CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURE AND SOCIETY (CSCS)

I. ABOUT CSCS

CSCS was launched as an independent research institution in 1998 as an experiment in institutionalized research excellence in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The institution pioneers the model of a research centre for the future by putting together systems for in-house research, training and outreach. Training and outreach include institutional handholding and incubating proof-of-concept technological systems that would sustain the pedagogic needs of the future. Three years after inception, i.e. in 2001, CSCS inaugurated its Ph.D. programme in Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies. In the same year it began offering innovative courses in undergraduate institutions to students, young professionals and activists. In the more recent past the institution has been partnering philanthropic organizations in India and abroad to help them shape their interventions and formulate policies in the areas of arts and culture, higher education and human rights. At present the institution has 9 permanent faculty members and 23 Ph.D. students.

II. COURSES, RESOURCES AT CSCS

• PhD. in Cultural Studies
The CSCS Ph.D. is affiliated to Manipal University and Kuvempu University.

• Undergraduate Courses Offered
CSCS conducts certificate and diploma courses for undergraduate students. Courses offered in the previous years include:

--Rethinking Media Laws, A Certificate Course in Cultural Studies. The course begins on Saturday, August 4 2007 from 2-5 PM at Christ College and will end by 29th September 2007.

--The Global City: Mapping Bangalore
Course for students of the Eugene Lang College, New School, New York - June 16-July 12, 2008

--Introduction to Cultural Studies

• Post Graduate Diploma in Cultural Studies
CSCS offers a one year (2 semester) Diploma in Cultural Studies alongside the Ph.D. programme. The Diploma is open to candidates from any discipline, preferably with a post-graduate degree.

CSCS LIBRARY

The Library continues its service of rendering requisite information support to researchers and students. Library has an online library catalogue (**http://archive.cscs.res.in**) to check holdings of the library.

Books

The CSCS Library holds a total collection of 12829 books; of these 9755 are English books, 2095 Kannada books, 200 Telugu books, 24 French books, 453 Bound books, and 302 include other Indian language books (Bengali, Gujarat, Malayalam, Tamil, Hindi, Sanskrit).

Apart from books, the Library has a collection of 134 Reports, Dissertation works, and 10 unpublished papers.

Non-Book Materials

Non-book materials include 86 Audio Cassettes, 245 DVDs, 570 CDs, 550 VHS of films and documentaries in English, Hong Kong/ Chinese, German, Italian and Other Indian Languages.

Journals & Newspapers & Magazines

12 Indian journals including online subscription, 07 Magazines in English and Kannada, 2 daily Newspapers in English and Kannada were procured regularly.

Library Fellowship

The Library Fellowship is a program for undergraduate college teachers and academics that was started in 2002. So far 25 scholars from different parts of India have made use of this program and they have the privilege to check journals online by using JSTOR.

Services

Services provided in the Library are user friendly, such as Library Orientation, Current Awareness Service, Reference Services, Bibliographic Services and Reprographic Services.

MEDIA AND CULTURE ARCHIVE

The Media Archive of CSCS currently consists of the following databases:

Culture, Politics / Education / Human Rights, Civil Liberties / Indian Film Industry / Law & Media / New Media, New Technology / Print, Literature / Theatre, Music, Performance / Radio, TV, Telecommunications / Library / Indian Cinema Filmography

The Number of records available with us (as on 26th May 2009) is 55008.

III. RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

A. CULTURE: INDUSTRIES AND DIVERSITIES IN ASIA (CIDASIA)
   (Earlier known as The Asian Popular Research Programme)

Faculty Coordinators: S.V. Srinivas and Ashish Rajadhyaksha
Research Fellow: Radhika P.
Research Associates: Janani Ambikapathy
                     Sravanthi Kollu

Description of Research Programme:

Vision: To study the restaging of Culture as linked to Rights, the Economy and Governance and its consequences for the present.

Objectives: To collaborate with the industry and donors to extend the relevance of cultural theory into the working of both business and philanthropy. To move away from **Donor Dependency** and towards **Consultancy** as the basis of the relationship with donors and industry.

Completed Projects (2008-09)

1. *Culture Industry, Cultural Diversity and Cultural Policy in the Time of Globalisation: A Consultation.* **A published version of the consultation proceedings is now available.**

2. An international conference *CultureAsia: Connecting Asian Actors* between 14th-16th Dec, 2008 at the Infosys Campus, Bangalore along with HIVOS, The Hague and Open Society Institute (OSI), Budapest.

Current Projects (2009)

1. The Cultural Last Mile: Analysing the Last Mile as a Human Resource Question

The project comprises of two studies:

1. Given the chronic historic failure in bridging the last mile, whether in communication theory or in the development projects undertaken by the Indian nation-state, the study reinvestigates the model itself, along with its historic failures. This project is being funded by Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore.

2. The second study will try and understand the 'last mile' problem in the way internet is used for educational purposes in the undergraduate college spaces. The project will focus on peer-to-peer and two-way movement versus one-way downloads. It will research and devise an implementation strategy for use of new technology (internet, mobile phone) arising from research findings. The study is being funded by the Nokia University.

2. <u>Cultural Production and Livelihoods in the Age of the E&M Industry: Study of the Culture Industry in Bihar and Karnataka</u>

The project proposes to study the sector of contemporary non-traditional cultural production that emerged with the arrival of modern technologies of reproduction. This sector falls outside of the frame of creative industries and creative economy, and though hitherto unacknowledged, it is significantly tied to the *livelihoods* of a large number of cultural practitioners and entrepreneurs. The project will study this link between the non-traditional, non-creative industry sector and the question of livelihood through the study of cultural production in Bhojpuri and Kannada. This project is being funded by SRTT.

<u>Future Projects (2009-2010):</u>

<u>Cultural Policy in the Present</u>

In order to get a better sense of the cultural policies of national governments as well as international agencies such as WTO and UNESCO today, in the context of the changing nature of 'culture' under globalization and the hitherto unprecedented levels of mediation of cultural practices and production by major corporate houses and national governments within the framework of Creative Economy, CIDASIA envisages the following efforts:

I. *Building and Sharing of a Knowledge Base on Cultural Policy and its Impact on Cultural Rights and Cultural Production*
II. *Delimiting a National Cultural Policy in the Present* and
III. *Summer School on Cultural Policy for Industry and Corporate Professionals.*

<u>Visiting Fellows 2007-2008</u>

Professor M. Madhava Prasad, English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad.
Professor Earl Jackson Jr., Department of English Language and Literature, Korea University, Seoul.

<u>Projects Completed Before 2005</u>

1. Telugu Cinema: History, Culture, Theory (1999). Project outcome: Telugu and English
language dossiers on Telugu cinema.
2. Cinema in Andhra 1921-1950: The Formation of a Public Sphere (1998-2000). Project outcome: published articles, materials uploaded on the CSCS media archive.
3. Democracy and Spectatorship in India: Telugu Popular Cinema and Hong Kong Action Film (2000-2002). Project outcome: published articles and website

B. THE LAW, SOCIETY & CULTURE PROGRAMME (LSCP)

Faculty: Sitharamam Kakarala; Sruti Chaganti; Lakshmi Arya

The Law, Society and Culture Programme is an attempt at expanding and reinvigorating
interdisciplinarity in legal studies, with a special emphasis on impacting pedagogic and
research practices in institutions of higher education, especially in India.

Vision of LSCP:

The CSCS LSCP recognises the significance of law as a professional body of knowledge emphasising the primacy of black letter law, as well as the view of law as primarily a means of providing justice to the disempowered and marginalized. While both these views have contributed to the advancement of law both as a body of professional knowledge as well as a means to advance the cause of social justice, there is still enormous space to engage with law as a crucial source of knowledge to critically reflecting on received knowledges and rethinking disciplinary practices. The LSCP's primary focus thus is to engage with law as an important and unique knowledge resource that helps us rethink and theorise human societies as well as human behaviour and processes.

Objectives of LSCP:

To contribute to the overall process of interdisciplinarity in legal studies across Asia, especially in South Asia;

To engage with and intervene in the pedagogic practices of law with a view to generating
acceptance and legitimacy for interdisciplinary approaches to study and teach law;

To carry forward the research agenda of the law and society movement and contribute to its reinvigoration and expansion especially among the emerging law institutions;

To contribute to setting new research agendas that help rethink and contextualise legal pedagogy in the Indian scenario;

To contribute to the formation of peer groups among researchers, teachers and students to foster sustained spaces of interdisciplinary dialogue;

To generate a public resource for knowledge on law-society culture in India and South Asia;

To collaborate with other institutions, both at the national as well as international levels.

The LSCP actively pursues its objectives and goals through the instrumentality of
projectisation of its research. The current

Thrust Areas under such projectisation are the following: 1) Pedagogy 2) Research and 3) Archive Building

C. HIGHER EDUCATION CELL

A collaboration with the Sir Ratan Tata Trust

Faculty Coordinator: Tejaswini Niranjana

Programme Staff:Anup Kumar Dhar
Ashwin Kumar
Sheetal Nandanwar
Elizabeth Thomas
Meera Moorkoth
Sneha P P
Rekha Pappu (External Resource Person)

About the HE Cell:

The Indian Higher Education (HE) system is one of the largest in the world, including over 300 universities and thousands of colleges. Access to HE is a crucial issue, with only 7 to 8% of the relevant age group enrolled in HE institutions. The 2006 CSCS Strategy Paper on Higher Education submitted to the Sri Ratan Tata Trust pointed out that the three key locations of HE – the research centre, the university, and the undergraduate college – seldom have strong connections with one another, and have structurally been devised to stay apart. Envisioning a strategic convergence of these three fields could redefine the structure and role of higher education in India. The Paper recommended that such convergence, in key areas such as curriculum building, research and teacher training should form the cornerstone of interventions in this sector. It drew attention to several recent developments in the field, including moves towards privatization and greater autonomy as well as the emergence of new kinds of institutions. The Paper emphasized the relevance of curriculum building and teacher training for both private and state-supported institutions which would increasingly create new spaces open to experimentation in curricular innovations and institutional collaborations across the higher education sector.

 The Higher Education Cell-CSCS (supported by the Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust and the Sir Ratan Tata Trust) came into existence in July 2007. It engages with the Higher Education sector through its Research Initiatives (Networked Higher Education, Integrated Science Education, Regional Language Resources, Gender Studies and Social Justice in Higher Education), Institutional Collaborations, Documentation and Archiving, and Grant Management for the Trusts.

Current Projects:

- Pathways to Higher Education Project- a 4 year project to enhance campus diversity across 9 undergraduate colleges in 3 states; Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala, in collaboration with Ford Foundation and Center for Internet and Society (CIS), Bangalore. Started in May 2009.
- Piloting an Integrated Research Programme Model at the undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral levels in science education in collaboration with Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune. Started in May 2009.
- Review of Integrated Science Education in India with the Department of Education, JNU. Started in February 2009.
- Mapping Gender Training Initiatives in Tamil Nadu- an in-house project of the HE Cell. Started in September 2008.

Future Projects:

- Review of Mental Health Care Providers in India in collaboration with the Health Portfolio of Sri Ratan Tata Trust. Scheduled to start in July 2009.
- Digital Consortium for Setting up Institutional Repositories with 40 undergraduate colleges in partnership with INFLIBNET; the UGC's Information and Library Network. This project is supported by the Sri Ratan Tata Trust and is scheduled to start in August 2009.
- Pilot project with the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore to develop a strategy for the activities of the National Translation Mission. Scheduled to start in August 2009.
- National Research Training Consortium with 4 Doctoral research Training Institutions- Center for Study of Social Sciences (CSSS), English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Center for the Study of Culture and Society (CSCS) and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). Scheduled to start in November-December 2009.

D. CUSP@CSCS: RETHINKING CULTURE-SUBJECTIVITY-PSYCHE

CUSP@CSCS: Rethinking Culture-Subjectivity-Psyche is an applied research initiative. CUSP is a collective as well as a consortium of institutions, intended to rethink and redefine mental health in India, as well as to intervene at the level of policy.

Convenor: Ashish Rajadhyaksha, CSCS

Advisors: Ashish Nandy; Sudhir Kakar; Shailesh Kapadia of the Indian Psychoanalytic Society; Ashoke Nagpal of the Department of Psychology, Delhi University; Sanjeev Jain of NIMHANS (Bangalore); Erica Burman

Professor of Psychology and Women's Studies, Manchester Metropolitan University; Tejaswini Niranjana, CSCS and HE Cell; Sitharamam Kakarala, CSCS and Law, Society and Culture

Collective: Radhika. P. of CIDASIA at CSCS; Asha Achuthan of the Centre for Contemporary Studies (CCS, at IISC); Ranjita Biswas of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University; Anup K. Dhar, CSCS Associates: Honey Oberoi, Centre for Psychoanalytic Studies, Delhi University; Sruti Chaganti, CSCS; Lakshmi Arya, CSCS; Prasanta Chakravarty, CSCS; Diptarup Chowdhury, PG Department of Psychology, Christ University; Manasi Kumar, Department of Psychology, University College of London; Sonali De, Department of Psychology, University of Calcutta.

CUSP looks and works with multiple perspectives on mind, mental dis-ease (dis-ease and not disease; because pathologization is not our purpose; our focus is instead on un-ease, on suffering) and mental health/well-being. CUSP stresses the need for an integrated approach to mental health. In the process, CUSP wishes to rethink mental health in India.CUSP wishes to write a psychology - write a logic of the psyche - beyond the familiar triad 'normal-pathology-cure' - a triad that has hitherto dominated the 'modern' thinking of a logic of the psyche. CUSP wishes to write a logic of the psyche marked instead by 'suffering-healing-care'. In the process, it also moves from oculocentrism as the defining method of medicine (and now psychiatry) to attending to
narratives of suffering subjectivities in their infinite complexity - attending in the hearing-listening mode.

Activities of CUSP:

Web-archive of material pertaining to a critical take on questions of mind, mental dis-ease and mental health/well-being.

1. Quality Assurance in Mental Health
        (a) Vol 1
        (b) Vol 2
2. Mental Health Sciences and Law
        (a) Insanity, Gender and Law

3. Critical Psychology
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Critical_psychology
International Google Group on Critical Psychology

Courses:

Culture, Subjectivity and Psychoanalysis: The Politics of (Secret) Selves in Colonial India   http://www.cscs.res.in/courses_folder/courses.2007-02-22.3187588309/papers.2008-07-11.3624062407/modules.2008-07-11.6685406013

Psychology after Lacan (this course is part of CUSP's effort to take psychoanalysis to the University; this year we are taking Jacques Lacan to the University; next year we plan to take Melanie Klein to the University with help from PTRC, Bombay; the present course focussing on Lacan is currently being taught in the PG Department of Psychology, Christ University by the CUSP Collective; outstation candidates can
register for the ONLINE version of the course. The course is available at http://lacanians.blogspot.com/)

CUSP Projects:

1. Woman and Health
2. Unreason and the Limits of Liberalism
3. Suffering Psyches: Review of Non-Western Traditions of Healing
4. Psychobiography of Gendered Violence

For further details on CSCS, please visit: http://cscs.res.in