



GITAM
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
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Modernities Redefined:
Perspectives from
South Asia

1st International Conference

ORGANIZED BY

GITAM School of Humanities and Social
Sciences, Bengaluru

22nd & 23rd February 2024
GITAM, Bengaluru

Call for Papers

At this South Asian modernity conference, we challenge the conventional notions of Western-centric modernity. Critics have emphasized the existence of various localized, regional, and alternative modernities within South Asia, moving beyond the simplistic binaries. Our interdisciplinary gathering focuses on the South Asian experience and negotiation of modernity, inviting pioneering scholarship to explore its emergence and expression in the region.

Our central goal is to transcend the dual domains of West and South Asia and unravel the intricate interplay of modernities within the region. Through detailed analyses, we uncover nuanced insights into the complex dynamics of ethnicity, religion, social structures, and geopolitics, challenging the colonial/postcolonial dichotomy.



Deadlines

Abstract for Paper and Panels

Submission: 20th December 2023

Acceptance letter- 7th January 2024

Final Submissions- 14th February 2024

Abstract Submission Guidelines

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- For panel proposals– 500– 1000 words. (minimum 3 papers)
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Inaugural Address

Prof. (Dr.) M V Narayanan
Vice Chancellor
Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit

Keynote speaker

Prof Saurabh Dube
El Colegio de México

Prof Dilip M. Menon
University of Witwatersrand

Valedictory Address

Prof Satish Deshpande
Institute for Social and
Economic Change

Panels

- Visual Culture in South Asia
- Technology and Social Change in South Asia
- Perspectives on Languages in South Asia
- Tradition and Modernity: The Contested Terrain of Textual and Cultural Expression
- Film and Popular Culture in South Asia
- Populist Politics in South Asia
- Interplay of Gender, Technology, and Nature
- Politics of Migration in South Asia

*Individual papers on modernity that are not mentioned in the thematic clusters are also welcome



Let's Connect

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About GITAM

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Organizing Committee

CHIEF PATRONS

- Sri. M. Sri Bharat (President, GITAM)
- Padma Shri Virander Singh Chauhan (Chancellor, GITAM)

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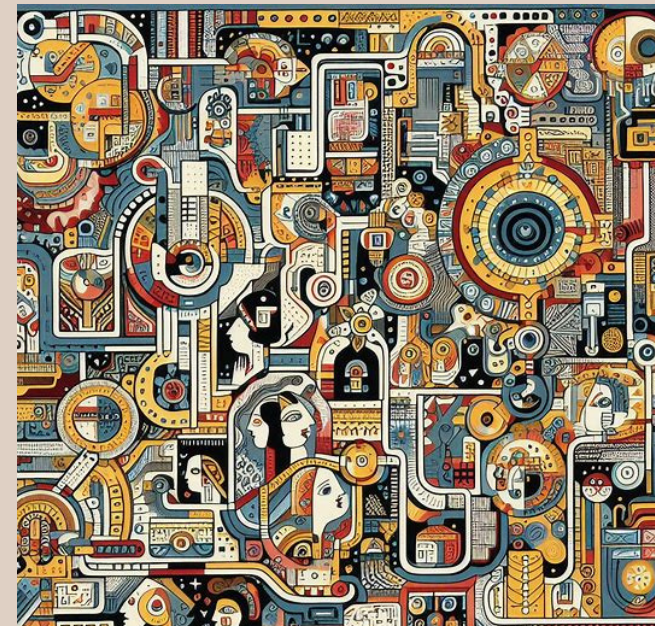
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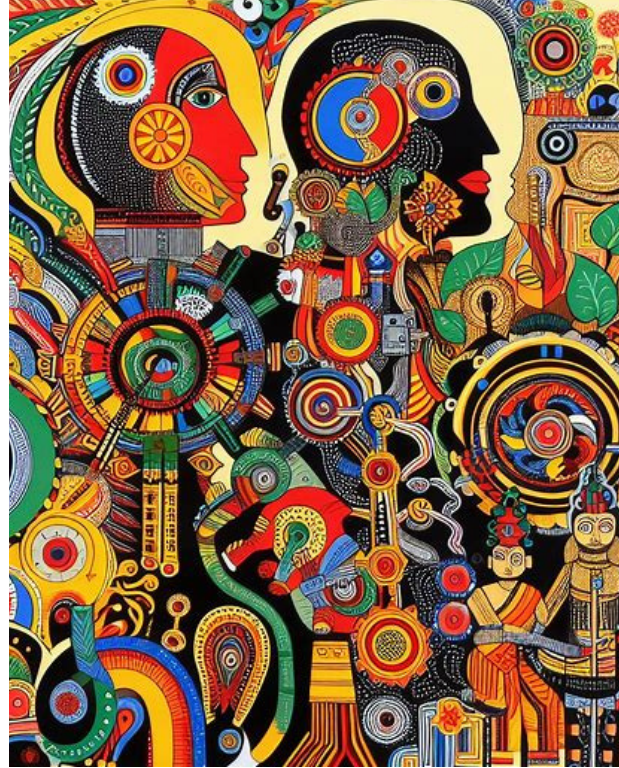
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Themes for panels

Visual Culture in South Asia

The visual turn in philosophy implicates an alternative understanding of our world. We see and interpret the world differently in this age of technology and ubiquitous visuals. This panel will explore the questions of this visual turn with a view to better understand South Asia. We will discuss how European modernity has been appropriated and contextualized in this region, and how the multivarious existence of ideologies and politics has found expressions in cultural forms and practices. This panel will also develop an understanding of contemporary South Asia and its engagements and contentions with modernity.



Interplay of Gender, Technology, and Nature

This conference panel seeks to unravel the interplay of gender, technology, and the natural world as portrayed in South Asian literature within the context of modernity. As societies experience rapid transformations in the wake of technological progress, the intersection of gender identities and environmental relationships takes on a new significance. This panel analyzes how contemporary South Asian authors navigate the complexities of gender roles, technological innovation, and the evolving natural landscape, offering fresh insights into the evolving cultural fabric. The panel will delve into narratives that challenge conventional notions of gender and reimagine humanity's connection to nature within the modern context through close readings of diverse literary works.

Technology and Social Change in South Asia

Technology has transformed social media, digital economy, safety and security, education and health care. It influences and changes our value systems, social organizations and practices. For instance, social media modulates individuals' speculations towards certain social groups and organizations. Simultaneously, it facilitated collaboration among individuals during global crises. We can now improve our skills with minimal expenses through various e-learning platforms. We now have improved accuracy in medical diagnosis, enhanced treatment and lesser mortality rates because of technology. This panel seeks to shed light on different perspectives on the role of technology in South Asian society.





Perspectives on Languages in South Asia

The rich linguistic diversity of South Asia presents us with multiple prospects with which to study language. We invite research exploring multilingualism in South Asia. We would like to explore the linguistic consequences arising from diverse contexts of language contact. Furthermore, we would also like to discuss and examine the issues pertinent to language development, language processing, and language education, both in monolingual and multilingual settings. The panel will be cognizant of the rise of artificial intelligence, social challenges, etc., on languages in a multilingual South Asia while discussing the above issues.



Tradition and Modernity: The Contested Terrain of Textual and Cultural Expression

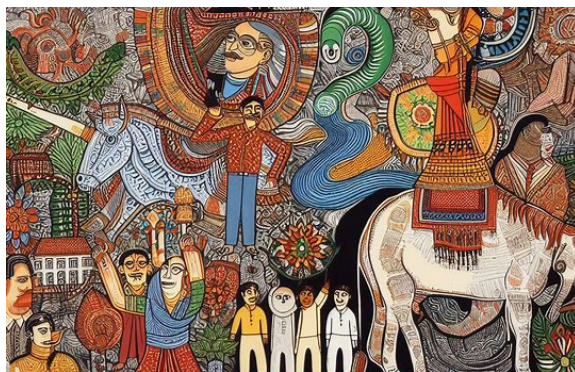
The relationship between tradition and modernity is a complex and contested one, and this is nowhere more evident than in South Asia. The region is home to a rich and diverse cultural heritage, but it has also been shaped by centuries of colonial rule and globalization. As a result, South Asian societies are characterized by a dynamic interplay of traditional and modern influences. This panel will explore the ways in which this interplay manifests itself in textual and cultural expression in South Asia. We will consider a variety of genres, including literature, film, art, and music, and we will examine how these forms of expression both reflect and challenge traditional values and norms. We will also discuss the role of regional and national identities in shaping the relationship between tradition and modernity in South Asia.

Film and Popular Culture in South Asia

The panel aims to address issues raised by contemporary movies and discourses from popular culture emerging out of various languages and landscapes from the diverse plane of South Asia, interrogating and coalescing the tussle between tradition and modernity. The thrust area of this panel is the idea of a modern South Asia in constant negotiation with the traditional understanding of the culture. In constructing the popular imagination of contemporary South Asia, memes, social media platforms, graffiti, television shows, advertisements and various other cultural artifacts contribute as much as cinematic representations, if not more. The discussions intended as part of this sub-panel should propel the texts to unfold the popular cultural narratives from the nooks and corners of the region, regardless of the genre, within the orbit of serious academic dialogue and critical inquiry.



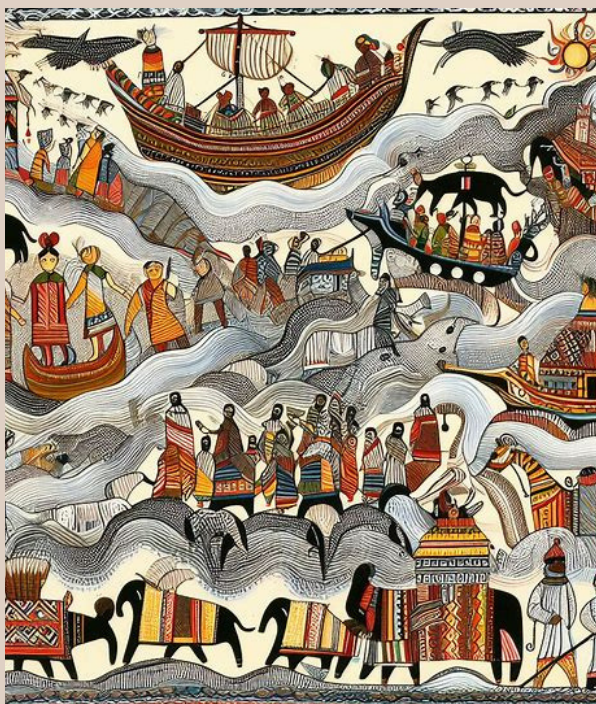
Populist Politics in South Asia



Similar to the international political milieu developments, South Asia has not been immune to the emergence of populist political formations. As a result, we are witnessing the proliferation of multiple strands of populism, each of which adopts unique approaches towards modernity. While certain populist formations attribute their success to the promotion of modern themes such as social justice and good governance, in other cases, populist politics has targeted the liberal elites who supposedly epitomise the values of modernity. In the latter scenario, modernity is persistently scrutinized through the lens of tradition. We cordially invite submissions that map the diverse trajectories of populist politics and its interactions with modernity.

Politics of Migration in South Asia

This panel intends to contribute to different aspects related to the issue of migration in South Asia. South Asia plays a significant role in the 'context shift' of migration from the Global North to the Global South, which must be asserted with distinct perspectives. The discussions will revolve around the debates on how migration has shaped South Asian politics and policy changes, intersecting the issues of citizenship laws, border conflicts, forced migration, and refugee aspects to the region's security dynamics. The panel is open across disciplines (including but not limited to politics, economics, international relations, human rights, policymakers, and law).



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