

Academic Seminar Summary
School of Global Affairs
B.R. Ambedkar University in Delhi

“Indigenous Knowledge Systems as Epistemic Emancipation”

Date: 8 October 2025

Time: 11.00 am.

Venue: Room No. 117

Prof. Stephanie Cawood, Director, Centre for Gender and Africa Studies, University of Free State, South Africa, delivered a talk titled “*Indigenous Knowledge Systems as Epistemic Emancipation*”

Prof. Cawood through her talk examined what decolonizing knowledge may mean by critiquing the perception of modern science as disembodied monoculture using the concept by De Sousa Santos of an ‘ecology of knowledges’ to enable multiple ways of knowing and engaging with the environment. In an ‘ecology of knowledges,’ indigenous knowledge becomes a legitimate means for articulating human experience, social and natural dynamics. Through her talk, she further discussed how Indigenous knowledge systems, deeply embedded in Africa’s cultural heritage, oral traditions, and memory.



