



CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN
SOCIAL SCIENCES CALCUTTA

 **DSS**
DOCTORAL SCHOLARS SEMINAR

CALL FOR PAPERS

PEOPLE, CULTURES, SPACES

An Interdisciplinary Conference in the Social Sciences

CONFERENCE DATE



9-10 Jan, 2025

**Abstract
Submission
Deadline**

20 Nov 2024

**Abstract
Acceptance
Notification**

30 Nov 2024

**Full
Paper
Submission**

25 Dec 2024

For more information, please visit :

https://cssscal.org/pdf/seminars/workshop/DSS_Conference.pdf



DOCTORAL SCHOLAR'S SEMINAR

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9th -10th JANUARY, 2025

Concept Note

Interdisciplinary research is always a gamble. All too often it results in a series of discrete articles or monographs with no very clear connecting theme (Geertz, 1963)

The Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC), established in the year 1973, has, contrary to this view, always encouraged interdisciplinary research in the humanities and social sciences. Furthering that spirit, in this academic year (2024-25) the CSSSC has begun a new initiative, the Doctoral Scholars' Seminar (DSS), which is specifically meant to provide a space for PhD students, especially those who are at an advanced stage in their research, to share their ideas and exchange critical comments. Having received an overwhelming response, we are now organizing a two-day interdisciplinary conference on "People, Cultures, Spaces" in January 2025.

In keeping with our tradition of interdisciplinarity, this Conference aims to capture the human experience from diverse perspectives. But since every discipline has its own way of approaching the categories of people, culture and space, it is necessary to first break the inherent politics of disciplinarity in academia, as Julie Klein (2019) has observed. In that vein, we encourage the scholars to think about their areas of work not in insular terms, but as nodes of an interconnected matrix. Perhaps one way to embrace this is by recognizing the multiple connotations that each of the categories in our title themselves harbour. Whether it is people, culture or space, sociology and political science surely do not conceive of them in the same manner. Neither do literature or history. Besides, the emergence of digital humanities in recent years has only added another dimension to our perception of these. In such a context, could we then assume that an interdisciplinary approach would provide us with a more unique and holistic understanding of the concepts while also opening up newer arenas of investigation? It is also pertinent here to explore how the categories often tend to intertwine with each other in myriad ways. For instance, it is how we make sense of the idea of the people that really shapes our perspective on culture. After all people and culture only mutually reinforce themselves – people produce cultures and cultures mould people. Similarly, spaces too shape and are shaped by the people inhabiting them, and the cultures flourishing within them. Theorizing space in relation to cultures and people can thus indeed push us to think differently about what space constitutes — in its materiality, in its liminality as well as in its transience.

In a sense then we find that human identity itself hinges on the question of which people one is around, what culture one is bred in, and the kind of spaces one occupies. None of the categories perhaps can be conceptualized independent of each other. It is these innate connections and intersections that we hope our effort at organizing an interdisciplinary conference would allow us to bring out and think about. Coming from such a position, we encourage current PhD scholars to send abstracts within and beyond the following sub-themes:

You are requested to submit an abstract of 200-250 words, along with a short bio-note (100 words) at the following email id: dss@csssca.org with 'Abstract_Name_DSS' as the subject of the email. If selected, participants would be required to submit their full papers (4000-5000 words) as well.

LITERATURE AS ARCHIVE

- Wording Narratives, Coding Narratives, Filming narratives
- Biography, Autobiography, History

URBAN AND RURAL CULTURES

- Health and Medicine
- Labour and Economy
- Migration
- Land Issues

PERFORMANCE AND THE POLITICAL

- Embodiment and its Subjectivities
- Performance as Political
- Folk

DIGITAL CULTURES

- Game Studies
- Social Media

IDENTITIES AND INSTITUTIONS

- Caste and gender politics
- Place, Space Region,
- Citizenship, Territory, Governance

PROBLEMATIZING THE IDEA OF THE DISCIPLINES

- Bridging the Sciences and the Humanities
- Between Theory and the Field
- Being and Knowledge

It is an offline event. There will be NO Registration Fee. Please note that we are unable to provide accommodation and travel allowance to the participants. For any further query, contact us at dss@csssca.org with 'Query_DSS' as the subject of the email.