

2025 AWL Humanities Initiative (HI) Annual Symposium

‘Digital Inequalities and the Question of Global South’

28 - 29 August 2025, IIIT Delhi

Please note that all timings are in IST (Indian Standard Time)

Day 1, August 28

2:30 p.m.

Introduction to the theme - Dr. Payel C Mukherjee, Dr. Deepak Prince, Dr. Manohar Kumar

Inaugural address - Professor Ranjan Bose, Director, IIIT Delhi

3:00- 4:30 p.m.

PANEL 1

Infrastructures of Inequality: Rethinking Capital and Law in the Digital South

Moderator : Dr Deepak Prince , IIIT Delhi

Experimental Times: Rethinking Startup Capitalism From The South

Dr Hemangini Gupta, University of Edinburgh

The Rise Of Virtual Courts And Digital Inequalities: A Socio-Legal Study From New Delhi, India

Vandana Attri, Centre for Study of Law and Governance, JNU

4:30 - 5:00 p.m

High Tea Break

5:00-6:30 p.m.

PANEL 2

Knowledge, Climate, and Innovation: Transforming Agriculture in the Global South

Moderator: Dr. Nishad Patnaik IIIT Delhi

Seeds Of Hope, Fruits Of Failure: Scaling Climate-Smart Agriculture In India

Nikhil Agarwal, University of California, Los Angeles

Digital Literacy And Communication As Catalysts For Knowledge Transfer And Innovation In The Smallholder Agricultural Sector: A Comparative Analysis Of India And Malaysia

Jiffin George, Lincoln University College, Malaysia

Day 2, August 29

10:45 a.m.- 12:15 p.m.

GRADUATE PAPER PANEL 1

Beyond Access: Data Dependencies, AI Governance, and Digital Inequalities in the Global South

Moderator: Rushali Saha, AWL Fellow, IIIT-Delhi

Cross-Border Data Flows & Structural Dependencies In The Global Data Economy

Nanda Rajiv & Dr. Aakansha Natani, Human Sciences Research Centre, IIIT Hyderabad

Governing Public Ai: Private Infrastructure, Public Investments, Public Purpose, And Policy Gaps In The Global South

Dr. Suruchi Kumari, Varun Ramdas and Megha Garg, Digital Empowerment Foundation

Digital Geopolitics And Inequality: India's Role In Bridging The Digital Divide In The Global South

Kalpendra Singh, Department of Political Science, University of Lucknow

Refusing The Archive: The Sentinelese, The Shompen, And The Digital Logics Of Erasure In The Global South

Surabhi Baijal, Ambedkar University, Delhi

12:15 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

GRADUATE PAPER PANEL 2

Digital Identities, Fractured Publics: Precarity and Hierarchy in India's Platformed Spaces

Moderator : Joshita Yadav, IIIT Delhi

Meta's Role In Shaping Extreme Digital Identity Practices Among Indian Youth: A Case Study Of Instagram

Anup Mishra, IIT Gandhinagar

Digital Bhakts And Algorithmic Democracies- Fan Culture, Media Polarization, And Online Inequality In India

Md Yousuf Kamal, DHI University, Kerala

Performing Class Online: Aesthetic Faultlines In The Tiktok-Instagram Divide In India

U. Sai Sruti and Himangi Patnaik, Jamia Millia Islamia

2 p.m - 2:30 p.m - Lunch

2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

PANEL 3

Manifestations of digital inequality

Moderator : Prof. Vibodh Parthasarathi, Jamia Millia Islamia

Digital Inequalities And The Question Of The Global South: Harari's Clarion Call

Prof. Meera Chakravorty, Retired Prof., Jain University

Disconnected Connectivities: Mapping Digital Inequality And Epistemic Marginalization In The Global South

Sidharth Singh, University of Delhi

Caste And The Third Digital Divide: Understanding Differential Digital Gains Among School Students In Varanasi

Aishwarya Prakash, Centre For Development Studies

4:00 - 4:15 p.m - Tea break

4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

GRADUATE PAPER PANEL 3

Trust, Vulnerability and Unequal Relationships of Technology.

Moderator : Omkar Bhausahab Chattar, IIIT Delhi

What Counts As Knowledge? Digital Injustice And Epistemic Inequality In The Global South
Shabnam Singla, IIT Gandhinagar

Whose Knowledge Counts? Digital Infrastructures And Epistemic Inequality
Aishwarya Saha and Kritika Samaddar, Jadavpur University

No Address, No Access: Aadhaar, Informality And The Invisible Infrastructures Of Digital Inclusion
Pauline Awungshi, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru

6:30 - 8:15 p.m

Keynote Panel- Southern Imaginations of digital futures

Moderator : Professor Amrit Srinivasan, Retired Professor, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT Delhi

Speakers :

Dr Sandeep Mertia, Assistant Professor, Science and Technology Studies (STS) in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at the Stevens Institute of Technology

&

Dr Deepak Prince, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, IIIT Delhi

Respondent :

Professor Arjun Appadurai, Professor Emeritus, Media, Culture, and Communication, New York University

8:15 - 8:30 p.m

Concluding notes : Dr Payel C Mukherjee, IIIT Delhi

Vote of Thanks : Rushali Saha, AWL Fellow, IIIT Delhi



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