



Miranda House

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Departmental Annual Report - 3

Departmental Activities: Curriculum and Beyond

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Departmental Activities: Curriculum and Beyond

Department: Sociology

Year: 2017-18

Department Society and Office bearers:

President	Ahana Ray
Vice-President	Mandeep Kaur
Treasurer	Yashika Rana,
General Secretary	Tanya Rose Rao
Joint Secretary	Rishta Prasad
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Staff Advisors:

Sociology Society Incharge

Dr. Reema Bhatia

Dr. Binu Sundas

Dr. Anasua Chatterjee

Department Library Incharge

Dr. M. Kamminthang



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Part B.1

Seminars/conferences/workshops conducted by the Department

Sn. No	Name of the workshop/seminar/conference	Number of Participants	Date	Relevant Document
1.	Untouchability Compared: Political Experiences of Burakumin in Japan and Dalits (Adijans) in South India	100	1 st August, 2017	<p>BURAKUMINS: THE SCENT OF DESPAIR</p> <p>-Tamdin Wangmoa, 1st Year</p> <p>Dr. Aya Ikegame, a professor at the University of Tokyo graced the Sociology department of Miranda House with her presence on the 1st of August, 2017. She focused on the effective comparison between the sensitive issues of the Dalits in India and the Burakumins in Japan.</p> <p>The Dalits and Burakumins are both subjected to the same inhumane acts of discrimination, isolation, and pollution, but the degree of intensity is different. What the Burakumins experience is far less tragic than the Dalits of India. But the point she made here is that the hardship is something a human should have to go through. It is a known fact that the Japanese are proud of their race but they are also extremely reluctant to share the same pride for being a Burakumin. They often hide their Burakumin identity from their children. These Burakumins are also referred to as 'Eta' i.e. filthy, as they were known during Edo period(1601-1868). Though the Burakumin comprises only 3% of the</p>





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GANDHI FELLOWSHIP: A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR ASPIRING LEADERS IN CHANGE MANAGEMENT

-Arundhati nath, 1st year

The Seminar Hall of Miranda House witnessed an unconventional workshop on the 24th of August, 2017. Organised by the Gandhi Fellowship Circle, the workshop involved various enjoyable activities, and an interactive session with Mr. Salman Khan, a Gandhi Fellowship Alumnus and Program Manager.

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The Gandhi Fellowship is a practical educational program in Transformation Leadership for Social Entrepreneurs. The aim of this program is to nurture the potential vanguards of sociopolitical change in India by focusing on the problems and opportunities in the development sector. The program prepares fellows to take on leadership roles as entrepreneurs, through a process of understanding change management through an entrepreneurial lens. It aims to help each of its Fellows to impact 1 million lives in 10 years through a sustainable profit-based model.

The workshop started with a series of games, each of which provided an important lesson in teamwork, strategy, and perseverance. The games were to be played in groups, and in a light and subtle manner, they disseminated a great deal of knowledge about the skills that need to be developed in order to bring about change in the current sociopolitical scenario, including listening skills and negotiation.



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| 2 | Gandhi Fellowship Workshop for Leadership Training, under the aegis of the Piramal Foundation | 70 | 24 th August, 2017 |
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| 3. | Book Reading Session: Adi Sankara and Other Stories | 120 | 1 st September, 2017 |
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BOOK READING SESSION: PROF. SUSAN VISVANATHAN

-Amisha Singh, 2nd Year

The Sociology department of Miranda House successfully organized a book reading session with Prof. Susan Visvanathan on the 31st of August 2017. The book she talked about was her latest collection of novellas, Adi Sankara and Other Stories. Prof. Visvanathan is currently a Professor of Sociology and Research Guide at the Centre for Study of Social Systems at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She has been teaching for the past 34 years and is best known for her work in Sociology of Religion. She is the author of a number of published works, both academic and fiction. Adi Sankara and Other Stories is her latest book.

The session was held in Lecture Hall number 145, and commenced at 9:50 am. Among those present were Principal Dr. Pratibha Jolly, the Head of Department of Sociology of Miranda House, Dr. Reema Bhatia,

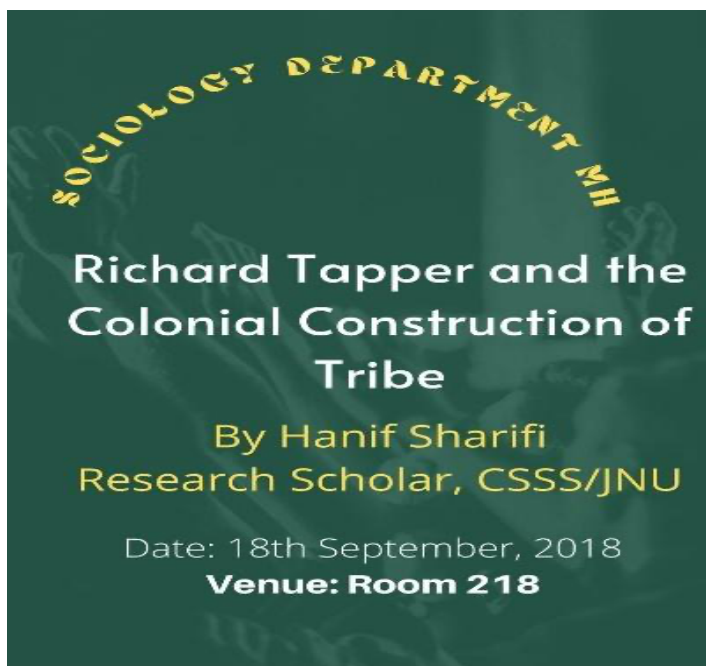




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4. Richard Tapper 50
and the
Colonial
Construct of the
Tribe.

18th
September
, 2017



5. Sacraments for 100
the Dead? The
Unborn Person
and the
Miscarried
Parent in the
Anglophone
World

19th
September
, 2017

BUILDING MEMOIRS OF AN UNBORN: A LECTURE ON MEMORIALIZATION OF THE DECEASED FOETUS

-Koyal Sindhu and Shivani Sharma, 2nd Year

The Department of Sociology organized a lecture by Dr. Harish Naraindas, Associate Professor of Sociology at JNU, adjunct faculty at the University of Iowa, and currently, a visiting professor at the Department of Ethnology, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University. The topic of his lecture was on the 'Sacraments for the Dead? The Unborn person and the miscarried parent in the Anglophone world.' He began the talk by introducing the concept of a foetal cemetery which is present in abundance in Switzerland. He also showed the audience a video of a foetus funeral in Australia, which gave us further insight into the topic.

The practice of the memorialization of pre-natal death is a phenomenon that began in the 1990s with the Touching Heart Programme in the US, in which miscarried or stillborn foetuses were made a 'memory' through proper burials with caskets made by women in their mid-sixties. The unborn babies were dolled up in hand-knitted mittens and clothes. Their photographs, footprints, and locks of hair were preserved as mementos.

The secular aspect of memorialization is usually accompanied by the religious aspect, in case of couples who've lost their child, and are willing to get the foetus baptised. This poses a dilemma for the priests because it is believed that sacraments are only for the living. This conflict has led to the creation of sacramental actions, which are rituals akin to sacraments. The communal aspect also plays out in eulogies made during the funeral, which often contain verses from the Bible. Along with this 'religious rediscovery', Professor Naraindas concluded his lecture with an emphasis on the second aspect of the memorialization, 'miscarried parents' and their loss is acknowledged. While abortion and miscarriage are still considered as taboos, the community is increasingly becoming sensitised to the implications of these occurrences.

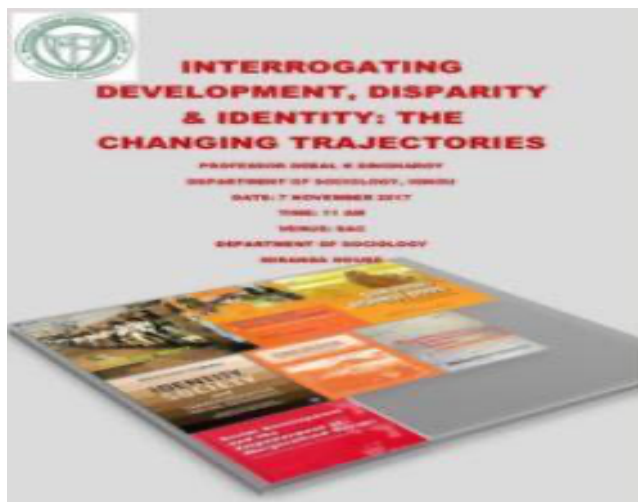




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6. Interrogating Development, Disparity and Identity: The Changing Trajectories 100

7th
November,
2017



7. International Conference on: Social and Technological-Access and Accessibility 100

18th and
19th
January,
2018





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8. Cinema and Filmmaking 60 29th January, 8th and 9th February, 2018



9. Utopia: The Influence of Media and Youth Leaders in the Digital Age 150 10th April, 2018

INFLUENCE OF MEDIA AND YOUTH LEADERS IN THE DIGITAL SPACE: AN INSIGHT THROUGH ALFAAZ'18

-Abhija Chatterjee, 1st Year

The Department of Sociology, Miranda House had organized its Annual Department Festival ALFAAZ 2018 on April 10th. In order to celebrate this event, and make it memorable the department organized a seminar on 'Influence of media and youth leaders in the digital age'. The speakers who were invited were all renowned personalities from their respective field of work.

Rajesh Mahapatra, the first speaker is the Chief Content Officer at Hindustan Times. He initiated the talk by asking a crucial question. He said that the media nowadays has a lot of 'influencers.' So, what is then, the difference between an influencer and a 'leader'? Answering this question, he said that



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an influencer is a person who plays a crucial role in shaping minds whereas a leader is a person with a strong persona, who has the ability to make people believe that she/he is the one to bring about a revolutionary change. Talking about the influence of media in this digital age, Mr. Rajesh Mahapatra commented that the digital space provides a ton of opportunities to voice one's ideas and concerns. He spoke about how media these days is a lot about influencers, but less of what one may call a 'leader.' He asks, 'why?' Why is it that we have less of leaders and more of influencers? To this, Mahapatra says that the youth today often gets easily influenced. He feels leaders would emerge only when the nation's youth learns to ask fundamental questions rather than being easily influenced. Lastly, he said that the distinction between a leader and an influencer is not a very rigid one. He hopes for a future when and where, using the digital space, some influencers would transform themselves into leaders.

Aasim Khan, the second speaker for the day is an assistant professor at IIT Delhi. In addition to that, he is a social scientist with cross disciplinary interests in the theories of new media and social networks, and their intersection with the field of politics, policy, and democracy in contemporary India. Starting his talk, he said that leaders should begin at the very basic levels of a family or a student's union at a University. He said that in this era of networks, it is a matter of utmost



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10. “Afterword”: 40
A Film Screening 16th April, 2018

AFTERWORD A FILM SCREENING

On 16th April 2018, the Department of Sociology organized a Film Screening of the movie Afterword which was made by Mallika Visvanathan, a student of Sri Aurobindo Centre for Arts and Communication taking a course in Creative Documentary.

The movie was situated in the famous Daryaganj area of New Delhi and through an incomplete and unsent letter found within the pages of a second-hand book told the

story in bits and pieces of a second-hand book seller and a Hindi typist setting up shop there. Creative documentaries are a step away from the idea of documentaries established so far for it fuses fiction and reality. The movie stemmed from ideas of bricolage put forward by Levi-Strauss which means the skill of using whatever is at hand to create something new, pertaining primarily to mythological thought. Another related to ideas of obsolescence and the director's initiative to question the ideas of obsolescence of a Hindi typewriter and a second-hand book. The movie reflected a beautiful immersion of thought in terms of poetry and the feel of music that were basically every day sounds. Post the screening, there was a discussion between the students and Ms. Visvanathan. It was indeed an interesting experience for it gave the students of sociology an understanding into the avenue of creative thought that could reflect social realities in newfound ways.



11. Market, State and Society: 70
The Construction of Middle-Class Identity 17th April, 2018

MARKET, STATE AND SOCIETY: THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MIDDLE CLASS IDENTITY

For its final event on 17th April 2018, the Department of Sociology organised a Talk on "Market, State and Society: The Construction of a Middle Class Identity" by Prof. Sanjay Srinivastava who is currently associated with the Institute of Economic Growth.

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His talk focused on the economic changes that took place in the post-nationalism phase and beyond. In tying up the realm of economic with society which is of the utmost necessity in this age where inter-disciplinary studies yield the most fruitful results, he emphasises on institutions such as Resident Welfare Associations that are a marker of the new middle-class identity and the idea of moral consumption where a temple site namely Akshardham has been turned into a site of consumption with activities in the complex that are not confined to just acts of worship. Moreover, the role of the state was also highlighted. The idea that this talk concluded with was with how the market, state, and society are increasingly impacting the economic trends of the here and now and it is up for us to not only decide but also understand whether these influences are moving in the right direction or not.

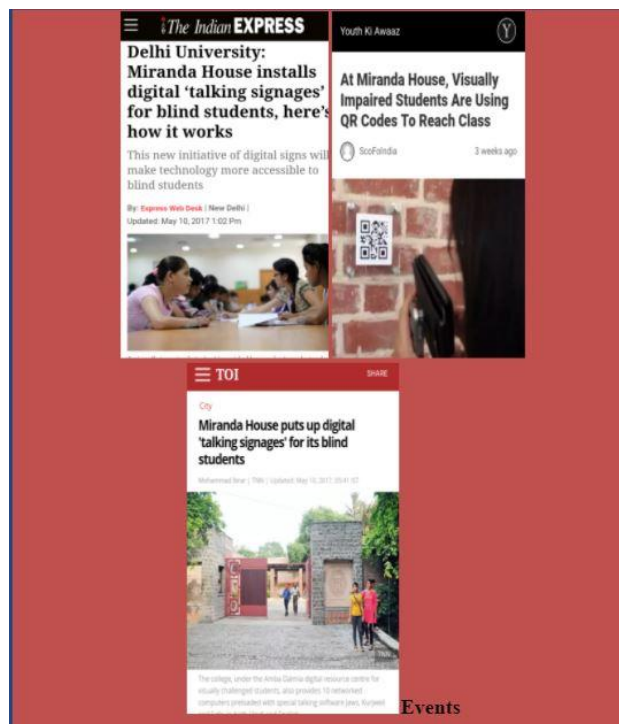


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Part B.2

Extension Activities organized

Name of the activity	Organising unit/ agency/ collaborating agency	Name of the scheme	Relevant document
Samdhristi: Sensitization Workshop for Sighted and Non-Sighted People	Lakshita, the Enabling Society, Miranda House	Equal Opportunity and Accessibility	



Events