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THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURE AND SOCIETY was established in 1996 by a group of scholars interested in developing new approaches to studying culture in India. This interest has been energised by our sense that the social sciences and humanities disciplines as they exist are no longer adequate to the task of engaging seriously with the problems of our time. Today both the political frameworks of the post-colonial nation-state (democracy, secularism, development) and the institutional structures they endorse (among others, our universities and research centres) are clearly in crisis.

Many of the crucial problems confronting us today - relating to questions of gender, caste, community, ethnicity - have been traditionally relegated to the realm of ‘culture’ rather than being seen as political issues. And when the disciplines dealt with them it was often in orientalist frames, by way of explaining the cultural specificity of Indians, especially those who were ‘non-modern’. The dominant social science framework in India, which was one of modernity-development, saw caste and community as embarrassing obstacles for the new nation to overcome. At the same time, the dominant framework in which ‘culture’ was viewed in the humanities was that of national culture and national identity.

What was at stake was the definition of the truly ‘Indian’, as also the exaltation of ‘our’ culture. From this perspective, Indian culture was seen as best mirrored in the past: in our monumental architecture, our ancient scriptures, our performing arts, our textiles. The emphasis was clearly on a ‘high’ culture which claimed unbroken continuity with the pre-colonial past. For different reasons, then, the disciplines have been marked by embarrassed negotiation or unduly celebratory approaches to Indian culture. In our view, these approaches to culture are not equipped to deal with the extraordinary transformations and political mobilizations that are currently taking place. Yet, these changes are ‘cultural’ changes, in the sense that culture refers to ways of life, even ways of struggle.

The major thrust of CSCS has been to understand culture in its most inclusive sense - as encompassing the diverse attempts of people to produce meaning of various kinds. Such an endeavour will pose a serious challenge to existing disciplines and have a significant impact on cultural policy as well as alter the place occupied by ‘culture’ in our political lives. We use the phrase ‘culture and society’ to emphasize that culture must be seen not as a transcendent entity but as part of a network of social and political relations, indeed as integral to the formation of such relations.
II. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Prof. V. K. Natraj (Chair)

Mr. S. Theodore Baskaran

Ms. Shashi Deshpande

Dr. Susie Tharu

Dr. Vijay Chandru

Ms. Geetha Narayanan

Dr. Tejaswini Niranjana

Mr. Ashish Rajadhyaksha
III. FACULTY & STAFF

A. CSICS Faculty Members in 2008-09:
1. Dr. Sitharamam Kakarala - Senior Fellow and Director
2. Mr. Ashish Rajadhyaksha - Senior Fellow
3. Dr. S.V. Srinivas - Senior Fellow
4. Dr. Tejaswini Niranajna - Senior Fellow
5. Dr. Vivek Dhareshwar - Senior Fellow
6. Dr. Rochelle Pinto - Fellow
7. Dr. Anup Dhar - Associate Fellow
8. Dr. Aparna Balachandran - Associate Fellow
9. Dr. Lakshmi Arya - Associate Fellow
10. Dr. Prasanta Chakravarthy - Associate Fellow
11. Ms. Sruti Chaganti - Research Coordinator

B. Academic Staff: Research Programmes
1. Dr. Radhika P. (Research Fellow, CIDASIA)
2. Ms. Sanam Roohi (Research Associate, CIDASIA)
3. Dr. Rekha Pappu (Research Coordinator, HE Cell)
4. Mr. Ashwin Kumar A.P. (Research Associate, HE Cell)
5. Ms. Elizabeth Thomas (Research Associate, HE Cell)
6. Ms. Meera Jeny Moorkoth (Research Associate, HE Cell)
7. Ms. Serene Kasim (Research Fellow, LSCP)
8. Ms. Shahrukh Alam (Research Fellow, LSCP)
9. Mr. Ignatius Francis (Research Assistant, LSCP)
10. Mr. James (Research Assistant, LSCP)

C. Administrative Staff
1. Mr. Nagaraj M.P., Administrative Officer
2. Ms. N.S. Pradeep, Accounts Officer
3. Ms. Sujaya, Communications Officer
4. Mr. Aswin M. Sahadevan, Systems Administrator
5. Ms. Bharathi, Receptionist
6. Ms. Vijayalakshmi, Librarian
7. Ms. Padmavathi, Scanner Operator
8. Ms. Vanishree, Library Assistant
9. Mr. Nagesh, Office Attender

D. Administrative Staff: Research Programmes
1. Ms. Sheetal Nandanwar, Administrative Assistant, HE Cell
2. Ms. Kavitha Rani, Assistant, LSCP
A. PROFILES:

Dr. Sitharamam Kakarala

Sitharamam Kakarala has been a Senior Fellow at CSCS from October 2003 to February 2007, and Director since March 2007. He has an MA from the University of Madras (1988), an LLM from the University of Nottingham (1996), and a PhD from the Centre for Social Studies, Surat (1993). He taught at the National Law School of India University, Bangalore (1993 to 2003) before joining CSCS. His recent publications include *Enculturing Law: New Agendas for Legal Pedagogy*, New Delhi: Tulika, 2008 (co-edited with Mathew John). Dr. Kakarala is also the Lead Researcher of the Law, Society and Culture Programme at CSCS.

Mr. Ashish Rajadhyaksha

Ashish Rajadhyaksha has a BSc from the University of Bombay (1978). He has published widely on cinema and contemporary art, and presented papers on these topics in conferences across the world. He has taught film studies at the University of Iowa, the Korean National University of Arts (Seoul), Birkbeck College/British Film Institute (U.K.), Jadavpur University (Kolkata), University of Bombay, and the National Film Archive of India/Film and Television Institute of India (Pune). His latest book is *Indian Cinema in the Time of Celluloid: From Bollywood to the Emergency*, New Delhi: Tulika / Bloomington: Indiana University Press, forthcoming in 2009. He is also the Head of the Networked Higher Education Initiative of the Higher Education Cell. The initiative is in collaboration with the Centre for Internet and Society and CIDASIA.

Dr. S. V. Srinivas

S.V. Srinivas has a PhD from the Department of English, University of Hyderabad (1997). He also obtained MA and MPhil degrees from the Department of English, University of Hyderabad (1989 and 1991 respectively). He has published extensively in the field of film studies, with a focus on Telugu cinema. He is the author of *Megastar: Chiranjeevi and Telugu Cinema after N. T. Rama Rao*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2009. He is also Lead Researcher of the CIDASIA Programme.

Dr. Tejaswini Niranjana

Tejaswini Niranjana has an MA in English and Aesthetics from the University of Bombay (1981), an MPhil in Linguistics from the University of Pune (1982), and a PhD in English

**Dr. Vivek Dhareshwar**

Vivek Dhareshwar completed a PhD from the History of Consciousness Program, University of California at Santa Cruz (1989). He was a Fellow at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata, until 1998. He has also taught at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Dhareshwar is interested in philosophy, Indian intellectual traditions, and questions of culture and cultural difference. He has coordinated *Stereotypical Images and Cultural Differences between Europe and South Asia*, a collaborative project with DEVHAS (Development of Human resources and Strategies for Education), the University of Ghent and funded by the European Union.

**Dr. Rochelle Pinto**

Rochelle Pinto completed a PhD from the Department of Languages and Cultures of South Asia, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London (2003). Her post-graduate degree (MA) was in English from the Centre for Linguistics and English, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi (1998). Dr. Pinto is interested in questions of culture, modernity and caste in the context of Portuguese colonialism, and the history of Goa. She is the author of *Between Empires: Print and Politics in Goa* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press), 2007. She is the joint coordinator of the Archives and Access Programme at CSCS.

**Dr. Anup Dhar**

Anup Dhar graduated in medicine and did a PhD from the Department of Philosophy, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. He has published on political economy, feminism and psychoanalysis. He is the co-author (with Anjan Chakrabarti) of *Dislocation and Resettlement in Development: From Third World to World of the Third* (New York and London: Routledge, 2009). Dr. Dhar is Lead Researcher of CUSP and heads the programme on Rethinking Mental Health, which is an applied research initiative. He is also the Research Co-ordinator of the Integrated Science Education Initiative of the Higher Education Cell.
Dr. Aparna Balachandran

Aparna Balachandran has recently completed a PhD from the Department of History, Columbia University (2008). Her thesis was titled “Christ and the Pariah: Colonialism, Religion and the Lower Castes in South India, 1700-1820”. She previously completed MA and MPhil degrees from the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (in 1997 and 1999 respectively). Her research and teaching interests include labour and caste history, pre-colonial and colonial law, and early modern empires. She is the joint coordinator of the Archives and Access Programme at CSCS.

Dr. Lakshmi Arya

Lakshmi Arya completed a PhD from the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (2008). Her doctoral research was on rape laws and trials in colonial times (British India and Princely Mysore, 1860-1947). She previously completed MA and MPhil degrees from the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (2000 and 2002 respectively). She is an associate of the Law, Society and Culture Programme at CSCS.

Dr. Prasanta Chakravarty

Prasanta Chakravarty has a PhD in Comparative Literature from the State University of New York, Buffalo (2004). He is the author of *Like Parchment in the Fire: Literature and Radicalism in the English Civil War* (New York and London: Routledge, 2006). He is interested in early modern and contemporary political thought, religion and cultural studies, law, literature and literary theory.

Ms. Sruti Chaganti

Sruti Chaganti graduated with BA LL.B (Hons.) degree from the NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad in 2005. She worked as an independent research fellow on a project on law and poverty with Action Aid India from June 2006 to June 2007, before joining CSCS. Sruti is an associate of the Law, Society and Culture Programme at CSCS.
B. PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS/ MONOGRAPHS


EDITED CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS


ARTICLES IN EDITED VOLUMES


——— “Science(s) of the Mind: Fort-Da between the Windscreen and the Rearview Mirror” in Partha Ghosh (ed.) *Materialism and Immaterialism in India and the West: Varying Vistas, Volume XII, Levels of Reality*, as part of the broader project of History of Indian Science, Philosophy and Culture (PHISPC) in the Centre for Studies in Civilizations (CSC), under the general editorship of D P Chattopadhyay (forthcoming, 2009).


Rochelle Pinto, ‘Temporality and Colonialism between Goa and Latin America’, in Zentrum und Peripherie and Rainer Hampp Verlag München (eds), *Global, Multiple and...*
Peripheral Modernities – Theoretical and Comparative Perspectives, (forthcoming).


JOURNAL ARTICLES


BOOK REVIEWS


C. CONFERENCE PAPERS/TALKS

ANUP DIHAR
2008: Psychoanalytic Feminism: Feminist Psychoanalysis and W(h)ither Feminist Politics, in the Sir Ratan Tata Trust-sponsored Residential Workshop for undergraduate teachers organized by the School of Women’s Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, May.

2008: Cultural Studies as Labour of Negotiation in Higher Education, in the International Symposium on Education and Cultural Studies organized by Kwan Fong Cultural Research and Development Programme in conjunction with Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University, Hong Kong on 22-24 May.

2008: What is it to split the Veve: Where Un Chien Andalou and the ‘Uncanny’ meet, in the Sir Ratan Tata Trust-sponsored Conference on Psychoanalysis and Cinema organized by the Psychoanalytic Therapy and Research Centre, Mumbai, on 15, 16 and 17 August.

2008: Cultural Studies and Psychoanalysis in the UGC sponsored Refresher Course in English for under-graduate teachers organized by the University of Kerala, Trivandrum on 15 September and 7 October.

APARNA BALACHANDRAN
2009: Chair and Discussant of the panel entitled Mobility and Migration in South Asian Legal History at the inaugural conference of the Law and Social Sciences Research Network (LASSNET), Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, January.

ASHISH RAJADHYAKSHA


2008: Revisiting Neo-Traditionalism: Prabhat Style, in the conference titled Regional Film Industries: the Formative Years organized by English & Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, November 14-15.

2008: Digital resources: Films, workshop at Sarai, New Delhi, Sept 10-11.

2008: Keynote: The Curious Case of Bombay’s Hindi Cinema: John Grierson’s Colonial Legacies Meet Indigenous Capital, in the conference titled Geographies of
Film Theory, Birkbeck College, London Organised by the Screen Studies Group in collaboration with the Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies, June 26-28.

LAKSHMI ARYA
2008: Respondent, Conference on Critical Approaches to Law and Religion organized by CSCS in collaboration with the Christ College of Law, Christ University, August 30.

SITHARAMAN KAKARALA

2008: The Pluralism Challenge in India, Inter-regional workshop on Promoting Pluralism Knowledge Programme, Jogjakarta, Indonesia, November.

2008: Thinking about Pluralism in the times of Religious Revivalism: Issues and Challenges in the Indian Context, National Law School of India University, Bangalore, 16-17 August.

2008: Rethinking the Rights Question in India, Institute for Social & Economic Change, Bangalore, August.


SRUTI CHAGANTI

S. V. SRINIVAS
2008: Making of a Peasant Industry, presented at the conference on Regional Film Industries: The Formative Years organized by the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, November 14-15.

TEJASWINI NIRANJANA


2009: Gender, Culture and Translation, Women’s Studies Centre, Pune University, February 26.

2009: Feminist Politics and the Culture Question, Tenth Anniversary Conference of Inter-Asia Cultural Studies, National Chao Tung University, Hsinchu, Taiwan, April 11.

V. CONFERENCES / TALKS ORGANISED BY CSCS

A. CSCS TENTH ANNIVERSARY TALKS SERIES

The CSCS Tenth Anniversary Talks Series was organized to mark the Tenth Anniversary of the Centre with seminars and public talks, spread over a year, by senior scholars and academics whose work has been of interest to CSCS over the last decade. The format of the series envisaged an engagement with each speaker in two ways: (i) an internal seminar where CSCS faculty and students would initiate a discussion around selected works of the invited speaker, followed by a response from the speaker (usually during a morning session lasting up to three hours) and (ii) an evening public talk on a subject of the speaker’s choice for a general audience.

A brief description of each of the Tenth Anniversary seminar/talks events:

The series was inaugurated on June 24, 2008 with a public talk by Dr. Ashis Nandy on *The Return of the Sacred: The Language of Religion and the Fear of Democracy in a Post-Secular World*.


Dr. Baxi addressed a public audience at CSCS on the topic *The Indian Constitution as an Act of Theft and the Theft of the Indian Constitution: A Retrospect on Indian Constitutionalism*.

On September 23, 2008, Dr. Christopher Pinney participated in a seminar on his then-forthcoming book *The Coming of Photography in India* (2008). The CSCS respondents were Ashish Rajadhyaksha, S. V. Srinivas, Aparna Balachandran, Vishnu Vardhan and Sushmita Sridhar. Later the same day, Dr. Pinney gave a public talk titled *Lessons from Hell: Punishment and Governmentality in Popular Indian Visual Culture*.

On January 6, 2009, Dr. Peter Fitzpatrick participated in a seminar on his then-forthcoming book *Foucault's Law* (2009: co-authored with Ben Golder). The CSCS respondents were Vivek Dhareshwar and Geetanjali Srikantan. Dattathreya Subbanarasmine was invited as an external respondent. Later the same day, Dr. Fitzpatrick addressed a public gathering on the subject *And are we still not modern? Political-legal Formation and the Future of the Humanities*. The venue for the talk was the Alternative Law Forum, an institutional collaborator of CSCS.
B. OCCASIONAL LECTURE SERIES

CSCS hosts occasional talks by academics visiting the Centre, or otherwise working in Bangalore, on Thursdays. They included the following:

On April 11, 2008, Dr. Sanil V., Associate Professor of Philosophy at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, delivered a public lecture at the Centre on the title *Cinema: The Logic of the Prosthetic*. Dr. Sanil teaches courses on Art and Technology, Ethics and Engineering, Digital Aesthetics, Phenomenology-Hermeneutics-Decconstruction, and Film and Philosophy. He was a Charles Wallace Fellow at the Department of Philosophy, University of Liverpool, U.K, and Directeur d’études Associés, at Maison des sciences de l’homme, Paris.

On April 24, 2008, Dr. Dipika Mukherjee addressed a gathering at CSCS on the topic "*It’s really nice ... you can see in the movies": The landscape of loss in the language of Surinamese-Hindustani women in the Netherlands.* Currently Fellow at the International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, Dipika Mukherjee earned her PhD in English (Sociolinguistics) at Texas A&M University. Her research focuses on the language patterns of women in Indian diasporic communities.

On April 30, 2008, Dr. Ranabir Samaddar delivered a lecture at the Centre on the title *The Materiality of the Politics*. Dr. Samaddar, a founder of the CRG and its journal, *Refugee Watch*, was earlier a professor of South Asia Studies, and then founder-Director of the Peace Studies Programme at the South Asia Forum for Human Rights, Kathmandu.

On May 16, 2008, Dr. Rajarshi Dasgupta delivered a lecture on the topic *Ascetic Masculinity: The Politics of Communist Selfhood*. Rajarshi Dasgupta, currently a Fellow in Political Science at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata, works on the political and intellectual history of modern Bengal. His major area of research concerns the vernacular reconstruction of Marxism in the late colonial period, which is the topic of a forthcoming book. His more recent work has tried to engage with the afterlife of the Partition refugees in Bangladesh, and their place in the making of the postcolonial nation-state.

On August 7, 2008, Professor Tani Barlow, Ting Tsung and Wei Fong Chao Professor of Asian History and Director, Chao Center for Asian Studies at Rice University, delivered a lecture on the history of gendered representations in modern China.

On September 4, 2008, Dr. Milind Wakankar addressed a gathering at CSCS on the topic *System and Allegory: Kabir in the Indo-Islamic Millennium*. Dr. Wakankar completed a PhD in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University and is currently teaching at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. His research interests include Marathi saint poetry, Kabir and nationalist thought. His forthcoming book is titled *Miracle and Violence: Hearsay and the Prehistory of Political Society*.

On January 29, 2009, Dr. Prathama Banerjee delivered a public lecture at the Centre
C. CONFERENCES / WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED BY THE RESEARCH PROGRAMMES OF CSCS

CIDASIA (Culture Industries and Diversity in Asia)
CultureAsia: Connecting Asian Cultural Actors, Asia Stakeholders’ Conference, December 14-16 2008 (at Infosys Campus, Electronic City, Bangalore), in collaboration with Hivos, The Hague and the Open Society Institute, Budapest.

CUSB (Culture-Subectivity-Psych: Rethinking Mental Health)
Public Lecture by Dr. Erica Burman (Professor of Psychology and Women’s Studies, Manchester Metropolitan University, U.K.) on Critical Psychology: Four Theses and Seven Misconceptions on November 18, 2008 at Christ University [organised by the PG Department of Psychology, Christ University, Bangalore in collaboration with CUSB].

One-day workshop on Gendered Violence on February 16, 2009 at Christ University, Bangalore.

Two-day seminar on Transference and Methodology on January 19-20, 2008 at the Jadavpur University, Kolkata (in collaboration with the Centre for Counselling Services and Studies in Self-Development, Jadavpur University and Psychoanalytic Therapy and Research Centre, Mumbai)

H.E. CELL (Higher Education Cell)
Workshop on Institutional Collaborations, June 19, 2008 at CSCS, Bangalore.

Undergraduate Education: Challenges of the Market, the Academia and Political Society, June 20-21, 2008, at CSCS, Bangalore.

LSCP (Law, Society and Culture Programme)

Critical Approaches to the Study of Law and Religion in India, August 9-10, 2008 in collaboration with Christ College of Law, at Christ University, Bangalore.

Judicial Nineties, a two-day seminar on May 10-11 2008, in collaboration with the Alternative Law Forum and the Christ College of Law, at Christ University, Bangalore.

Inter-regional Workshop on Promoting Pluralism Knowledge Programme in India, August 17-18, 2008, at NLSIU, Bangalore.
Research Programmes at CSCS are the sites on which the originary agenda of Cultural Studies as imagined in the first decade of the existence of CSCS are carried forward. The view is to deepen the capacity of Cultural Studies as an interdisciplinary field of research and pedagogy, by creating an interface with the market, society and public policy, through applied research.

The CSCS vision was always to question this division of “pure” and “applied” research. The vision and challenge for higher education in the future, as CSCS identifies it, is to come face-to-face with the interface between research, teaching (and in a larger sense, pedagogy), the market, and social policy. Research programmes at CSCS are the sites on which the interface is located.

Currently, CSCS has four Research Programmes at various stages of conducting research and pedagogic activity. They are: (i) Culture Industries and Diversity in Asia (CIDASIA), (ii) Culture, Subjectivity, Psyche: Rethinking Mental Health (CUSP), (iii) Higher Education Cell (HE Cell), and (iv) Law, Society and Culture Programme (LSCP). Besides these, there is the Archives and Access Initiative that has the potential to become a full-fledged Research Programme in the future.

These programmes have emerged organically over the previous years out of our interdisciplinary reflection (for instance, thinking about law, not in isolation, but in relation to society and culture) and our commitment to building an integrated institutional structure, in collaboration with other institutions.

Each Research Programme evolves its own framework of research and pedagogy and pursues its implementation through partnerships and projects that converge with the intellectual goals and objectives of the Programme. Each Programme, therefore, has its own partnering institutions, which may be civil society organizations, NGO’s, other educational institutions (national and international), and funding agencies which have a stake in policy and implementation, as the following reports will show.

This is a summary of the activities of the Research Programmes during 2008-09.

REPORT OF RESEARCH PROGRAMMES (APRIL 2008 – MARCH 2009)

A. CULTURE INDUSTRIES AND DIVERSITY IN ASIA (CIDASIA) PROGRAMME

Lead Researcher: S.V. Srinivas

Staff:

P. Radhika, Research Fellow, August 2008-
Sanam Roohi, Research Associate, September 2008-January 2009
During the period concerned, the following activities were carried out by the programme:

**Cultural Rights and Diversity**


**CultureAsia: Connecting Asian Actors** 14-16 Dec 2008, at the Infosys Campus, Bangalore. The co-organizers were HIVOS, The Hague and Open Society Institute (OSI), Budapest. The conference, for the first time, brought together 84 ‘stakeholders’, including artists, cultural activist, funders and academics from Central, Southeast and South Asia regions. It attempted to initiate a conversation among autonomous art practitioners and activist groups of these regions but also between them and cultural theorists on the one hand and major donor agencies on the other. The final report on the conference is available on the CSCS website.

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

*Investigating the “Last Mile Problem” in India*: The term, coming from communication theory, concerns itself with (1) identifying the eventual recipient/beneficiary of any communication message, (2) discovering new ways by which messages can be delivered intact, i.e. without either distortion of decay. The concept is also tied to the developmental project of the Indian nation-state that perceives the democratic project to be accomplished with the help of technology—be it in radio or television. Given the chronic historic failure in bridging the last mile, whether in communication theory or in development projects,
the study reinvestigates the model itself, along with its historic failures. This project is supported by Centre for Internet and Society, Bangalore.

**The Last Mile and the Digital Classroom:** The study is an intervention into India’s undergraduate college spaces and will focus on peer-to-peer and two-way movement versus one-way downloads that would convert technological eavesdroppers (i.e., uncommitted recipients) into participants (stakeholders capable of acting upon what is received). It will research and devise an implementation strategy for use of new technology (internet, mobile phone) arising from research findings. The study is supported by the Nokia University.

**Cultural Production and Livelihoods in the Age of the E&M Industry: Study of the Culture Industry in Bihar and Karnataka**

The project proposes to study contemporary non-traditional cultural production that emerged with the arrival of modern technologies of reproduction. The Entertainment and Media (E & M) industry or what is called the ‘creative industry’ today is becoming a site of intervention by different groups, such as corporate houses, who seek to transform culture into intellectual property and monetizable economic value. However, there is a hitherto unacknowledged sector that falls outside of creative industries and creative economy, and which is significantly tied to the livelihoods of a large number of cultural practitioners and entrepreneurs. The project studies this link between the non-traditional, non-creative industry sector and the question of livelihood. It explores the question through cultural production in Bhojpuri and Kannada, the focus being Bhojpuri music and film.
industry and Kannada print and film industry, around the sites of Bihar and Karnataka. This is a collaborative project between CIDASIA and Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI), Patna and is being funded by the Sir Ratan Tata Trust.

**B. LAW, SOCIETY AND CULTURE PROGRAMME (LSCP)**

"International Summer School on Pluralism, August 2008"

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**Lead Researcher:** Sitharamam Kakarala  
**Academic Staff:**  
Sruti Chaganti, Research Fellow  
Lakshmi Arya, Associate Fellow  
Shahrukh Alam, Research Fellow  
Serene Kasim, Research Fellow  

**Administrative Staff:**  
Kavita Rani, Assistant  

**Institutional Partners/Consultants:**  
The Patna Collective, Patna  
Somanath Vatsa, Lawyer & Researcher, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

**Appointments:**  
The LSC programme has both general programmatic appointments as well as specific appointments under the Promoting Pluralism Knowledge Programme-India component.
Under the first part, Sruti Chaganti and Lakshmi Arya worked as Associate Fellows.

Under the Promoting Pluralism Knowledge Programme-India component, Shahrurk Alam was appointed as Research Fellow from June 2008, Serene Kasim as Research Fellow from March 2009, Ignatius Francis and James worked as Research Assistants from April 2008 to October 2008, and November 2008 to March 2009 respectively.

Current Projects:

Promoting Pluralism Knowledge Programme – India (PPKP-I)

Promoting Pluralism Knowledge Programme-India is a part of the international programme on Promoting Pluralism conceived by Hivos, Netherlands in collaboration with the Kosmopolis Institute, University of Humanistics, Utrecht, the Netherlands. It is being implemented in Netherlands, Uganda, Indonesia and India.

In brief, the programme envisages a dialectical relationship between knowledge and development, rather than viewing the two as mutually exclusive. In this sense, the knowledge programme plays the role of an interlocutor between the rapid developments in the ‘high theory’ produced in the academic institutions and processes, and grassroots level activism or practice, with a commitment to engaging with both sides to facilitate a dialogue between the two realms and contribute to critical reflections on both sides.

The core components of the PPKP-India include the following:

   i. Pluralism, Human Rights and Rethinking the Secular Question in India
   ii. Faith and Diversity

The first part is being pursued through the specific study on the Civil Society responses

“International Summer School on Pluralism, August 2008”
to Gujarat 2002. Somnath Vatsa, an independent activist lawyer from Ahmedabad is the main researcher of the study and the documentation is almost complete. The report is expected by late April 2009. A similar study is being planned for the west-coast of Karnataka.

The second focal theme, Faith and Diversity, has two studies under progress: one in Bihar focusing on caste and Islam linkages and the emerging dynamics thereof, and another study on the gender and Islam question, covering Bihar and Tamil Nadu. A similar study is being planned for Goa.

Under the project, the programme organized a major consultation, The Challenge of Promoting Pluralism in South Asia: Consultation of Civil Society Actors on Generating Knowledge for Development (2008). This was organized in collaboration with the Kosmopolis Institute and Hivos and brought together civil society actors and examined their role in the making of democratic transformation in the region.

**Culture and Constitutionalism**

A major area of interest for the LSC programme has been culture and constitutionalism. Under this theme, various activities have been coordinated by the Programme.

**Conversations with Prof. Upendra Baxi:** The LSCP in collaboration with the Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore had organised a month-long conversation with Prof. Baxi, whose pioneering work on law and society in India is well-known. The conversations will eventually lead to a publication. Work is currently in progress towards that goal.

**Lectures and Symposia:** The LSCP had organised a symposium on Upendra Baxi’s work on constitutionalism, especially Indian constitutionalism, as part of the 10th anniversary events, in September 2008. Subsequently, Professor Baxi also delivered a public talk on ‘The Theft of Constitution and the Constitutional Theft’.

**Pedagogic Activities:** A new course on ‘Culture and Comparative Constitutionalism’ is being developed to offer as part of the PhD course work in 2009-2010 batch. A reader on human rights in India is being developed to address the concerns of the programme and its implications for teaching human rights in India.

**Research Activities:** The theme of ‘subaltern constitutionalism’ has been pursued at the programme for a while with an internal symposium and study group activity to create the necessary impetus to generate the internal capacity for a larger research project.

**Other Activities:**

**Internships:** The LSC Programme has evolved a framework for internships of students from Law and Social Sciences. Under this scheme, it had hosted an international internship programme on Gender and Police Reforms in Karnataka supported by UNICEF India.

The PPKP-India project also has an internship component in which students are encouraged to conduct research on themes of pluralism in India. The first phase of
recruitment of interns will begin in May 2009. There will be another round of recruitment of interns in October – November 2009.

C. HIGHER EDUCATION CELL (HEC)

Lead Researcher: Tejaswini Niranjana
Research and Administrative Staff: Anup K. Dhar (Research Coordinator); Rekha Pappu (Research Consultant); Ashwin Kumar A.P.(Research Associate); Sheetal Nandanwar (Administrative Assistant).

The Higher Education Cell (HEC), an initiative of CSCS and the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT), is envisaged as having four major functions through which it engages with the HE sector: Research Initiatives, Institutional Collaborations, Documentation and Archiving, and Grant Development for the SRTT / NRTT. The primary work of the Cell is to engage the sector of Higher Education (HE), and to establish a strong identity as the location of major research initiatives in the field, along with putting together an extensive database of existing initiatives and resources, and setting up networks of educational institutions for potential research and resource-sharing.

In the 2008-09 period, the Cell pursued its key objectives of synergising the relationship between the three ends of the HE spectrum namely, the Research Centre, the University and the Undergraduate College; supporting curriculum development and teacher training; strengthening inter-disciplinary research and teaching and designing fellowships programmes for students. The five initiatives of the Cell, namely, (1) Networked Higher Education, (2) Regional Language Resources, (3) Social Justice in HE, (4) Gender Studies and (5) Integrated Science Education intersect different areas within the higher education scenario in India in ways to 1) address the issues raised by the state and national bodies of education and 2) develop better models for knowledge production of dissemination.

The Cell’s activities in the period included:

Research Output: Reports/Reviews/Publications

Report on Undergraduate Education in Karnataka by Ashwin Kumar (analytical report collating the findings of the microstudies)

The Legacies and Prospects of General and Undergraduate Education in India: A Report (commissioned through its ERP Dr. Mrinalini Sebastian, giving a comprehensive historical account of education debates in India in the last hundred years, mostly focussing on general education)

Women’s Studies in India: An Overview by Dr. Rekha Pappu (review of the field)

Cultural Studies in India: A Preliminary Report on Institutionalisation by Dr. Ratheesh Radhakrishnan (detailing the feasibility and prospects for UGC ratification of Cultural Studies as a research area)
Preparation of Indices, Template and Methodology to assess Impact of Higher Education Initiative for Sir Ratan Tata Trust (impact assessment framework developed by Dr. Narendar Pani, Prof. and Dean, School of Social Sciences, NIAS, in collaboration with the HEC)

Report on Institutional Collaboration: Experience Sharing by Dr. Anup K. Dhar

Developing an undergraduate certificate course in Gender and Culture (the online version of the course to be web published by December 09) which was offered at Christ University in January 2009

Workshops/ Consultations
A two-day international workshop on Liberal Education, June 08
A workshop on Institutional Collaborations and New Thematic Specifics, June 08
Workshop on Gender Studies and New Pedagogies, June 08

Participation in ASEM Education Hub in Venice in November, 2008, the discussions in the meeting to lead to the study of regionalism in the Asia-Europe context, to put together a consortium of institutions for research/ policy recommendations.

Research Commissioned by HEC
Mapping Gender Training programmes in Tamil Nadu: Dr. V. Geetha and team

Survey of Social Science material in Hindi: ISERDD, New Delhi

Developing thematic Social Science Reader in Marathi; Samaj Prabodhan Patrika, Belgaum

Developing Gender Studies Reader in Malayalam: Centre for Development Studies(CDS), Thiruvananthapuram

Review of Integrated Science Education in India: Dr. Dhruv Raina and team, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, JNU

Grant Management for Tata Trusts
In addition to its own research the HE Cell also does idea incubation and grant management for the Sir Ratan Tata Trust and the Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust. It has facilitated in evolving highly focussed initiatives for building educational resources across a range of institutions.

D. CUSP (Culture-Subjectivity-Psyche: Rethinking Mental Health)

Lead Researcher : Anup Dhar

During the period concerned, the following activities were carried out by the programme:

Development of a Resource Base on integrated approaches to mental health in India.
Development of a Library Collection of *Samiksha*: the journal of the Indian Psychoanalytic Society.

**Public Lecture** by Dr. Erica Burman (Professor of Psychology and Women’s Studies, Manchester Metropolitan University, U.K.) on *Critical Psychology: Four Theses and Seven Misconceptions* on November 18, 2008 at Christ University [organised by the PG Department of Psychology, Christ University, Bangalore in collaboration with CUSP].

One-day **Workshop** on *Gendered Violence* on February 16, 2009 at Christ University, Bangalore.

Two-day **Seminar** on *Transference and Methodology* on Jan 19-20, 2008 in Kolkata on (in collaboration with the Centre for Counselling Services and Studies in Self-Development, Jadavpur University and Psychoanalytic Therapy and Research Centre, Mumbai)

**Courses offered:**
“Culture-Subjectivity-Psychoanalysis: The Politics of (Secret) Selves in Colonial India” offered as a course to the first year PhD and PG Diploma students in 2008.

“Psychology after Lacan” (December 2008 to March 2009) offered to an interdisciplinary cohort of UG and PG students affiliated to various departments of Christ University. The course was offered in collaboration with the Department of Psychology, Christ University.

**CUSP Projects:**
*The Experience of Gendered Violence: Developing Psychobiographies* (as a project under consideration with the Indian Council for Social Science Research). The project aims to (i) expand the reading of violence: expand existing studies of violence into sites that do not conventionally qualify as sites of violence – for example ‘intimate moments’ and ‘clinical situations’, (ii) develop psychobiography as a method of studying both conventional and especially unconventional sites of violence and in the process take forward the tradition of studying violence through psychobiographies, (iii) compare existing studies of violence (studies that could be represented as ‘sociological-historical’) with studies generated through psychobiographies, (iv) study violence beyond the defining paradigm ‘man the perpetrator’ and ‘woman the victim” and develop in the process a more complicated understanding of the interface of violence and gendering; we have called this interface ‘gendered violence’ and (v) generate through psychobiographies and through a qualitative analysis of such psychobiographies, a shareable ‘knowledge’ out of the experience of ‘gendered violence”; knowledge that would contribute to gender studies in particular and to the social sciences in general.

**CUSP Publications:**
*Whither Mental Health* (an interview with Ashis Nandy) - forthcoming.
A. ONGOING PhD PROJECTS

BATCH OF 2002 – 03:

1. Mr. Nishant Shah  
Research Topic: The Technosocial Subject: The City, the Cyberspace and the Citizen-Subject  
The proposed research project is an inquiry into investigating the construction of technosocial subjectivities and processes of governance as constituted within/by the networking processes and technological forms that emerge with the advent of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in India. The project looks at the social, cultural and material reconstruction of the city as a techno-social space where the new regimes of sociality, subjectivity and regulation are structured within the daily mechanics of urban survival. In this restructuration, the project examines the global Indian State and the questions of legality, reform, violence, and governance, as ICTs become central to the imagination of the techno-social subjects and their relationship with the technologised State.

2. Ms. Polly Hazarika  
The period of Social Reform in India saw radical social and cultural changes. These changes have had far reaching effects on our present relationship with social and cultural practices, and the discourse within which we relate to them. The relationship between postcolonial politically-correct stances, nationalistic rhetoric and the discourse of reform of Indian practices continues to be a discomfiting aspect of our reality. In the thesis, the categories of the Colonial, the Nationalist and what gets called the Traditional are reconstructed, using historical material, post-colonial accounts, as well as alternative conceptual frames. The attempt is to isolate, examine and interrogate these categories, and also reveal the nature of their relationship with their domains.

3. Ms. Sufiya Pathan  
Research Topic: Genealogy of Communalism  
Studies of ‘communalism’ have adopted a shorthand to address matters such as the riots of the 20th century without investigating the theoretical framework of the concept they deploy to address these problems. This thesis attempts to show the consequences of this shorthand for Indian history and theory as well as to trace this missing history or genealogy of the colonial formulation of ‘communalism’. The central claim is that ‘communalism’ by virtue of being a normative inference embedded within colonial discourse did not and by extension cannot serve as an explanation of historical phenomena.
1. Ms. Sushmita Sridhar  
Research Topic: Vision and Visual Experience in Colonial India  
This project investigates mutations in the nature of visuality in the late 18th and early 19th centuries in colonial India through examining colonial European and indigenous Indian visualization practices. This period precedes the institutionalization of British art education in India and the advent of photography as a colonial tool of knowledge. Through an examination of discourses around visual experience in colonial art education and practice as well as visualizations of the colonial subject in travelogues, journals and personal narratives, the thesis studies an earlier reorganization of vision in the 18th and early 19th centuries. This project works with theorizations of vision and subjectivity which have informed work on contemporary visuality.

2. Mr. T. Vishnu Vardhan (University of Ulster, U.K. – CSCS, Bangalore)  
Research Topic: Telugu Mythological As a Cultural Form  
Stories from the Indian epics, especially Ramayana and Mahabharatha, were the initial narrative sources for filmmaking in India. The dominance of the mythological had a rather long history in Telugu cinema unlike in other Indian cinemas. It is also popularly believed that the mythological roles played by N.T. Rama Rao enabled him to carry over the cinematic popularity into electoral politics, resulting in NTR becoming the first non-Congress Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh within a year of his venture into politics. Most recent writings on this topic approach mythologicals in two broad frameworks – as a religious film and as a national form – and fail to address successfully, the regional, socio-political dimensions of the (Telugu) mythological.

BATCH OF 2003 – 04:  

3. Ms. Asha Achuthan  
Research Topic: Feminist Standpoint theory and the Question of Experience  
The thesis attempts a feminist critique of science in a post-ideological climate, where feminism is expected to be in the domain of the political, and science in epistemology. The thesis proposes that a possible connection exists between scientism as a set of practices, science as institutional power, and the text of Science as hegemony. It proposes that such a link provides a better picture of the hegemonic and 'enduring' image of science, as against either simple disaggregations or equally simple pointers at homogeneity. In that sense, the project is proposing a critique of Science, not (only) scientism. The project also examines the trajectory of feminist responses to science in India, with specific focus on work on the reproductive health apparatus in Bengal.

4. Mr. Dunkin Jalki  
Research Topic: Vacanas as Caste Critiques: Oriental Expression of Native Experience  
Since the last days of colonialism, we have grown used to talking about Indian society in terms that betray our moral attitude towards them. It is generally considered that Hinduism is predicated on a caste system which is inherently unjust. The only saving grace which
often comes to the rescue of India’s national pride, whenever this story is told, is about the indige-nous movements against the caste system, like the bhakti movements. This project analyses the vacana movement of the 12th century Karnataka, arguing that what directs their selection and valorization are western stereotypes about lingayats. Taking the lingayat community and the modern understanding of the vacanas, this research project focuses on this cognitive shift and its moralistic and decisive action consequences. It also proposes a better way of understanding Indian traditions.

5. Ms. Sushumna Kannan  
This research project studies contemporary scholarship in feminist epistemologies and the Indian epistemologies/traditions. The thesis closely reads Akka Mahadevi, a ‘woman/poet/saint’ from Medieval India who claimed like many other ‘enlightened’ people of her time and age (and land: India) that differences of sex/gender, good fortune or caste (jaati) didn’t matter to the ‘Knowledge’ that was sought. This research project argues that such a feminist understanding of Akka Mahadevi is based on a selective reading of her vacanas and is Orientalist in nature. It shows the irony of both contemporary feminists and the British colonizers seeing India (and its treatment of women) as barbaric and backward, forcing feminists to buy into the European experience of India and accepting the framework of Victorian notions of sexuality. The project comments on the conceptual resources of contemporary feminism in India through the historical questions raised.

6. Ms. Bitasta Das  
Research Topic: Unravelling Ethnic Tensions: Colonialism, Postcolonialism and the Identity Question in Assam  
Assam has been defined as a multi-ethnic society. The narrative that it is the homeland of diverse cultures and civilizations finds place in all the official and non-official writings, songs, stories and folklore. These descriptions not only explicate racial differences but also indicate wide variations in language, religion, differences among the inhabitants of the plains and the hills, etc. Together with it, the narrative shows the land being the historic ‘melting pot’ of all these diversities and shows how this ‘melting pot’ has turned into an ethnic cauldron. Through the study of three assertions-Assam movement, ULFA stir and the Bodo movement, the proposed study understands issues such as the notion of ethnicity, the place of ethnicity in the context of colonial and postcolonial politics and the notion of ethnic difference held by the asserting groups.

7. Ms. Sahana  
Research Topic: Kannada Popular Cinema: Language, Identities, Nation  
The project is an effort to understand the unfurling of nationalism in the form of linguistic movement(s) in the twentieth century Karnataka, by focussing on a particular kind of 1990s film star-director in Kannada cinema: Upendra. Making an argument for critical
differences from the political spaces occupied by either Tamil or Telugu cinema, it will show how the concept of the ‘nation’ as envisaged in the post-Ekikarana Karnataka was effectively annexed by the Kannada cinema, also bringing that cinema into the space of the political. In doing so, the State’s role in creating and shaping the identities of citizen-subjects took a distinct turn in the Kannada context, including the production of the citizen-nationalist as a militant, embattled chalavali/oratagara (agitator) who is on the street to protest. The project intends to place the characters created by Upendra alongside the Gokak-agitator of the Rajkumar fans association to question the anxiety in accepting these figures as part of the Kannada cultural world.

8. Ms. Teena Antony
Research Topic: Women and Education in Kerala
The research project pertains to the debates on women’s education in the Travancore-Cochin region between the 1880s and the 1930s. In many of the popular women’s magazines the turn-of-the-century debates had been on the question of whether or not women should be given education. The thesis looks at a particular shift in the debates that happen in the period between the 1900s-1930s, which address the question of what kind of education women should be given. The project proposes to account for some of the questions raised by a reading of the sources (some of the women’s magazines and a few early novels/autobiographies from 1880 to 1940) and to map the changes in the meaning of concepts like shreekedharmam, modernity and freedom. The focus would be on understanding the role played by the education debates in the way in which these concepts are conceived.

BATCH OF 2005 – 06:

9. Mr. Ashwin Kumar A. P.
Research Topic: Local Labyrinths: Language as a Problematic
The project is a study of the issues pertaining to language ideologies with specific reference to Kannada. Beginning from the early missionary philologists in the nineteenth century and then the colonial and native language scholars, there has been an enormous amount of labour on language, which has, according to many critics, produced language as an historical object, a rationale for the linguistic state or has resulted in a particular Third World fetishism that Clifford Geertz wearily described as ‘linguisms’. Language has been a prominent trope around which are mobilized new subjectivities, policies and cultural productions. The project examines the existing frames of looking at this issue and argues that what needs to be explained is not just the conditions and processes through which language is deployed for political and cultural mobilization but also the conceptual structure which produces languages as such an order of reality.

10. Ms. Nitya Vasudevan
Research Topic: Turning toward the Bodily Subject: Theorising the field of visibility in contemporary India
The project aims to write a history of a contemporary moment in India, in which there is
a burgeoning discourse on Indian culture and simultaneously the discourse on a new
India of the globalised era. It is also a period which has witnessed a large number of
frenzied debates on gender and sexuality, in particular concerned with the female body-
sexuality, and, importantly, the birth of ‘desire’ as an organizing complex, linked to the
fashioning of selves in a context in which the role of the state has changed, nationalism
have taken on varied fractured/ing garbs, and consumerism is a reigning motto. By
historically locating concerns around sexuality in varied domains – cinema, the law,
‘politics’, medicine and health, the project attempts to move away from positing sexuality
as an isolated domain/interiorized attribute and instead maps a field of transactions,
historicized in terms of routes leading back to the ‘birth of modernity’ in the colonial
moment and the ways in which these domains were established/functioned in the Indian
context and at the same time contemporized in the era of global capital.

BATCH OF 2006 – 07:
11. Ms. Geetanjali Srikantan
Research Topic: Law, Colonialism and The Religious place in India
Many debates around law and religion take religion to be a self-explanatory category.
This has resulted in Indian judicial discourse being preoccupied over what constitutes
and demarcates the religious from the secular. Such an approach fails to understand
what “religion” is and how a “religious place” comes into being. This study intends to
focus on how the “religious” in India has come into being. It argues that that law was the
mechanism through which colonialism identified and transacted with what it saw as religion
in India. It proposes that the religious place is a site where the manifold ways of how law
looks at religion can be understood in all its complexity. The claim in this thesis is that
“the religious place” has been institutionalised by a dynamic that is constituted by the
archaeology of western discourse, particularly legal discourse on religion.

12. Mr. Jason Keith Fernandes
Research Topic: Goa and Portugal: Imaginations, Inter-Identity, Inter-Legality
and the New –World Order
This research project seeks to articulate a postcolonial theory that places the experiences
of Portuguese colonialism at the centre of its study by focusing on the lower class Goan
Catholic. If reality has been defined in terms of the dominant British model of colonialism
(and post-colonialism), the implications of that of Portuguese colonialism has by and
large been relegated to the realms of fantasy. It is this complex mixture of ‘reality’ and
imaginations that this study seeks to analyze. To do so, the project locates the lower
class Goan Catholic as the subject of this study. The project follows the experiences of
this community over three locations- Goa, London and Lisbon- to investigate the manner
in which they realize citizenship in these locations. These sites represent the space between
domains and metropoles of the (former) empires in which their identity is determined. In
exploring this aspect of citizenship, the study also inquires into the policy and practice of
multiculturalism in the three nation-states (India, UK and Portugal) and indicates the
manner in which the citizen is interpellated.
13. Mr. Kaiwan Mehta
Research Topic: The Ornaments of Urban Neighbourhoods
This research project attempts to develop a framework to investigate and understand the form and structure, construction and imagination of the urban neighbourhood. The urban neighbourhood is a trope that will help explore the history of construction of urban spaces, and the socio-political structuring of urban class and communities within them. The research project will focus on the 19th century ‘native town’ of colonial Bombay, which includes Bhuleshwar, Kalkadevi, Mohammedali Road, and other neighbouring localities, and the framework will thematise these narratives through a study of architectural practice and iconography, oral histories, archival material and literary accounts.

14. Mr. Rajeev Kumaramkandath
Research Topic: The Discursive Formation of Sexual Subjects: Sexual Morality and Homosexuality in the 21st Century
The study proposes to understand and locate notions of homosexuality from multiple perspectives – those of culture-ethnography, morality-human rights, psychoanalysis and history. The project is an attempt to theorize the interface between sexual morality and the deviant sexual subjectivity in the context of late 19th Century colonial Kerala, within emerging capitalist and modernist spaces. The inherent values of this sexual morality will be contrasted with their current versions propagated through various media and which become the guidelines in the construction of the deviant sexual subject. The emergence and deployment of sexual morality in the construction of subjects those that are essentially demoralized and perverted, the emerging voices from bodies considered abhorrent that challenge the dominant codes of sexual morality, are the two core aspects that the project will look at.

15. Ms. Zainab Bawa
Research Topic: Urban Economy and Politics.
Urban politics has been theorized in the disciplines of Sociology, Political science, History, Anthropology, Urban studies and Geography. Accordingly, urban poor groups have been classed as informal, marginal, ‘Quiet encroachers’ and political society, mobilizing politics for their survival. The proposed research aims to investigate the process of local politics to understand what the city is. Through an examination of the processes of local politics and economies in two field sites in Mumbai and Bangalore, the thesis investigates how spaces come into being and how individuals and groups claim space and place in the city and constitute their identities and, in the process, shape the spatiality of the city. Through such grounding, the project will also attempt to complicate the notion of urban restructuring.

21. Ms. Meera Jensi Moorkoth
Research Topic: Land and Development: Towards an understanding of Adivasi land politics in twentieth century Kerala
Tribal or Adivasi land struggles in India are inevitably understood through the lens of the environmental and developmental crises of the post independence era. This reduces their history and practices - cultural and local - to current environmental and developmental concerns, reproducing histories in ways compatible to these and glosses over the
complexity of tribal land politics. The proposed project will investigate how adivasi communities in Kerala are constructed within a language (which defines any relationship to land in positive or negative comparisons with development) that dominates the understanding of contemporary adivasi land politics. At another level, by looking at the locally and culturally specific land related practices of adivasi communities, the thesis will try to develop a framework to understand contemporary adivasi politics on land.

BATCH OF 2007 – 08

22. Nisha Mary Matthew
Research Topic: Understanding Space, Politics and History in the Making of Dubai, a Global City
The research project seeks to study the city of Dubai, its evolution and transformation from a small trading centre in the Arab Gulf in the nineteenth century into, as it popularly represents itself, one of the world’s most glamorous, spectacular and futuristic urban destinations in the twenty-first century. The intention, however, is not to undertake to write the history of Dubai anew, bridging gaps in the existing state of knowledge pertaining to the region and bringing in fresh historical details. It is instead an attempt at theorizing on the one hand, the cultural and political logic of city-building in Dubai, and coming to terms with, on the other, the greater social and economic disposition of the global present that Dubai has so comfortably come to appropriate for its own, with such appropriation made visible in the symbols and signs of urban living that characterize the city.

23. Shashikala Srinivasan
Research Topic: A Conceptual Enquiry into “Modern”, “Western” Education of India
This project investigates the contemporary discourses around the “crisis” in higher education in India, particularly in the institution of the university (considered as the very embodiment of the idea of liberal education) in the last two decades. The contention is that any attempt to understand this perception of crisis and to provide this articulation with a thicker content requires a revisiting of at least three moments in history when “higher” education, learning, knowledge and the institutional structures required to create and transmit knowledge were debated with great intensity – the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century when the idea of the modern university and education is debated in Europe and in India, the early twentieth century in India when the problem/question of education and knowledge is contextualized and historicized by the nationalists and the irruption of the problem of education and knowledge in the last two decades, culminating in the discourse around the knowledge society with its focus on various forms of knowledge and the ambiguous role of the university in the new scheme of things.

B. COMPLETED PhD DISSERTATIONS
1. Dr. P. Radhika Narayan
Title of Dissertation: Women’s Subjectivity, Modernity and Conjugality: Historicising Popular Women’s Writing in Kannada, 1950s-1980s
The thesis maps the formation of a Kannada modernity in specific relation to the fashioning
of women’s subjectivity in the conjugal space. In particular it refers to the fashioning of
the notion of a grihini (married woman) within the space of dampatya (conjugality) in
an important set of Kannada novels and advice books, written by women, which were
published between the early 1950s and early 1980s. The study focuses on the romance
genre where the conventional narrative moves towards couple formation or marriage
after the passage through courtship. The argument is that both the novels and advice
writings narrativize conjugality and women’s subjectivity within the developmental-modern
language of the state through drawing on notions of selfhood and equality. However,
unlike the advice writings, the form of narrativisation found in the novels, which uses the
psychological technique to reiterate the mental conflicts experienced by the women
protagonists, interrupts the developmental-modern language.

2. Dr. Ratheesh Radhakrishnan
Title of Dissertation: Masculinities and the Structuring of the Public Domain in
Kerala: A History of the Contemporary
The thesis attempts to work out the link between the structuring of the public domain
and the discourse of masculinity in contemporary Kerala, South India. Using the debates
around an incident of sexual harassment that happened in 1999, it argues for a conjunctural
understanding of the contemporary where various events and moments in history are
replayed through narrativisation and popular memory. The thesis goes on to analyse the
debates around this incident, which produce a ‘narrative public domain’, to foreground
the various notions of masculinity that construct and structure it in relation to changing
notions of female sexuality and changing structures of family. These notions of masculinity
are then used as starting points for a historical inquiry into Kerala’s modernity – an
inquiry that would throw light on the past and the ways in which the contemporary is
produced through its historical legacies.

3. Dr. Subhajit Chatterjee
Title of Dissertation: (Mis) Reading Romance: An Enquiry Concerning
Representation of ‘Love’ in Bengali Cinema and Literature
This research project is an attempt at rewriting a critical history of ‘affect’ and ‘intimacy’
within a specified historical domain. The dissertation is a study of certain moments within
the cultural history of Bengal when representational constructions of ‘intimacy’ get meshed
with other socio-political dimensions of modern Bengali subjectivity. Bengali literature of
the colonial period, especially of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and a specific
genre of Bengali popular cinema of the post-colonial period, are the two sites of enquiry
into the cultural trajectory of romantic love. The arguments chart a specific trajectory of
the romantic imagination that is intimately linked to the substantive reformulation of cultural
‘identity’ in relation to the other socio-political parameters, which oversee the historically
defined ‘identifications’ of the Bengali subject. Through analyses of various literary and
cinematic representations, the thesis seeks to demonstrate how such creative
reconceptualizations in the field of romance enable the Bengali subject to gain a critical
perspective on the very historical frameworks and social mandates that locate it within the aegis of modernity.

4. Dr. Sujith Kumar Parayil

**Title of Dissertation: Re-visioning Colonialism and Modernity: Photography and the Social and Cultural History of Kerala**

This thesis attempts to use photography and, in particular, the photographs of the late 19th and early 20th century Kerala, to write a history of the representational practices and conventions followed by photographs within the particular social and cultural milieu of colonial Kerala. To begin with, the study focuses on photography as a cultural technology of colonialism, similar to other media/institutions and practices structured by colonialism. Secondly, the thesis explores the penetration of photography into the cultural life of Kerala and its role in the long process of social change and reform in Kerala society, both through active technological intervention and the social mediations of representation. The aim is to understand the subject in these frames through the ideological implications and social semiosis that is registered in photographs (composition of background and forefront, aesthetic conventions, the dress, stance, gesture, etc) and their role in determining the dialectic of subject/object in official and non-official photography.

5. Dr. Meera Ashar

**Title of Dissertation: Subject to Democracy: Self and Identity Politics**

This thesis argues that the political discourse in India is an expression of the discrepant relationship between the indigenous cultural experience and a political lexicon whose intelligibility derives from the cultural experience of the West. Working within the conceptual framework of ‘democracy,’ contemporary political theory employs the key categories of that framework to understand the domain of politics in India. But are ‘democracy’ and its supporting concepts adequate explanatory categories of our political experience or do we employ them merely because they have assumed universal currency? In an attempt to answer these questions, the thesis maps out the ways in which Indian political discourse employs the Western lexicon to offer both explanatory and normative theories about the ‘domain’ that they call democracy. To be able to understand the persistence of these polysemic categories, we need to understand what provides intelligibility to these terms and how they have become categories of political analysis. The project attempts this by showing the necessary link between the key concepts of our political theory and what Foucault calls the “the historical ontology of the West.” To explore this question, the study turns to one of the earliest Gujarati novels of the colonial period, *Sarasvatīcandradevi* and the failure of its project of cultural translation. Can we read this failure as the incoherence of the attempt to use the modern Western idiom to codify a domain of experience that renders that domain unintelligible to itself?
PhD Courses: 2008 – 2009

1. Culture, Subjectivity and Psychoanalysis: The Politics of (Secret) Selves in Colonial India

Instructor: Anup K. Dhar

This course is designed to think the “politics of (secret) selves in colonial India”. In that sense, this course is not just about ‘explicit selves’; it is also about ‘secret selves’. It is not just about ‘bounded-bonded selves’ - about selves explicitly marked by a certain Christianizing of the pagan world. It is also about ‘elusive selves’ - about selves not marked altogether by a (Christian) science of pagan practices. It is also about moments in European selves who could not accept either Christianity or its secularized fusion of morality and religion or its claim to provide a theoretical foundation of practices. Put in yet another way, this course is about the inauguration of a certain attitude-mindset in the social sciences – an attitude-mindset that inaugurates, in turn, a turn to subjectivity (as against objectivist accounts). It is that which inaugurates a turn to intersubjectivity as a ground and condition of knowledge. It inaugurates a turn to ‘thought’ as against ‘knowingness’. It inaugurates a turn to the Socratic question – “Who am I?” “How should I live?” It inaugurates an attention to the “work of the self on the self, an elaboration of the self by the self, a progressive transformation of the self by the self for which one takes responsibility in a long labor of ascetic (askesis)”.

2. Culture and the Disciplines

Instructor: Tejaswini Niranjana

The objective of this course is to introduce the contemporary debates in the social sciences and humanities relating to the ‘cultural turn’ of the 1990s. The course, on the one hand, looks into how the question of culture has been dealt with in the disciplines, and on the other, examine how the emergent domain of cultural studies has engaged with the disciplines. Of interest here would be the claims to inter-disciplinarity made by cultural studies practitioners, and the many diverse institutional locations of cultural studies that appear to be multi- rather than inter-disciplinary. The dual focus of the course will be on understanding the disciplinary legacies of cultural studies in India and on strengthening the methodologies of cultural studies research.

3. Theorizing Indigenous Capital

Instructors: Ashish Rajadhyaksha with Lakshmi Subramanian

We meet at a time when India, of all places, seeks economic superpower status. Such a claim was, as recently as ten years ago, inconceivable. What has changed in the past decade? Has there been any objective change in the actual situation of India’s economy,
or has there been a change in the definition of economic reality, the ‘rules’ by which countries like India and China have, suddenly and overnight, been transformed from overpopulated ‘third world’ countries with crippling poverty into a financial superpowers? There has been growing recognition that the answer, if any, is to be found only through a longer, perhaps millennial, time-span – covering the centuries, rather than decades – and it may not be found within the discipline of macroeconomics alone. The course being offered tracks the historical definition of the term ‘indigenous capital’ over approximately a three-hundred year period.

4. Writing Seminar

Instructor: Rochelle Pinto

This course is predominantly intended to help students towards formulating and structuring their proposals. The latter part of the course is therefore devoted to the discussion, critique and rewriting of proposals. Towards this end, students are required to collect and sift the various kinds of reading that will help them define their focus, approach and object of study. Some part of each class is devoted to a discussion of approaches and questions in the light of each research interest. Aside from introducing sources that will lay out the protocols of thesis writing in its simplest form, the course readings present some crucial debates within the social sciences over what its methodologies and objects of study should be. A two-pronged approach is adopted towards all readings, by examining on the one hand what changes are effected within the social sciences with a shift in methodology, and on the other, treating the readings as samples of writing, tracing how the argument moves, and how the text is structured.

5. Normativity and Experience (Optional)

Instructor: Vivek Dhareshwar

There are different kinds of objects and domains. Some are abstract, sets and numbers, for example. Others are concrete, chairs and trees, for example. Yet others, such as the state or the university, are different from both the abstract and the concrete objects, while sharing some properties with them. Then there are the “theoretical entities” of the natural sciences such as “electron” or “centre of gravity.” Theoretically and practically, we have or develop different ways of understanding these domains and handling the objects therein. Or alternatively, we could say that these objects/domains have their own ways of being known. Such questions relating to the existence-claims of these very different kinds of objects fall within an inquiry that can be broadly termed ontological. There are, however, some puzzling entities, especially in what we take to be the experiential domain which is the concern of the human sciences (including cultural studies): for example, to take entities that are very familiar indeed, “human rights” or “civil society” or even “history” and ‘self’? What kind of ontological inquiry will help us assess their status? This course takes the ontological route to figure out the peculiar status of norms and normativity. “Sexuality” will serve as a paradigmatic example as well as a point of departure. For several reasons (to be explored in the course) normativity is one of the
hardest theoretical or philosophical question to tackle. The course aims to get an initial conceptual handle on the idea of a “normed” object and the process by which a domain gets normativized by studying the domain “sexuality” through the work of Michel Foucault. With the help of the insights and heuristics developed from that study, the course then explores other objects/domains.

6. Culture and Democracy

Instructors: S.V. Srinivas and Sitharamam Kakarala

In the light of the ongoing discussions at CSCS on Cultural Studies approaches and methods, this year (2009) the course begins with a set of discussions on the core theoretical questions on democracy and some tentative formulations of what a Cultural Studies approach might bring to the conversation on such themes. It then goes on to examining texts, concepts and arguments that are useful to substantiate the initial formulation. The course will include reflections by other CSCS faculty and visiting scholars on their own work, focussing on how they view the relationship between culture and democracy in the contemporary world.
IX. OTHER COURSES OFFERED BY CSCS

- *Law, Rights and Culture*, at the National Law School of India University, Bangalore, during March-June 2008, taught by Dr. Kakarala Sitharamam.


- *Introduction to Cultural Studies*, at Christ University, July – October 2008, taught by Anup Kumar Dhar and Nisha Mathew.

- *Psychology after Lacan*, at the Department of Psychology, Christ University, January 2009 to March 2009, taught by Anup Kumar Dhar [with Ian Parker and Erica Burman of Manchester Metropolitan University, Radhika P. of CIDASIA (CSCS), Asha Achuthan of CCS (IISC) and Ranjita Biswas of Jadavpur University].

- *Legal History*, at the College of Law, Christ University, Bangalore, July-November 2008, taught by Aparna Balachandran and Sruti Chaganti.


X. LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

The CSCS library renders information support to researchers and students. The library moved to the new premises in Uttarahalli in the month of October 2008.

There are three different sections in the new space:

- Stacking Room
- Reading Room
- Computer Section
The library has an online catalogue, which lists all the holdings of the library. The catalogue is open to the public and can be accessed at this URL.
http://www.cscsarchive.org/libraryservices/libraryservice.2007-02-22.2361656163

Our Collection: Books
The library has a wide collection of books on different themes / subjects such as Philosophy (including Philosophy of Science), Feminism, Law, Cultural Studies, History, Psychology, Film Studies, Literature, Economics, and Politics.

The 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 books in other Indian languages (Bengali, Gujarati, Malayalam, Tamil, Hindi, and Sanskrit).

During the period April 2008 to March 2009, 620 books were added to the library.

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, Chinese, German, Italian and other Indian languages.

Journals & Newspapers & Magazines
The library holds twelve Indian journals including six online subscriptions: These are:

1. Contributions to Indian Sociology
2. Indian Economic & Social History Review
3. Indian Journal of Gender Studies
4. South Asia Research
5. Studies in History
6. Economic and Political Weekly

Seven magazines in English and Kannada, and two daily newspapers in English and Kannada are procured regularly.

Electronic Database
JSTOR: A scholarly journals' database (www.jstor.org) is available.

Library Fellowship
The Library Fellowship Programme began in 2002 in order to encourage the use of the CSCS library and resources by undergraduate teachers who have limited opportunities to pursue research in their area of interest within the institutional framework of colleges; generate inter-disciplinary research from a variety of perspectives; build definite links between CSCS and undergraduate education in the country; develop cultural studies syllabi at the undergraduate level to innovate with existing syllabi so that a cultural studies perspective may be introduced informally; and to innovate with existing syllabi in order to enrich course content and pedagogic practices in the humanities and social sciences. The programme has been a great success in terms of the interest shown by the college teachers as well as the opportunities it has provided for CSCS interaction with faculty from different parts of the country.
So far, 25 scholars from different parts of India have made use of this fellowship. The funds for the library fellowship programme have so far come from grants from the India Foundation for the Arts (IFA) and the Ford Foundation.

Services
Services provided in the library are:

- Library Orientation
- Current Awareness Service
- Reference Services
- Bibliographic Services
- Reprographic Services
- Document delivery service
- New arrivals Update (In-house circulation)

Library Users
Apart from the CSCS faculty and students, research scholars, media persons, faculty of colleges, Universities, and other research institutions use the library resources.

During the year 2008-2009 (April 2008- March 2009), 212 users made use of the library facilities extensively.

**Timings**
The timings of the library are 9 am to 5.30 pm on weekdays and 10 am to 1 pm on Saturday for CSCS faculty and students; for outside users the timings are 10 am to 5.30 pm on weekdays and 10 am to 1 pm on Saturday.
Visiting Professors:
Dr. M. Madhava Prasad visited CSCS visited in June 2008, where he taught a module on Concepts in Psychoanalysis, which was open to CSCS students / faculty and the Alternative Law Forum. Dr. Madhav Prasad is Professor, Centre for European Studies, Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad. He has published extensively on cinema, literary theory, postcolonial questions, and critical theory. His contribution to the burgeoning area of Indian film studies marshals a panoply of Marxist, political, and film theories about ideology, the Indian state, melodrama, realism, and narrative form to trace the historical construction of Hindi cinema.

Affiliate Fellows:
Dr. Jisha Menon, Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of British Columbia, was affiliated to CSCS between 1 April 2008 and 30 July 2008. During her visit, she worked on a research project entitled, “Bordering on Drama: Cultural Productions of the India- Pakistan Border”.

Dr. Purima Mankekar, Associate Professor, Department of Women’s Studies and Asian American Studies at the University of California-Los Angeles is currently affiliated to CSCS for her project on call-centres.

Dr. Chen Yihua, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, School of Humanities, Jinan University, China, is currently affiliated to CSCS. His affiliation with CSCS started from April 2009.
FORM NO. 10B
(See Rules 17 B)

AUDIT REPORT UNDER SECTION 12 A (b) OF THE INCOME TAX ACT 1961 IN CASE OF A CHARITABLE OR RELIGIOUS TRUSTS OR INSTITUTIONS

We have examined the Balance Sheet of the CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF CULTURE AND SOCIETY, a registered Trust (PAN AAATCI092N) situated at No. 827, 29th Main Road, Poornaprajna Layout, Ultrasound, Bangalore 560061 as at 31st March, 2009 together with Receipts & Payments account and Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31.03.2009 which are in agreement with the books of accounts maintained by the Society.

We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of the audit.

In our opinion, proper books of accounts have been kept by the Company so far as appears from our examination of the books.

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said accounts give a true and fair view:

i) In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named Society as at 31st March 2009 and

ii) In the case of the Income and Expenditure Account, of the excess of Expenditure over Income of the above named Trust for the year ended 31.03.2009.

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

For ENNAR & Co Chartered

PLACE: BANGALORE
DATE: 24.09.2009

(M. Narasimha Rao)
Chartered Accountants
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