do you assess the impact of digital media on literary and artistic expressions in contemporary India?

(5) Communities and Cultures in Transition: How are communities responding to socio-cultural, environmental, and economic transitions in a globalised world? How do you understand the impact of migration, displacement, and globalization on community identities? What happens to the cultural practices, rituals, and collective memory as societies experience transformation due to globalization, urbanization, climate change, migration, political shifts, and technological advancements?

(6) Health and Well-being: As health and well-being have emerged as critical concerns in the contemporary world, what is the role of socio-cultural, economic, and environmental factors in shaping health outcomes? How would you assess the effectiveness of public policies in healthcare systems, and community well-being? How would you evaluate the intersectionality in the healthcare system?

(7)   Interrogating Gender and Social Structures: Gender being a deeply contested and dynamic category, how would you engage with the complex and evolving relationships between gender and various social institutions?

(8)   Challenges and Perspectives in Education: How do you rethink equity and access in education? What happens to the future of the classroom teaching/learning with digital intervention in education like AI? How would you define alternative pedagogy in education?

(9)   Business and Management for Social Development: What do you understand by social entrepreneurship? Do you think corporate social responsibility can help achieve sustainable development goals? In what way ethical management and leadership in business can lead to social transformation? Can business practices contribute to inclusive and sustainable development?

(10)   History and Historical Thinking: What is Historical Thinking? History being seen as the study of the past, how is it relevant in understanding the contemporary challenges like climate change, the phenomenon of global migration and mobility, inequality, etc.? What are the issues/challenges/advantages in the study of history with the advent of advanced technology?

Who Can Participate?

1. The Young Scholars' Conference 2025 invites submissions from students and researchers across disciplines in the fields of Social Sciences.
2. The conference is open to young researchers including MA graduates, post-graduates and MPhil/PhD scholars from any discipline relevant to the conference theme.
3. There can be multiple authors for a paper submission; however, the lead/ first author should be a young researcher as defined above and only the lead/ first author will be considered for the prize/ best paper.
4. In case of multiple authors, individual authors will have to register separately for the conference.

Timelines

Submission of abstracts: 18th August 2025

Notification of accepted abstracts: 27th August 2025

Registration for the conference: 4th September 2025

Submission of full papers (5000—8000 words): 10th September 2025

Date of conference: 19th September 2025

Registration Fee

1. There is no registration fee for any currently enrolled student of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD) or any graduate (alumni) from any programme of the university.
2. For all non-AUD participants, the registration fee is Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred Only) only. This includes the cost of conference kit and meals on the day of the conference.
3. There is no provision for meeting the costs of accommodation and/or travel for outstation presenters. Presenters must bear their own costs.

Prizes

A jury composed of experts will select the best paper from each thematic panel of the conference and the overall best conference paper, based on the presentation by the young scholar and the full paper submission. Original, high-quality papers which advance knowledge in a particular field/ thematic will be considered for the best paper prizes. The lead/ first author for the best paper in a panel will be awarded Rs. 1500/- and the lead/ first author for the best conference paper will be awarded Rs. 5000/-.

Guidelines for Abstract Submission

1. The maximum word limit for the abstract is 500 words. The abstract should clearly include the research objectives/ goals, theoretical framework, research methodology and main findings.
2. Submissions must be in English and follow a standard academic referencing style such as APA, MLA, or equivalent.
3. The deadline for abstract submission is **18th August 2025 (11:59 PM)**.
4. Abstracts are to be submitted online via the Google Form: https://forms.gle/BNDJ8YHczDztJyaT9

For any queries, write to: shodhotsav@aud.ac.in with the subject line [Young Researcher's conference]