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TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
ADVANCED CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

STRENGTH OF THE PROGRAMME

Students are exposed to debates and areas of inter-disciplinary feminist research

Strong input on context, methodology and theory, with a particular focus on persons marginalised on multiple axes and on grounds of gender and sexuality

Learn a range of analytical and field-based skills, which are expected to equip them for professional careers in academia and development sectors

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Foundation Course	Feminist Research Methodology/ Practices	Field Attachment with Analytical Report	Research Dissertation
Women, Desire and Sexualities	Women, History and Society: Feminist Theories and Perspectives	Caste, Class and Gender: Theoretical Perspective	Gender and Public Policy: Concepts, Measures, Strategies
Women's Movement in India	Women and Work: History of Transformation	Identity, Women's Citizenship and Governance	Feminist Perspectives on Gender and Health
Feminist Science Studies	Feminist Legal Studies	Gender Media and Culture	Queering Feminism
Development, Feminist Politics and Praxis	Women's literature in South Asia: Representation Practices, Perspectives	Women's Issues in Tribal and Indigenous Communities	Family Structure and Violence within Families: Interventions by the State
Gender Ideology and Education			

ABOUT MA WOMEN'S STUDIES

Launched in 2009, MA Women's Studies takes its place in a series of Women's Studies programmes that have been offered across the country since 1984. Women's Studies as a discipline has had an organic link with the women's movement along with struggles of all marginal groups in society, and is engaged with various academic disciplines to evolve critical interdisciplinary perspectives on gender and sexuality in society as well as in knowledge production. As part of its mandate and aspirations as an Advanced Centre for Women's Studies, the MA programme has taken feedback and inputs from students, advisors and mentors from within academia and the movements, to add and revise courses in keeping with the critical perspectives emerging around us in the last many years.

Field Attachment

One of the important components of the programme is the field attachment. Students get an opportunity to work closely with organizations working on gender issues and write an analytical paper based on their experiences from the field.

Research Dissertation

Research Dissertation gives students an opportunity to carry out guided research project. This helps them conceptualise research problem, identify and locate data of different kinds, understand the potentialities and limitations of certain research methods, and learn logical and analytical skills required in interpreting and explaining data.

Library and Documentation

The Women's Studies Library, maintained through the Special Assistance program of the UGC, has an impressive collection of about 4500 books and monographs on a wide range of feminist themes that gives back up support for research, training and teaching. The library is used extensively by the Institute faculty, staff and students and is open to visiting scholars, M.Phil and PhD researchers, journalists and others interested in gender issues. Special efforts are made to collect and document materials on Indian and South Asian Women's issues.

ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS

Radhika Radhakrishnan | M.A. 2017-19 **Gender Research Manager, World Wide Web Foundation**

"The MA in Women's Studies at TISS is a rigorous, intersectional course that welcomes students from diverse academic, socio-cultural and economic backgrounds. It provided me with a solid theoretical foundation, and enabled me to apply theory to real-world issues through the fieldwork component of the course. I was an engineering student before joining Women's Studies, and I found my professors from the ACWS to be incredibly supportive in helping me keep pace with peers who had prior foundational training in the social sciences."

Sreenanti Banerjee | M.A. 2009-11 **United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) Postdoctoral Fellow,** **Unit for Global Justice and Department of Sociology at Goldsmiths, University of London**

"I was a part of the inaugural batch of the MA in Women's Studies Program at TISS, Mumbai (2009-2011). The degree played an invaluable role in my academic growth and political maturity. The rare intellectual rigour and warmth of the faculty members shaped me in more ways than one. This was what a truly global education looked like, and I am deeply grateful to the Department for that nourishing experience."



Sakhi Nitin Anita | M.A. 2014-16 **PhD Candidate, Centre for Gender Studies, SOAS University of London**

"According to Jotiba Phule, education is the 'Trutiya Ratna' or the third eye that opens for us to finally see – and in seeing, transform – the 'relationship between power and knowledge.'" The two years of my life that I spent pursuing a Masters in Women's Studies with ACWS TISS were indeed transformative for me. The diverse modules in the MA Women's Studies programme gave me a grounding in critical and feminist theory as well as post-colonial scholarship. They helped expand my conceptual lens of gender in an intersectional way.

I wrote my MA dissertation on the politics of surnames, their critique and reimagination by feminist activists in India, and the relevance of naming to larger feminist politics. The dissertation enabled me to learn from people located differently than me, whose stories and struggles for liberation were very different, and helped me realise that liberatory agendas could not be universal. It made understand the importance of self-reflexivity and dialogue in theory as well as praxis."

DEAN | SDS

Prof. Ashwani Kumar
Dean,
School of Development
Studies



OUR FACULTY AND STAFF



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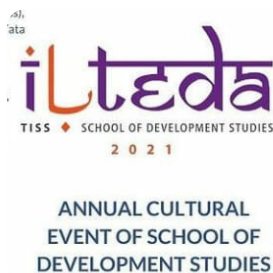
ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTRE

TUESDAY SEMINAR SERIES

The Advanced Centre for Women's Studies also regularly hosts the Tuesday seminar series, a space where scholars, activists, and artists working in different intersections of gender studies engage with the students about their work. The poster featured here is for the talk 'Alternative research paradigms: a conversation on understanding the lives of transpersons in Indian prisons' by Ms. Sai Bouruthu.



IBTEDA



Ilteda is the student-led annual cultural festival of the School of Development Studies of which the Advanced Centre for Women's Studies is a part. For Ilteda 2021, ACWS held a panel discussion on 'Exploring self and diversities in Queer literature' by Saikat Majumdar, Kiran Bhat, and Shals Mahajan.

THE READING ROOM

Students have always been an integral part of the Centre's identity, on campus and within academic spaces. Students participate in strength at the IAWS conferences, and have contributed greatly toward the feminist exercise of reflexivity in these spaces. Some students came together to create an inclusive space in which individuals can read, discuss, learn and unlearn together in an informal and casual setting. For the first session, a discussion on the importance of Mahasweta Devi's works and their impact in different spatial and temporal contexts took place.

THE READING ROOM

Reading
Mahesweta Devi's *Dopdi*
Saturday, 18 September 2021
Time - 5 PM IST



RESEARCH WORK AT THE CENTRE

Research has been one of the strongest areas of the ACWS. The faculty of the Centre have undertaken several research projects and commissioned assignments for national and international funding agencies on various issues. Research themes that are currently being focussed on include:

- Labour and Migration
- Caste and Sexuality
- Gender-based Violence,
- Feminist Methodologies and Ethics
- Feminist Science and Technology Studies
- Feminist Approaches to Health
- Feminist Disability Studies
- Women and Law -Child Rights
- Violence Against Women
- Caste, Class, Gender

Published Research Studies

- Worker-driven Initiatives to Tackle 'modern slavery' in India'
Sponsor: Research England through their Global Challenges Research Fund Pump Priming
- An Exploratory Study of Discriminations Based on Non-Normative Genders and Sexualities
Sponsor: Ford Foundation

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EMAIL: admissionsinfo@tiss.edu | Call us: 022 2552 5252 Monday to Saturday - 10:00 am to 6:00 pm