



NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS, IIT JODHPUR

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Welcome to the second issue of the SoLA newsletter. This newsletter is exciting for us, as it provides us the chance to report the many events where we could showcase the strength and humility of the members of faculty, students, and staff of the School.

SoLA had a significant footfall at the Open house Padharo 2.0 and the Exhibition at the Quindecennial Celebrations of IIT Jodhpur. The public events were widely attended by guests from all walks of life, and the way the team at SoLA engaged with them exemplifies the way the School seeks to foster values of diversity and inclusiveness. The presentations and displays of the School drew attention to different aspects of its inception and evolution in the domains of academic research, teaching, academic collaborations, projects, and publications of its faculty and students. SoLA's first Graduate Research Meet also saw a huge number of participants. SoLA also organised sessions with a number of eminent scholars under the aegis of the SoLA Seminar Series.

Further, the first international workshop of its newfound Centre of Excellence in Art and Digital Immersion- AI and Creative Arts- was a resounding success. I am also excited about SoLA contributing to the various research and teaching of national importance and encourage everyone to support us in this endeavor. These milestones could not have been achieved without the diligent efforts of the SoLA faculty, students, and staff, and I take this opportunity to thank them all.

As we continue our work in inter/multidisciplinary research and pedagogy; we look forward to meaningful academic engagement to realise both, the way the School's mission was envisioned, and how it aligns itself with those of the Institute.

Thank you so very much!



Dr. FARHAT NAZ

Associate Professor of Sociology
Head, School of Liberal Arts

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EDITORIAL TEAM

Dr. Gurujegan Murugesan
Dr. Tonisha Guin
Manya Khanna, MSc. CSS
Aniket Sachan, MSc. CSS
Shubhi Verma, MSc. CSS

SOLA EVENTS: IN FOCUS



Prof. Ashutosh Sharma as a Scholar-in-Residence

School of Liberal Arts is proud to have Prof. Ashutosh Sharma as a Scholar-in-Residence at the Centre of Excellence for Arts and Digital Immersion. Prof. Ashutosh Sharma is Institute Chair Professor, IIT Kanpur and President of Indian National Science Academy (INSA).

Workshop on Academic writing by Dr. Ananya Dasgupta

School of Liberal Arts in collaboration with DH-IDRP, IIT Jodhpur, had organized an online workshop on academic writing conducted by Dr. Ananya Dasgupta, Krea University, on 24th February. The workshop, titled 'Sentences to make arguments and Sentences to develop them', was well-attended by postgraduate and doctoral students.



Talk by Dr. Shuhita Bhattacharjee

DH-IDRP and the School of Liberal Arts co-organized a talk by Dr. Shuhita Bhattacharjee, Assistant Professor of Literary, Gender and Sexuality Studies in the Department of Liberal Arts, and Adjunct Professor of Design in the Department of Design, IIT Hyderabad on February, 27th. She spoke on 'Unpacking Postsecular Theory for/in Literature: Rights, Riots, Rhetoric'.





SoLA's Chapter of the Open House Padharo 2.0

The faculty and students of the School of Liberal Arts (SoLA) welcomed a steady stream of enthusiastic school children, college students, and other, equally curious locals of different age groups from Jodhpur city to the School during IIT Jodhpur's Open House Padharo 2.0 held on February 12, 2023. It was truly remarkable to participate in an event in which our visitors were warmly welcomed and shown around the SoLA premises. The humility and friendliness of the members of faculty, students and staff bear mentioning. Some of the research undertaken by students and faculty was exhibited through poster presentations, which showcased a passion for learning and building a culture of excellence in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary education and research. The audience included a truly diverse group of visitors from different walks of life. The enthusiasm of everyone participating resonated with the way in which they could connect with the themes and concerns the School's exhibits and presentations showcased. The interactions between the SoLA team and the guests thus evolved into an excellent instance of the way in which the School seeks to foster humanitarian values, diversity and inclusiveness.





The School of Liberal Arts, IIT Jodhpur

Ongoing Projects	Digital Taint: Negotiating Identity and Translocated Heritage in the Global Age Prof. Anika Sharma (PI), Prof. Sarah Kenderdine (PI) Funded by: S&P Co-PIs: Prof. Santanu Choudhury, Prof. Chanda Chakraborty, Prof. Debasis Das, Dr. Mayurakshi Choudhury, Dr. Ananda Menon, Dr. Nishi Senanayake Funding Agency: ICSSR & S&P Start Date: 2023 End Date: 2026	Mapping Heritage Language Structure through Socio-Linguistic Cues: A Case Study of Swiss Tamil Dr. Gunejan Mungesan (PI), Prof. Anika Auer University of Jussieu, Switzerland Funding Agency: ICSSR & S&P Start Date: 1 April, 2023 End Date: 30 March, 2026
	Science, Technology and Innovative Hub at IIT Jodhpur, Karwar Block, District Jodhpur, Rajasthan state Dr. Prasegjit Tibhuvan (Co-PI) PI: Dr. Anand Prasad, Other Co-PIs: Dr. Pradip Tiwari, Dr. G.S. Tolay Start Date: 23 February, 2023 End Date: 23 February, 2028	Ashward Water Challenge Dr. Anika Choudhary (PI) Co-PIs: Prof. Pradyot Tiwari, Dr. Vinay Arund Funding Agency: AIC, NISIR Start Date: 1 October, 2022 End Date: 30 September 2023
An Interdisciplinary Study of Technologically Manipulated Information: Its Ecosystem and Its Psycho-Social Impact Prof. Chanda Chakraborty (PI), Dr. Anika Sharma (Co-PI), Dr. Prasegjit Tibhuvan (Co-PI) Funding Agency: ICSSR Project Start Date: 10 March 2022 End Date: March 2024	Mapping the Wafaf Property with GIS in Rajasthan, India Dr. Farhat Naz (Co-PI) Funding Agency: Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt Start Date: 1 June 2022 End Date: Ongoing	Offering Provocations, Surfacing Evidence: The Archiving of Cine-Politics Indian National Emergency through Digital Humanities 2.0 Dr. Parthiv Funding Agency: RPRAC Start Date: 2019 End Date: 2023
Completed Projects	Paradigms of Water Governance and Climate Change in the Indian Policy Context Dr. Farhat Naz (PI), Dr. George, K. J (Co-PI) Funding Agency: Shastri Indo-Canadian Golden Jubilee Conference and Lecture Series Grant Start Date: 2021 End Date: 2023	Social Isolation and Cognition Interventions to reduce social isolation and loneliness amongst the elderly Dr. Saran Dhal (PI) Funding Agency: IMPRESS, ICSSR Start Date: August 2019 End Date: October 2021
Wisdom as Cognitive and Motivational - Emotional Heuristic in Ecologically Rational Decision Making Dr. Anika Sharma (PI) Funding Agency: Department of Science and Technology, under Cognitive Science Initiative Start Date: 2015 End Date: 2020	Progress towards UHC and costing of healthcare facilities at Korba, Chhattisgarh Dr. Alak Ranjan (PI) Funding Agency: State Health Resource Centre, Chhattisgarh, Raipur Start Date: July 2018 End Date: December 2021	The Public Outreach Grant to make a Documentary Film Dr. Vidya Sureswaran Funding Agency: Deutsches Museum and the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Germany Start Date: 2017 End Date: 2018
	Language, Cognition and Human Mind Dr. V. Nari Narayanan Funding Agency: Indian Council for Philosophical Research (ICPR) Start Date: 2015 End Date: 2015	"Where the Bougainvillea Blooms: Stories of Place from a Resilient Landscape" Dr. Vidya Sureswaran Funding Agency: O.M.A.R. Foundation Start Date: 2014 End Date: 2014



Quindecennial Celebrations

The School of Liberal Arts showcased different aspects of its inception, history and current activities at the Exhibition organized on the occasion of the Quindecennial Celebrations of Intellia: The Board of Department Societies Festival. Demonstrating the diversity, vibrancy and novelty of its research, academic output and student activities, the School of Liberal Arts made its presence felt at the Quindecennial Celebrations of IIT Jodhpur. The SoLA stall experienced a significant footfall.

The chief guest of the event, Dr. S. Chandrasekhar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, visited the exhibition and interacted with the faculty and students. He commented in particular on the importance of the work done in the areas of sustainability, psychology and environmental humanities. Ph.D. students from the School curated and presented the exhibition on 18th and 19th of March. These presentations were also attended by participants of Intellia, the alumni of IIT Jodhpur as well as the visiting delegates from the University of Buffalo, New York, USA.

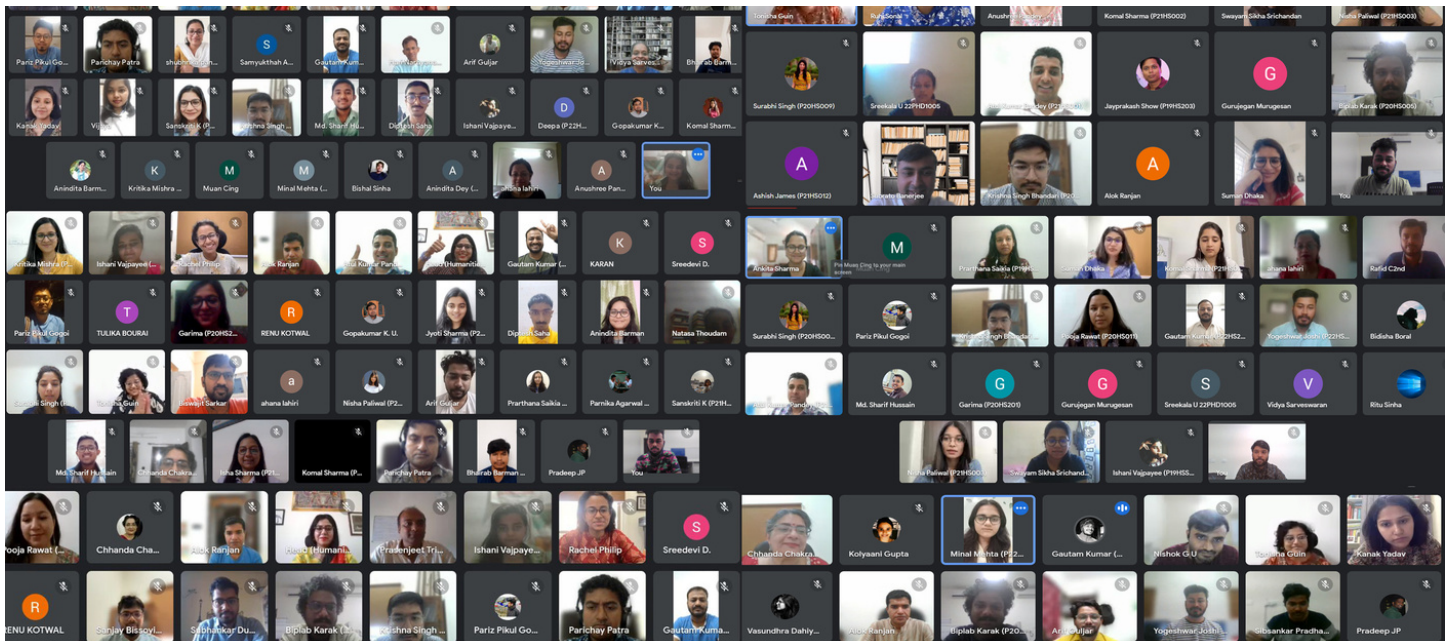


Industry Day



At the 3rd Industry Day held at the Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur (February 3-4, 2023), faculty and students of the School of Liberal Arts presented posters on their ongoing research.

First Graduate Research Meet



On March 24 and 25, 2023, the School of Liberal Arts hosted its First Graduate Research Meet on the theme "Emergent Trends for a World in Transition." The research meet brought together young researchers from a wide range of academic domains. The student presentations and plenary sessions examined the interdisciplinarity at work in fields as diverse as ethics and artificial intelligence, gender studies, development studies, environmental humanities, film studies, and digital humanities. Special mention must be made of the School's doctoral scholars for their hard work and organisational skills.

Presentation for School Children

Almost 320 students from the Central Academy, Jodhpur Cantonment, visited the School as a part of an educational tour on 28 April 2023. SoLA's presentation for them was aimed at inspiring the students to pursue education in a holistic manner such that they can contribute to society.

SOLA SEMINAR SERIES

Talk by Prof. Surajit Sen

On 31st March, Prof. Surajit Sen from the State University of New York, Buffalo, spoke on 'Can a typical urban population survive an airborne pandemic?' at the SoLA Seminar Series hosted by the School of Liberal Arts, IIT Jodhpur. Prof. Sen discussed strategies for urban planners to address and endure airborne pandemics, especially the susceptibility of urban areas to airborne pandemics using the 'agent-based model'.



The School of Liberal Arts organised a session with Dr. M.A. Kalam on 20 March 2023, titled 'Migration Logistics: Contacts, Networking and Related Facets'.



On January 30th, 2023, the University of Bristol's Professor of Education, Arathi Sri Prakash, gave a lecture titled "Whiteness and the Politics of Education" at the School of Liberal Arts in IIT Jodhpur.

Talk by Prof. Mitali Mukerji



On 12 April 2023, the faculty and students of the School of Liberal Arts, had the pleasure of listening to Prof. Mitali Mukerji, on the topic “Genomics and Social Sciences: Why Should these Cross-talk?” Prof. Mukerji was a recipient of the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize (2010) for outstanding research in the area of Medical Sciences. Currently, she is the Head of the Department of Bioscience and Bioengineering, at IIT Jodhpur. The talk was well-attended.

International workshop on AI and Creative arts



Center of Excellence on Art and Digital Immersion (ADI), School of Liberal Arts, has organized its first international, and truly one-of-its-kind workshop on ‘AI and Creative Arts’ on April 29, 2023. Eminent practitioners, viz, Prof. Sarah Kenderdine, Dr. Padmini Ray Murray, & Ms. Jenny Bhatt presented on the emergent domain of reimagining the creative space with advanced AI technology. In addition to the invited talks, the workshop also showcased relevant works of IIT Jodhpur faculty and students.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr. Farhat Naz

- Published a book review in the prestigious journal of Sociology, published by Indian Sociological Society: Farhat Naz (Book Review) Maryam Wasif Khan, "Who Is a Muslim? Orientalism and Literary Populisms" *Sociological Bulletin*, 72 (2): 1-5
- Invited resource person at the DAAD Workshop on PhD Proposal Writing in Social Science for South Asia.
- Participated at the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture 2023; International Green Week 2023 at Berlin; and in a workshop and delivered lectures at Gottingen University, Germany, in January 2023, organized and funded by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of Germany and DAAD.
- Dr. Farhat Naz, perspective and views as a German Alumnus from Global South on The food supply crisis and conceivable-solutions: Committed to Combating World Hunger, was featured as part of UN SDGs, in the German Alumni portal and Magazine on 3 March 2023. Dr. Farhat Naz, was nominated to speak and present Global South at the forum. These SDG Alumni German Projects are geared towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations.
- Nominated in March 2023 to become a member of the ISTR (International Society for Third-Sector Research) International Publication Committee. It's a global forum, where she has been nominated to represent the Global South.

Dr. Vidya Sarveswaran

- Published a book review titled, Women, Subalterns, and Ecologies in South and Southeast Asian Women's Fiction. By Chitra Sankaran, in the ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment, 2023; OUP journals, <https://doi.org/10.1093/isle/isac079>
- Published an article titled, "Under Another Sky: A Triptych in the Thar Desert," in the Literary Desertscape in the Global South and Beyond :. Anthropocene NatureCultures. Routledge: New York, April 2023.
- Invited to serve as a resource person for the Fulbright Program Mentoring that was organized by the Fulbright Commission in India and the United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF), New Delhi in April, 2023.

Dr. Ruhi Sonal

- Presented a paper at the Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society, January 10-12, 2023, IIT Bombay. Paper title: "Optimal Stopping in list-based decisions".
- Invited to present a paper at the Conference of the Society for Advancement of Economic Theory (SAET), 2023, Paris scheduled for July 17-23. Paper title: "Optimal search for the best alternative in a list".

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Dr. Rachel Philip

- The chapter 'The Talented Student: Evolution of the Category in Post-Independence Education Policy' has been published in the book 'Education, Teaching and Learning: Discourses, Cultures and Conversations' ed. Azra Razzack, Padma M. Sarangapani, and Manish Jain (published by Orient Blackswan) (January, 2023) <https://www.orientblackswan.com/details?id=9789354423253>
- Invited talk titled 'Liberal Arts - A Practitioner's Perspective' on 21 March, 2023 at the Workshop on Transdisciplinary Studies, organized by Madras Christian College, Chennai.

Dr. Gopakumar

- Kaushik Narayan S, Abishek V M., Gopakumar K U et al. (2023). "Surgical Management of Chronic Osteomyelitis - Organisms, Recurrence, and Treatment Outcome." Chinese Journal of Traumatology, Elsevier Publications. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cjtee.2023.01.003> (SCOPUS, Q3)

Dr. Anupama Mohan

- Published an article 'No one heard me!': sexual self-fashioning and the child in 'Lihāf' was published on 4 January 2023 in South Asian History and Culture. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/19472498.2022.2141258>
- Presentation in the 2023 Spring Symposium of the Centre for South Asian Studies at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa, on 19 April 2023; more details here: <https://southasiasymposium2023.wordpress.com/>

Dr. Natasa Thoudam

- "Mufidun Nisa's 'Wait Flower, Don't Bloom': The Problematic of the Literary Circles in Manipur" —a paper to be presented at the IACLALS Annual Conference 2023 (Online) on "Metropolis and Margins: Shifting Perspectives in Literary and Language Studies" to be held from 27 to 29 Apr 2023 (online).
- "Alternative imaginations of space and time in Maharaj Kumari Binodini Devi's Boro Sahib Ongbi Sanatombi (The Princess and the Political Agent), Devala Mutum's 'Thaningla,' and Kshetrimayum Subadani Devi's The Illustrated Folk Tales of Manipur"—a paper presented at 22nd Annual South Asian Literary Association (SALA) Conference titled "Envisioning Black & South Asian Solidarity: History, Culture, Praxis" organized by SALA held on 1 and 2 Apr 2023 (online).

Dr. Tonisha Guin

- Plenary Speaker on "Digital Pedagogy, Feminist Critique and the Indian Popular: Vitamin Stree and Agents of Ishq as Case Studies around Sex Education in India" in the International Conference on "Humanities In the Digital Age: New Directions and Emerging Trends" hosted by Kristu Jayanti College Autonomous, Bengaluru on 29-30 March 2023.

- Presented the paper "Imitative or Transformative? Normative Border Dwelling in Atin Bandopadhyay's "Somudre Oshoriri"" in the International Conference on "Aquatic Surfaces and Depths" conducted by the Haunted Shores Network, University of Southampton on 7-8 April 2023.
- invited to Goethe Institute Bengaluru, in a Goethe Institute & Curating for Culture collaboration, to
 1. Showcase a public exhibition titled 'The Royal Bengal(i) Tiger and it's Ecologies'
 2. Conduct a workshop on 'Critical Making and Political Ecology'.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Samya Brata Roy

- Ensslin, Astrid, and Samya Brata Roy. "Electronic LiteratureS as Postcomparative Media." *Complit Journal of European Literature, Arts and Society*, Edited by Marina Grishakova et al., vol. 5, no. 1, Apr. 2023, pp. 145-172.
- Digital Writing as DH Method (invited co-plenary with Prof. Leonardo Flores of Appalachian State University)
- Virtual Conference on "Humanities in the digital age: New directions and emerging trends.", Department of English, Kristu Jayanti College Autonomous, March 2023
- Accessibility and Electronic Literature (invited plenary)
- Webinar/Virtual Conference on "E-Literature: Explorations in Literary Creativity ", Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia in collaboration with ELitIndia, January 2023.
- "Digital Humanities and Community Building", Graduate Student Seminar Series, School of Liberal Arts, IIT Jodhpur, 31 January 2023.
- Peer Reviewer for the upcoming DH2023 Conference organized by Alliance for Digital Humanities Organizations to be held in Graz, Austria (July 10-14, 2023)
- Gold medal, Abhivyakti (Creative Writing), Intellia (Inter-Departmental Competition/Fest), March 2023
- Gold medal, STEW, Intellia (Inter-Departmental Competition/Fest), March 2023.

Amir Sohel

- Amir Sohel and Dr. Farhat Naz, presented a paper on "*Politics of Forest Rights in India: Un/Re-Doing Historical Injustice to Forest-Dwelling Communities?*" at the World Convention Injustice in a World of Uncertainty in Mikkeli, Finland, 28 March 2023.

Jayprakash Show

- Narrative Self and Cultural Context. Graduate Research Meet. Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati. Assam. 6th -7th January 2023.

Parnika Agarwal

- Presented "Cine-buildings and the Question of Access: Interdisciplinary Interventions through 'Space'" at the Graduate Research Meet, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, on 6 Jan 2023.

Sanskriti K

- Presentation at the Midwest Popular Association (MPCA/ACA) 2023 Virtual Graduate Student Conference (March 10-11 2023). Paper titled "Locating Transcultural Fandom in India's Chennai: A Case Study of K-Wave India Fan Club.


REACH OUT TO US



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 @IITJ.SoLA

 @SoLA_IITJ

 (0291) 2801402

 office_hss@iitj.ac.in

 SoLA IIT Jodhpur



<https://sola.iitj.ac.in>