Abstract Book

65th Orientation Programme

July 17 – August 12, 2017

UGC-Human Resource Development Centre
Jadavpur University

Abstract Book

Summary of Lectures
Delivered at 65th Orientation Programme
July 17 – August 12, 2017

UGC-Human Resource Development Centre
Jadavpur University

Programme Coordinator

Nandan Bhattacharya

Assistant Director

UGC-HRDC, JU

Director's Note

The UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, Jadavpur University, is organizing the 65th Orientation Programme. This is the first one among the four such programmes sanctioned by the UGC in the session 2017-18, and also the first one since I have taken the additional charge of Director on June 1, 2017.

This programme has dimensions and characteristics that make it distinctively different from its predecessors. One such dimension is organizing a study tour at Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI) Kolkata, where the participants would get first-hand experience in direction, sound, cinematography, editing and animation through a guided tour of different units of SRFTI. Thereafter, participants would submit reports on such learning experiences. My sincere thanks go to Dr. Debamitra Mitra, Director of SRFTI Kolkata, for arranging such a well-structured study tour for the participants of the 65th Orientation Programme.

Other dimension of the programme is survey-based project and/or group discussions for which the participants have been divided into eight groups and each group is given a particular topic to research and debate on. This would be part of the evaluation of the participants as well. Programme schedule allows for laboratory and library work to carry out these surveys and presentations.

Finally, the lecture sessions though have been reduced in numbers but not in substance. While selecting topics, three criteria have been kept in mind: topics of current affairs of national as well as international importance (such as demonetization, GST, BREXIT, environmental preservation); topics of general interest for moral, psychological and professional development (such as lectures on values and ethics in teaching, emotional intelligence, stress management, research methodology, CAS/service matters, IQAC); and topics of cross-discipline and multi-discipline in nature (such as lectures on strategic studies, globalization and development, environmental history, origin of language, textual studies, history of science). On top of all these, there has been two sessions on performing arts with live demonstration.

This Abstract Book collates summary of most of these lectures delivered by experts and eminent researchers in the relevant fields both from within and outside West Bengal. The summary lectures are arranged thematically according to the above-mentioned perspectives, rather than chronologically according to the dates of delivering these lectures. I hope that the participants of the 65th Orientation Programme would find this Abstract Book useful for ready references of what they have learnt through this programme. For a small number of

lectures, summary or briefs could not be made available to the UGC-HRDC by the speakers despite their best efforts. These are the missing links between the schedule of lectures and summary or briefs included in this book.

I sincerely thank Professor Suranjan Das, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Jadavpur University, for his kind support and encouragement to this small endeavour. He has always been a source of inspiration for all of us at HRDC. My sincere thanks go to Dr. Pradip Kumar Ghosh, Registrar Jadavpur University, and Sri Gour Krishna Pattanayak, Finance Officer Jadavpur University, for all their help. Last but not the least, I cannot but happily remember contributions made by all the staff at HRDC, without which this Abstract Book could not have been published.

At the end, I look forward to receiving suggestions from participants for improvement in endeavours like this. This Abstract Book is a small, though not insignificant, step towards documentation and dissemination of information regarding what we are doing at the HRDC, JU. With suggestions and feedback from all stakeholders we can make projects like this even bigger and significant.

July 2017   **Rajat Acharyya**

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Date	**10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon**	**12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM**	**2:00 PM – 3:30 PM**	**3:30 PM – 5:00 PM**
July 17	**Inauguration Session:** 10:30 am: Welcome Address by **Prof. Rajat Acharyya**, Director, UGC-HRDC, JU 10: 45 am: Inaugural Address by **Prof. Suranjan Das**, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University 11:15 am: Overview of the Programme by **Dr. Nandan Bhattacharya**, Assistant Director Vote of Thanks by **Chaitali Mukherjee**, UGC-HRDC 11:45 am – 12 noon: **TEA BREAK** 12 noon: Lecture on *Strategic Studies* by **Prof. Shrikant Paranjpe**, University of Pune		**Shrikant Paranjpe** Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, University of Pune *Strategic Studies*	**Tushar Nandi** Centre for Studies in Social Sciences *GST – Concept, Model and Status*
July 18	**Amitava Datta** Director, IQAC-JU *IQAC*	**Debasish Chattopadhyay** Principal, South Calcutta Law College *Child Marriage/ Trafficking*	**Anthony Gomes** Retired Professor, Department of Psychology, CU *Value and Ethics*	
July 19	**Supriyo Ghoshal** Secretary, WB Right to PSC, GoWB *Emotional Intelligence*		**Manik Chakraborty** Director, Amity University Kolkata *Human Rights & RTI*	
July 20	**Ajitava Raychauduri** Department of Economics, JU *De-monetization*	**Prasenjit Pal** Manager (Training), SBLC, Salt Lake *Atal Pension Yojana (APY)*	**Asis Majumdar** Director, School of Water Resources Engineering, JU *Water Pollution*	**Lab Work/Library Work**
July 21	**Swapnendu Bandyopadhyay** Department of Economics, JU *Fun and Games*		**Ramaprasad Bhattacharya** Joint DPI, GoWB *CAS/Service Matters*	
July 22	**Anup K. Sinha** Indian Institute of Management Calcutta *Globalization and Development*		**Lakhsmikanta Karmakar** Relationship manager, SBI, JU Branch *Goods and Services Tax*	**Lab Work/Library Work**

Lunch Break: 1:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Schedule for 65th Orientation Program (July 17th - August 12th, 2017)				
Date	**10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon**	**12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM**	**2:00 PM – 3:30 PM**	**3:30 PM – 5:00 PM**
July 24	**Amita Chatterjee** School of Cognitive Science, JU *Fuzzy Logic: An Overview*		**Survey based Group Project & Discussion** Evaluators: **Samantak Das** Department of Comparative Literature, JU **&** **Malabika Roy** Department of Economics, JU	
July 25	**Sanjay Mukhopadhyay** Retired Professor, Department of Film Studies, JU *Documentary Film and Painting: The Crisis of Representation*		**Rajaram Shukla** Benaras Hindu University *Nyāya view of Vyāpti relation*	
July 26	**Mahidas Bhattacharya** School of Language & Linguistics, JU *Origin of Language*		**Mahua Sarkar** Department of History, JU *Environmental Humanities*	
July 27	**Nupur Dasgupta** Department of History, JU *Women in Early Indian Society: Survey of Historiography*		**Rupa Bandyopadhyay** Department of Philosophy, JU *Philosophy of Language*	
July 28	**Study Tour at SRFTI** (programme attached as Annexure)		**Study Tour at SRFTI** (programme attached as Annexure)	**Lab Work/Library Work**
July 29	**Basab Choudhury** Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, WBSU *Plagiarism*	**Amites Mukhopadhyay** Department of Sociology, JU *Qualitative Methods of Research*	**Dr. Shubrangshu Aditya** Counseling Services & Studies in Self-Development, JU *Stress: Neuro-physiology and Management*	

Lunch Break: 1:30 PM – 2:00 PM

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July 31	**Uday Chakraborty** Department of Bengali, JU *Communication and periodicals in connection with Bengali Literature*		**Gopa Dutta** Department of Bengali, JU *Bicentenary of Bengali Journals* *(Dusho Bachar: Bangla Samayik Patra)*	
August 1	**Anindya Jyoti Majumdar** Department of International Relations, JU *Politics of Security in South Asia*	**Purushottam Bhattacharya** Retired Professor, Department of International Relations, JU *BREXIT: What it Means for Britain and the European Union*	Participants' Evaluation of Reports on Study Tour at SRFTI **Evaluator: Malabika Roy** Department of Economics, JU	**Gour Krishna Pattanayak** Finance Officer, JU *General Financial Rules*
August 2	**Bichitra Kumar Guha** Dean, Faculty Affairs, IIEST *History of Science*		**D. P. Duari** Director, Birla Planetorium *Voyage to the Cosmos: Part I, Part II*	
August 3	**Santanu Biswas** Department of English, JU *An Introduction to the Freudian Unconscious*		**Suchisree Roy** *Performing Arts: Indian Classical Music*	
August 4	**Swapan Chakravorty** Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore Distinguished Chair Professor in the Humanities, Presidency University *Research in the Humanities and Textual Studies*		**Sukh Deo Muni** Professor Emeritus, JNU; Former Ambassador & Special Envoy, GoI *India's Foreign Policy*	
August 5	**Interactive Session** Dr. Samantak Das Dr. Nandan Bhattacharya Mr. Prabir Kr. Chatterjee	*Lab/Library Work*	**Jharna Sanyal** Retired Professor, Department of English, CU *Staging Life: The Worlds of Binodini Dasi*	**Radharaman Chakraborty** Ex Vice Chancellor, Netaji Subhas Open University *Political Economy Foundation of India's Foreign Policy*

Lunch Break: 1:30 PM – 2:00 PM

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Date	**10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon**	**12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM**	**2:00 PM – 3:30 PM**	**3:30 PM – 5:00 PM**
August 7	**Lab Work/Library Work**		*Submission of Write ups for presentation by ALL participants*	
August 8	Seminar Presentation and Evaluation	Seminar Presentation and Evaluation	Seminar Presentation and Evaluation	Seminar Presentation and Evaluation
August 9	Seminar Presentation and Evaluation	Seminar Presentation and Evaluation	Seminar Presentation and Evaluation	Seminar Presentation and Evaluation
August 10	Seminar Presentation and Evaluation	Seminar Presentation and Evaluation	**Candidate's evaluation (Micro-teaching) Subarna Das** Department of Library & Information Science, JU	
August 11	**Candidate's Evaluation (Micro-teaching) Subarna Das** Department of Library & Information Science, JU		**Candidate's Evaluation** *MCQ based evaluation*	**Hare Krishna Haldar** Rabindra Bharati University *Performing Arts: Shreekhol*
August 12	**Valedictory Session** 11 am – 12:30 pm: Valedictory Lecture by **Prof. Arun Kumar Banerji**, Retired Professor, Department of International Relations 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm: Certificate Distribution		Feedback and Interactive Session	**Administrative Slot (Disbursement of Payment)**

Lunch Break: 1:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Pogramme of the Study Tour at SRFTI

Day of the Study Tour: July 28, 2017
Venue: Satyajit Ray Film & Television Institute, Kolkata

10.30 a.m.	Participants of 65th Orientation Programme of UGC-HRDC, JU, come to the SRFTI campus and directed towards New CRT.
10.45 am	Welcome address by Director.
10.45 am -10.55 am	Address by the Dean.
10.55 a.m – 11.45 a.m	Lecture at **Direction** department
11.45 a.m. – 12 Noon	Library
12 Noon – 12.45 p.m.	Lecture at **Sound** department
12.45 p.m. – 01.30 p.m.	Lecture at **Cinematography** department
01.30 p.m. – 02.15 p.m.	L U N C H
02.15 p.m. – 03.00 p.m.	Lecture at **Editing** Department
03.00 p.m. – 03.15 p.m.	Visit at **Producing** department
03.15 p.m. – 03.30 p.m.	Visit at Animation Department
03.30 p.m.	E N D

UGC – Human Resource Development Centre
Jadavpur University

65th Orientation Program
(July 17th - August 12th, 2017)

1. Time slot of Discussion on Group Projects: **24.07.2017** at **2.00 PM – 5.00 PM**

2. Presentation shall be made for **10 Minutes** followed by interaction for **10 Minutes.**

3. Presentation shall be made according to the following order.

4. Write up on the topic must be submitted on **25.07.2017 (5.00 PM).**

Distribution of Group Project and Discussion topic for participants

Group	Topic	Name of Participants
Gr. A	Mind and Body	Neelanjana Basu
		Rhea Mitra
		Rahul Barua
		Wasim Akram
		Md. Abdus Selim
Gr. B	Parental Aspiration and Childhood	Kamrunnessa Khatun
		Mahitosh Mandal
		Debapratim chakraborty
		Mousumi Chakraborty
		Md. Ajimul Hoque
Gr. C	Reservation And Equality	Namrata Kothari
		Shibasish Ghosh
		Shohini Chakraborty
		Nisha Tamang
		Baisakhi Banerjee
Gr. D	Civilisation and the Environment	Aruna Pain
		Sarajit Ankura
		Nandini Daniari
		Arghya Sukul
		Amrita Dey

Group	Topic	Name of Participants
Gr. E	Nation and Higher Education	Santanu Sengupta
		Swati Basak
		Latika Devi
		Prasanta Karmakar
		Santanu Mondal
Gr. F	Religion and Society	Subhrajit Sen
		Somnath Chattopadhyay
		Rituparna Saha
		Anusrita Mandal
		Upasana Roy Barman
Gr. G	Values and Ethics in Teaching	Sangeeta Chattopadhyay
		Chumki De
		Tanusree Das
		Chinmoy Sarkar
		Pratima Dhali
Gr. H	Digital India: Prospects and Problems	Atreyee Pal
		Satyajit Ghorai
		Santosh Kumar Das
		Sankar Das
		Sweety Sadhukhan
		Goutam Dutta

ABSTRACT
OF LECTURES
DELIVERED

CAS/
Service matters/
IQAC

Quality in Higher Education and Role of IQAC

Amitava Datta
Department of Power Engineering & Director, IQAC,
Jadavpur University

Date & Time: 18th July, 2017; 10:30AM – 12:00Noon

Higher education is a powerful tool to build knowledge-based society of the future. It provides opportunity to debate critically on social, educational, economic, cultural, moral and spiritual issues facing humanity. In addition, higher education contributes to the sustainable national development through dissemination of specialized knowledge. It also builds the future educators, who will continue the legacy of imparting education to the generations to come. Indian higher education system has observed a significant growth in the past two decades with the establishment of large number of Universities and colleges and increase in enrolment of students. However, a comprehensive observation reveals that the growth is primarily in the undergraduate education and not so much in research. Professional and applied fields like engineering and management has seen a much rapid growth in comparison to basic and fundamental subjects.

While spreading higher education to a larger mass is being achieved with both public and private participation in the country, the future target should be to thrive for quality of education with contemporary pedagogy. Here, it is important to identify the critical challenges to achieve success in the modern knowledge-driven society. In today's age of internet, when knowledge in every field from the traditional to the most contemporary topic is available at the fingertips, the educators need to rethink about the approaches to follow in imparting education. At the same time, it is becoming imperative to review and assess the outcome of the purpose for which the courses are being designed.

The measure of the quality of education, which is being followed world-wide, is done by academic and institutional assessment through accreditation. Various rankings have been done by different agencies, some of which have been acknowledged with high esteem across the world. In India, agencies like NAAC and NBA assess, either

institutional quality or quality of a particular course, and give the necessary accreditation. NAAC further proposes that every accredited institution should establish an Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) as a post-accreditation quality sustenance measure. Very recently, NAAC has also made it mandatory to submit the Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) through IQAC for every institute to participate in the accreditation process. It is important to know the different criteria of evaluation in the NAAC accreditation and major information sought in assessing the institutes in the accreditation process.

CAS/ Service Matters

Ramaprasad Bhattacharya
Joint DPI, Govt. Of West Bengal

Date & Time: 21st July, 2017; 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

- Enrolment of students in Higher Education in West Bengal is 17%.
- O.P./R.C. is just not a personal requirement. It should be a social responsibility for a teacher to prepare the students. These programmes are designed to serve this purpose.
- Gap between O.P. and R.C. is conventionally one year, but it is not strictly maintained in West Bengal scenario.
- Publication and other criteria are more important and necessary for API Score than Orientation Programme / Refresher Course.
- UGC-listed journals are recommended for publication, but non-listed journals are also taken into consideration.
- Financial support for Projects can mainly be obtained from four sources viz. DST Central, DST State, UGC, Government of West Bengal.
- Number of classes per week is flexible and it depends on number of teachers present at the department.
- Government Colleges are treated or recognized as cadre-based service, but Government-Aided colleges are different. Therefore, the rules and regulations

of service continuation and promotion is different depending on the change of service-criteria, namely Govt. To Govt., Govt. To Non-Govt., Non-Govt. To Non-Govt. And Non-Govt. To Govt. Colleges.

Basic Financial Rules and Service Related Rules
Applicable for the College and University Teachers

Gour Krishna Pattanayak
Finance Officer, Jadavpur University

Date & Time: 1st August, 2017; 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

General Financial rules normally includes sanction process, budgeting, spending norms, purchase rules, service benefits, pay and promotion issues and taxation matters, to name a few. The present lecture primarily focuses on these aspects.

Budgeting is essentially estimates for the future period based on past experiences, and flow of funds and expectations thereof. The principle of budgeting is essentially setting some benchmarks for future plan of growth and development. For academic institutes, the main source of funds is funding by the State and Central Governments and other agencies. In addition, there are incomes/revenues generated through fees, testing and consultancy, sale of publications, alternative use of properties and assets, and disposal of junk and other materials.

Purchase and expenditure thereof are primarily intended for academic and research activities and primarily within budgetary allocations and/or sanctions. The purchase of materials, equipment and furniture are now governed by GO No.: 5400-F(Y) dated 25.6.2012 of Government of West Bengal.

Accounting, reporting and auditing are the other crucial elements of general financial rules. In this context, introduction of GST has added another dimension to accounting

of purchases. The present lecture shall briefly touch upon the scope, applicability, rationality and impact of GST.

The lecture also elaborate upon Service Rules, particularly pay fixation and promotion, promotion under CAS, retirement benefits and the new Pension Scheme introduced by the GoI with effect from 01.01.2004. Salient features of this pension scheme are as follows:

- This is a contributory Pension scheme, introduced w.e.f. 2004; 10% of Basic Pay as subscription and matching equal contribution by the employer will be provided monthly.
- A Pension fund will be maintained by a Fund Manager, where monthly the subscription and contribution need to be send by a employer.
- The employer shall have no liability for Pension of the employees under the scheme.
- The Fund manager shall release Pension monthly, based on the income on the accumulated funds with them.
- Such Pension would not have any DA or Pay-revision benefits.
- The employer has no financial liability for pension after the retirement.
- The fund manager receiving the funds will pay monthly pensions.
- There is a permanent Retirement Account number [PRAN], which is transferable.
- The scheme is controlled by PFRDA.

Value, Ethics and Human Rights

Teaching Ethics & Values

Anthony Gomes
Department of Physiology, Calcutta University, Calcutta
Email: agomescu@gmail.com, (M) 09433139031

Date & Time: 18th July, 2017; 2:00PM – 3:30 PM

Teachers play a vital role in every academic system and society, who transmits their accumulated knowledge, skills, customs and values from one generation to another. Their role is not only transmitting knowledge or information but their role to create a stimulating learning environment to ensure that all students reach their targets and thus could contribute to the society. Professional development is the key to professional progression and to the delivery of quality education and quality students. For this what we need are professional and ethical teachers in our education system through training in code of ethics. A code of ethics promotes an environment of respect based on integrity. When teachers know the code of ethics and follow it, this creates an atmosphere of trust, respect and confidence in the actions of each teacher involved in the organization. The Code is intended to encourage teachers to adopt an informed approach to their teaching and its contexts and to reflect on the good and correct practices as professional teachers.

A teacher shall endeavour to be a role model and shall act within the community in a manner which enhances the prestige of the profession. The only true teacher is he, who can immediately come down to the level of the students, see through the student's eye and hear through the student's ear and understand through his mind. Such a teacher can really teach and none else (Swami Vivekananda). A teacher should be committed towards students, society and profession. The six key principles the teachers should follow are: (1) maintain trust in the profession; (2) Maintain Professional Relationships; (3) Respect the Uniqueness & Diversity of Students; (4) Work in a Collaborative Manner; (5) Act with Honesty and Integrity; (6) Keep Professional Knowledge & Practice Up to Date.

Violation of teaching ethics, if found guilty, need to be punished. The degree of punishment depends on the code of violation from warning, fine, job terminated. My

advice, never ever violate ethics and code of teaching profession. The following promotional strategies of teaching ethics may be adopted by institutes, government level: (1) Formation of institutional T.E Committee (2) Compulsory ethics training before joining & in service of teaching profession (3) To organize lecture, seminar/symposium, workshop, awareness programs, etc. (4) To promote value education among teachers & students (5) Introduction of best teacher award, Initiation of student assessment on teachers, Formation of Student-teacher help desk.

Thus, it may be recommend that teachers take a proactive stance by developing a deeper understanding of ethical teaching and reflecting on these principles and their application to teaching profession and societal contribution.

Child Marriage

Debasish Chattopadhyay
Principal, South Calcutta Law College

Date & Time: 18th July, 2017; 12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM

Child marriage is not common in India. It can be found in other countries as well with high percentages, such as in Ghana-72%, Bangladesh-48%, Tanzania-72%, compared to 46% in India. In Cameron, the age of marriage is raised to 21 for girls, but in other countries it is 18. In India, There are several reasons for such variations:-

1. Custom or Tradition
2. Economic Condition
3. Dowry System

The child-marriage has its great impact on the body of female. Before 18, they get married and health development is not properly done. As a result, the mortality rate is high. In 2006, near about 3 Lakhs women died at the time of delivery. In addition to it, there are many diseases may occur, like HIV and Sex-related diseases. Due to poor development of health, the child is under-weight and faces many physical problems.

In Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, number of child marriage is high. Where as, in Kerala, it is 28% and in Mizoram, it is 21%.

Three Laws are made in 1929, 2004 and 2006. The Act passed in 2006 is the most stringent. Fine may be imposed about One lakh to the Parents and Priests. Any person can inform the administration or police, who can intervene by this Act. There is, however, a gap in between theory and practise. All cases are not properly reported. Again the High Court gives verdict in favour of child marriage. This is the real picture in India.

Human Trafficking is a crime against the Human Rights. It can be inside the country, or trans-national. According to recent report of ILO, total profit is about 150 billion dollar in 2008, and for each trafficking, 90 Dollar is involved. Here, the poor section of the society is the main target. Three "P"s are accepted by the U.N.O. :-
1. Prevention
2. Punishment
3. Prosecution

About 172 countries have signed the anti-trafficking draft in U.N.O. It is heinous crime which is gradually increasing and many influential person are also involved for sexual exploitation to begging. In U.N. an act "Human Trafficking Act" is announced in 2013.

In India, anti-trafficking Web-Portal is announced in 2014. Every country tries to control it and we are delighted to inform that "Kanyasree" project, which is appreciated by U.N.O. to control the both Evils.

Methodology

Fun and Games

Swapnendu Banerjee
Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Date & Time: 21st July, 2017; 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

In the late thirties, mathematician John von Neumann turned his prodigious innovative talents towards economics. This brief encounter of his with the day's economic theory convinced him that it was in need of a new mathematical tool. In the years that followed, he along with Oskar Morgenstern went about creating a brand new mathematical tool which was offered to the profession in their now classic book 'Theory of Games and Economic Behavior' published in 1944. In this book, they developed the concept of 'two-person-zero-sum' games and other cooperative game theoretic concepts. But soon economists found out that the phenomenon of 'one person's gain is the other person's loss' was too restrictive in many applications. Later John Nash took the next giant step and gave a solution concept for broader class of games which need not be zero-sum. Thus 'Nash Equilibrium' revolutionized what we now know as the 'modern non-cooperative game theory' and laid the foundation for further development in the field.

Game theory (non-cooperative) is sometimes known as interactive decision theory. It deals with situations where people with different (mostly competing) goals try to take into account others' actions in deciding on the optimal course of action. Game Theory has wide applications in Economics, Computer Science, Biology, Political Science, Sociology and other social sciences. In the first part of the lecture we will talk about static games of complete information and dynamic games of complete information. Static games are simultaneous move games and Dynamic games are sequential move games. We will look into relevant solution concepts of the above mentioned games (viz. Nash Equilibrium and others). In the second part of the lecture we will play some games in the class. This will enable the participants to grasp the solution concepts of a varied class of games.

Rethinking Qualitative Methods in Social Science Research

Amites Mukhopadhyay
Department of Sociology, Jadavpur University
Email: amitesmukhopadhyay@gmail.com

Date & Time: 29th July, 2017; 12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM

Qualitative methods are quite commonplace in social science research. The present lecture aims to revisit issues at stake in qualitative research. Moving away from the conventional distinction between qualitative and quantitative, the lecture documents the changes that have taken place in the modalities of qualitative research brining to the fore contentious arguments involving questions of subjectivity vs objectivity or modes of representation.

How to deal with imprecision in our language: Introducing Fuzzy Set and Fuzzy Logic

Amita Chatterjee
Emeritus Professor, School of Cognitive Science, Jadavpur University

Date & Time: 24th July, 2017; 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

"'Inexact' is really a reproach, and 'exact' is praise. And that is to say what is inexact attains its goal less perfectly than what is more exact."
Philosophical Investigations, Wittgenstein

Imprecision is an inalienable feature of our natural language. Not only expressions of our everyday discourse, even language of our scientific discourse cannot avoid imprecision. Max Black (1937) observed, 'It is a paradox, whose importance familiarity fails to diminish, that the most highly developed and useful scientific theories are ostensibly expressed in terms of objects never encountered in experience. The line traced by a draughtsman, no matter how accurate, is seen beneath the microscope as a kind of corrugated trench, far removed from the ideal line of pure

geometry. And the "point-planet" of astronomy, the "perfect gas' of thermodynamics, or the "pure species" of genetics are equally remote from exact realization… While the mathematician constructs a theory in terms of "perfect" objects, the experimental scientist observes objects of which the properties demanded by theory are and can, in the very nature of measurement, be only approximately true.'

Different kinds of imprecision are dealt with differently by scientists and logicians. Lotfi Zadeh (1965) introduced Fuzzy Set Theory to deal with a special kind of imprecision, viz., vagueness. 'A proposition is vague', says Peirce (1902), 'when there are possible states of things concerning which it is intrinsically uncertain whether had they been contemplated by the speaker, he would have regarded them as excluded or allowed by the proposition. By intrinsically we mean not uncertain in consequence of any ignorance of the interpreter, but because the speaker's habits of language were indeterminate.'

Since long logicians and philosophers have been deeply thinking over the question: Is it possible to eradicate vagueness? The question has two dimensions. The first is: whether vague ness can be eradicated. The hurdles in solving this issue are mainly of two kinds (i) impossibility of attaining precision through quantization; and (ii) the open-texture of all 'observational' expressions. Another way of interpreting this question: Is it advisable to eradicate vagueness? The problem is: (i) vagueness of language is sometimes a boon; (ii) precision for its own sake is not a virtue, sometimes it leads to loss of clarity, and (iii) vagueness helps us to cope with the linearity of discourse. However, vagueness inevitably leads to the age-old Sorites Paradox and it was thought that by introducing fuzzy reasoning this paradox can be resolved.

Vague sentences do not follow the laws of classical bivalent logic, e.g., In the red-orange continuum of colour spectrum, truth value of a sentence 'This shade is red' is indeterminate. Two questions arise immediately: (a) Does indeterminacy signify 'gap' or 'glut'? (b) Should classical logic thrive with inconsistencies or should it ignore vagueness? Gap violates LEM and glut LNC. Russell, for example, ignored vague sentences in PM by introducing the assumption of discrete predication which says that

'x ε ~α iff x~ε α'. Thus all cases of indeterminate predicate P becomes cases of non-P. Fuzzy reasoning questions this stance.

Fuzzy Reasoning has its base in Fuzzy Set Theory just as Classical Reasoning has Classical Set Theory as its base. Roughly speaking, a fuzzy set is a class in which the transition from membership to non-membership is gradual and never abrupt. A fuzzy subset A of a universe of discourse U is characterized by a membership function which associates each point x in U its grade of membership in A. In a fuzzy set, the grade of membership is always a number between 0 and 1(including the boundary values), i.e., the valuation set under consideration is the real interval [0,1], with 0 and 1 signifying non-membership and full-membership respectively. Fuzzy logic compels us to admit degrees of truth, e.g., 'my dress is blue' is true to the degree 0.7 if my dress is blue to the degree 0.7. According to Zadeh, the degree of truth of a vague sentence is determined by a function from [0,1] to [0,1] where the domain of this function is the index set for assigning degrees of vagueness and the co-domain of this function is the set of truth values to be assigned to the vague sentences. Assignment of degree of membership to different elements of a fuzzy set does not amount to precisification because here we give up the notion of discrete predication. That is, by saying that some shade of blue is blue to the degree 0.8, a fuzzy logician does not draw a sharp line between shades that are blue to the degree 0.8 and shades which are not blue to that particular degree. What she wants to emphasize is that the given shade of blue is sort of blue, though not completely blue, and it is more blue than non-blue. Besides, the degree of membership that she assigns is not an absolute one, and she also admits higher order vagueness. She needs also keep in mind that the points on the real line are dense, so even if for a particular purpose she draws some divide, there is a seamless passage from one point to another.

This approach helps in resolving the Sorites Paradox. A typical example of the paradox is as follows.
(1) A man with no hair on his head is bald
(2) For any number, n, if a man with n hairs on his head is bald, than a man with n+1 hairs on his head is bald.

Therefore,

(3) A man with 80,000 hairs on his head is bald.

Solutions to this paradox can be clubbed into four types: (a) Deny that the conclusion does indeed follow from the given premises; (b) Question the truth of (2); (c) Question the supposed truth of (1) or the supposed falsity of (2); (d) Declare the sorites paradox as incoherent.

Within a classical framework, denying premiss (2) or one of the conditionals commits one to there being an i such that Fxi and not-Fxi+1. But that implies existence of a sharp boundary. Degree-theorists maintain that premises are nearly true, i.e., Bxi take degrees of truth encompassing a gradually decreasing series from complete truth to complete falsity. Fuzzy logicians have tried to solve the paradox by showing how MP fails to preserve truth in a long chain of reasoning and thus yields a false conclusion starting from a true premise. Gaines and Goguen showed that in successive application of M.P. the truth value of the premises involving vague predicates decreased, especially in borderline cases. Todt, Chakraborty and Basu, on the other hand applied receding degree to the derivation process itself. Zadeh applied the process of approximate reasoning to solve the paradox.

Environment

Contaminated Groundwater in West Bengal
with Mitigation Strategies Thereof

Asis Mazumdar
Director, School of Water Resources Engineering, Jadavpur University

Date & Time: 20th July, 2017; 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

In 1983, a few cases of arsenal dermatitis were diagnosed through epidemiological studies carried out by the School of Tropical Medicine (STM). The presence of arsenic contamination beyond permissible limit (50 ppb) in the drinking water for the patients was confirmed by All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health (AIIH&PH) through analysis of hand pump water. AIIH&PH installed a few hand pump attached arsenic removal units in affected villages of North and South 24 Parganas. Presently in West Bengal, so far eighty three (83) blocks are affected with arsenic contamination in groundwater where Nadia, Murshidabad, South 24 Parganas etc. are having presence of arsenic in higher magnitude in almost all blocks. The presence of Fluoride in drinking water, beyond permissible level (1.5 mg/L), is one of the major concerns. Presence of excess fluoride in water causes dental and skeletal fluorosis. In India almost 19 states are said to have Fluoride above permissible limit. In West Bengal, fluoride has been detected beyond permissible level (1.5 mg/L) in 79 blocks of 7 districts where more than 14 million people reside. It is estimated that approximately 30 million people in the state are living in the risk zone for arsenic contamination of groundwater. The people were suffering from arsenical diseases in six districts of the state namely Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, Burdwan, North and South 24 Parganas. Government of West Bengal constituted working group to undertake epidemiological study, which revealed that presence of excessive arsenic in groundwater and its ingestion was responsible for manifestation of various ailments including arsenical disease.

Arsenic contamination in groundwater has been reported from several districts of India. A considerable number of rural populations are residing in arsenic-risk areas. Sign of chronic arsenicalism have been observed in population ingesting arsenic contaminated drinking water. Arsenic may enter in human body through drinking

water and food. Study indicated considerable uptake of arsenic in leafy vegetables. The cause of arsenic contamination in groundwater is geogenic and not anthropogenic. To mitigate arsenic and fluoride contamination problem in drinking water, schemes for installation of deep tube well, supply from surface water sources, such as pond water with horizontal roughing filter and slow sand filters followed by Activated Carbon Filter with disinfection as well adoption of some technology for iron, arsenic and fluoride removal plant with methodology of oxidation-co-precipitation-adsorption-filtration or electro-coagulation or only adsorption could be an alternative solutions. Adaptation strategies to mitigate the reject management are most important for safe and sustainable surface water source.

Current Affairs

Demonetisation and its implications

Ajitava Raychaudhuri
Department of Economics, Jadavpur University

Date & Time: 20th July, 2017; 10:30 AM – 12:00Noon

The dramatic and sudden move by the government of India to demonetize high denomination notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 have evoked significant interest and debates among economists. The suddenness of the action from the midnight of 8th of November 2017 jolted everybody in the nation in one way or the other. By this action almost 86 per cent of currency in circulation was affected. Although the action was sudden, the high denomination notes were not declared non-legal tender immediately. Some time was given to deposit the notes in banks. Also, demonetization was accompanied, albeit slowly, by a process of re-monetization whereby new design Rs 500 notes and completely new Rs 2000 notes were issued. In the ensuing debate, questions were raised about the wisdom of this action since the critics were vocal that it will lead to slower growth of GDP and significant job-losses, especially for the vast unorganized sector of the economy. However, the debate in some sense lost sight of the original intentions stated behind such a drastic action. Thus, instead of a careful dissection of the gap between intent and result of this measure, most commentators have discussed only the impact of this measure. As a result an uninitiated reader sometimes is drawn into the vortex of a cross-current of intellectual exchanges somewhat losing sight of the fact that success and legitimacy of a measure lies in understanding how far the stated objectives of an action is fulfilled.

The initial announcement of this measure by none other than the prime minister of the nation unambiguously stated three goals of such a measure- (i) Recovering the black money circulating in the economy (ii) Curbing the terrorist activities in the country which is largely financed by such black money and (iii) Confiscating the fake currency circulating in the economy. Further, the suddenness was clearly justified by the government in terms of flight of black money from the economy either abroad or in the real sector like land, real estate or gold if time is allowed in carrying out this measure. In the course of elaborations by government representatives (for example, Finance Minister's interview in Times Now TV channel on November 10, 2016),

some additional implied targets of this action came to the limelight, namely (iv) Lowering of headline inflation through reduced demand (possibly conspicuous) (v) Reducing lending rates for investors since banks will be flushed with deposits of defunct notes and (vi) Promoting a digital economy by making the availability of cash sparse. No clear statement was made about growth scenario of the economy neither there was any specific estimate of the possible job-loss in the economy.The present discussion aims to address these issues in some detail since some of these appear to be really economic puzzles whose answer is hard to come by.

GST – Concept, Model and Status

Tushar K. Nandi
CTRPFP, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Date & Time: 17th July, 2017; 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

The implementation of GST in India is likely to reignite the long standing debate in both academic and policy circles. The debate encompasses a wide range of issues – rates, jurisdiction, structure, revenue implication, implementation, state autonomy etc. Though there is a consensus that GST will bring about higher economic growth through simplification of a complex tax system and create a uniform market across country, the issues of revenue implication and fiscal autonomy of states have often occupied the centre stage in this debate. This lecture will focus on these aspects on GST. It will start with a historical perspective on indirect taxation in India. Particular emphasis will be on the transition from VAT to GST and its implication for tax base, tax rate, and compliance cost for different segments of the industry.

Goods and Services Tax

Lakhsmi Kanta Karmakar
Relationship Manager, State Bank of India, Jadavpur University Branch

Date & Time: 22nd July, 2017; 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

The Goods & Service Tax levy on goods and service produce, consume, sells within the nation. It is one tone for the one nation. From 1st July, 2017, it was applied at indirect tax area. As a common man there is a gap between the concept and implementation of tax introduced by the government. We expect in future, there will be a steady growth and our nation transform from developing country to developed country, by the decision taken over by the government in tax regime.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

Prasenjit Pal
Manager (Training), SBLC, Salt Lake

Date & Time: 20th July, 2017; 12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM

The Government of India is extremely concerned about the old age income security of the working poor and is focused on encouraging and enabling them to join the National Pension System (NPS). To address the longevity risks among the workers in unorganised sector and to encourage the workers in unorganised sector to voluntarily save for their retirement, who constitute 88% of the total labour force of 47.29 crore as per the 66th Round of NSSO Survey of 2011-12, but do not have any formal pension provision, the Government had started the Swavalamban Scheme in 2010-11.

♦ **Highlights of APY**:

• Under the APY, there is minimum guaranteed monthly pension for the subscribers ranging from Rs. 1000, Rs 2000, Rs 3000, Rs 4000 and Rs. 5000 per month.
• The benefit of minimum monthly pension would be guaranteed by the GoI.

• GoI will also co-contribute 50% of the subscriber's contribution or Rs. 1000 per annum, whichever is lower. Government co-contribution is available for those who are not covered under any Statutory Social Security Schemes and for not income tax payers. Government contribution will be credited through in subscriber's Savings Bank account on yearly basis.

• GoI will co-contribute to each eligible subscriber, for a period of 5 years who joins the scheme between 1st June, 2015 to 30th June, 2016.

• The benefit of five years of government Co-contribution under APY would not exceed 5 years for all subscribers including migrated Swavalamban beneficiaries.

• All bank account holders may join APY.

♦ **Eligibility for APY**

• All Citizens of India between the age group of 18 to 40 years

• Subscribers must have a Savings Bank account.

National Pension System (NPS)

National Pension System, is a voluntarily, defined contribution retirement saving scheme designed to enable the subscribers to inculcate the habit of savings, providing adequate retirement income post work life.

♦ **Highlights of NPS**:

• Portability – one Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN) across different jobs, different employers, different locations

• Tax benefits to Individual (to both Employer & Employee if implemented under NPS Corporate Sector model)

• Flexible Investment Options – Contributions, Fund Manager, Investment Choices (Active /Auto)

• Fully transparent, lowest cost structure – fixed by regulator (PFRDA)

• Easy access (web & tele enquiry) to Account

• Pension from Annuity Providers (IRDA approved Life Ins. Co's)

• NPS Intermediaries (Trustee Bank, Central Record Keeping Agency, Pension Fund Managers, Custodian, Points of Presence) selected by the Regulator (PFRDA)

Tax benefits under NPS:

• Individuals contributions to NPS are exempt u/s 80 C within the overall limit of Rs. 1.50 lac (Budget 2017-18 provision)

• Additional contribution of Rs 50,000 over and above sec 80C is exempt under sec 80 CCD (1B) - (Budget 2017-18 provision). This benefit is available only for investment in NPS.

♦ **Eligibility for NPS**

• All Citizens of India between the age group of 18 to 60 years

• Subscribers must have a Savings Bank account.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)

The Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), were launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 8th April 2015, as a new financial entity.

MUDRA aims to "Fund the Unfunded" i.e. to provide the credit facilities to those units which are not covered under banking system. MUDRA will further develop and refinance last mile financial intermediaries like banks, NBFCs and MFIs who are in the business of lending to smaller of the micro enterprises in manufacturing, trading and service sector.

All advances granted on and after 8th April, 2015 to non-farm enterprises under manufacturing, Trading and Services sector with credit limits up to Rs.10 lakhs are to be classified as MUDRA loans under PMMY. These are further classified under 3 sub-categories as (i) Shishu Loans (up to Rs.50,000) (ii) Kishore Loans (Rs.50,001 to Rs.5 Lakhs) and (iii) Tarun Loans (more than Rs.5 Lakhs to Rs.10 Lakhs)

Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency has proposed for issuance of co-branded

Brexit: What it Means for Britain and the European Union

Purusottam Bhattacharya
Retired Professor, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University

Date & Time: 1ˢᵗ August, 2017; 12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM

Britain's relations with the European Union (formerly European Community) have always been problematic. The UK did not join the EU's precursors- the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and the European Economic Community (EEC)- when they were formed in the 1950s due to fears about loss of national sovereignty relating to its internal jurisdiction, trade and foreign relations. However it had to change course and join the EC in 1973 when its economic and political compulsions became too pressing. Its record as a member of the EC/EU has been one of 'an awkward partner' to put it mildly. It clashed with its EU partners on almost every issue-contribution to the EU budget, incremental transfer of sovereignty to EU common institutions and most fundamentally on the vision of 'an ever closer union' which envisaged deeper and deeper integration of the national economies and polities into the body politik of the EU. The depth of unhappiness with the British experience of the EU came to light when on 23 June 2016 British voters expressed themselves, by a narrow margin, in favour leaving the EU.

Although British unhappiness with the EU was a long running saga most policy makers and experts in the EU and even in Britain did not expect the June 2016 verdict. So it came as a shock both to Brussels (the EU Headquarters) as well as London (the British government headed by Prime Minister David Cameron who strongly advocated in favour of remaining). Consequently the European Union found itself in uncharted waters as no EU member ever left the organisation before. Even the provision for an exit from the EU was only incorporated in the Lisbon Treaty (Article 50), the latest treaty which came into force in December 2009 to further advance the integration project.

As per Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty the member wishing to depart has to trigger the concerned article i.e. give notice of its intention to leave and negotiations to work out

the modalities in this regard would have to be completed within two years of the date on which the article was triggered. Britain has done precisely that on 29 March 2017 and negotiations formally began on 19 June 2017. The issue is hugely complex as, to put it simply, powers-economic, legal, social and above all political-which had been transferred from London to the common institutions of the EU would have to repatriated back to Britain so that London regains its executive, legislative and judicial authority.

So far as Britain is concerned it boils down to the crucial question of whether it would continue to have free access to the very lucrative single market of more than 500 hundred million people in the EU. Over 60 per cent of British exports traditionally are sent to the EU markets which are free of tariffs and quotas for EU members. If the UK cannot negotiate free access to this single market it would have to look for alternative markets elsewhere in the world which, in times of falling trade and increasing protectionism, would not be easy. The EU side on the other hand is concerned about the fate of 3 million EU citizens living in the UK and the 1 million UK citizens who are living in the remaining 27 countries of the EU. As of now there is no clarity on how to reconcile these contradictory priorities of the two sides which have been reflected in the polemical broadsides between the two parties. A snap election gambit by the British Prime Minister Theresa May in June 2017, ostensibly to increase the majority of the Conservative government in the House of Commons, has gone badly wrong; the government lost its majority throwing British politics into grave uncertainty and adding to the confusion on the Brexit negotiations. By contrast the EU which was looking much more vulnerable only a few weeks ago with its unsolved Eurozone crisis, the migrant crisis, continued terrorist attacks on EU member states and the threat of right wing anti-EU populism across the continent feels more confident and united following defeat of the right wing anti-EU parties in elections in Austria, the Netherlands and most importantly France and a show of solidarity in March 2017 to celebrate 60 years of the organisation.

To sum up, though the negotiations have not really started properly and therefore it is hard to predict what will emerge in March 2019-the two year deadline-what appears likely is that Britain's political, economic, commercial and social interactions with the

outside world in general and Europe in particular will undergo a transformation the like of which the UK has possibly not seen since the end of the Second World War. Whether it will be a transformation for the better or the worse it is hard to say at the moment. As for the EU exit of its second largest economy and joint number one security provider (France being the other country) can not be good news. Despite all the trouble the UK has caused during its 43 year membership London continues to be a very influential power less probably on its hard power quotient but much more so because of its huge soft power. Britain might be the greater looser but the EU too can not consider itself to be a winner in this lose-lose game.

Stress Management, Counselling and Psycho-analysis

Neurophysiology and Management of Stress

Dr. Subhrangsu Aditya
Counselling Services & Studies in Self-Development, Jadavpur University

Date & Time: 29th July, 2017; 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Stress is an unpleasant internal condition which occurs when perceived demands of a situation exceed one's perceived resources beyond the threshold of coping and resilience. According to Richard Lazarus et al (1984) the experience of psychological stress occurs as a result of 'transaction' (interplay) between two entities – 1) on one hand, presence of stressors (factors causing stress) in the immediate environment or life situation of a person and 2) on the other hand, cognitive appraisal of the situation by the person resulting in stress response. Cognitive appraisal is a mechanism through which an individual can assess a particular life event. Based on this assessment, one has to decide whether one should pursue, give up or get rid of the challenges involved in it. For example, while pursuing a career, a PhD, Post Doctoral fellowship or an independent research project, if the challenges tend to become too stressful one has to make an assessment and decide how much time, effort, money and emotion should be invested into it.

According to Lazarus, cognitive appraisal is of two kinds – primary and secondary, though both seem to occur simultaneously at different levels. Through primary appraisal one decides whether the situation involves challenge, threat, harm or loss. The object under threat in this case can be money, power, status, reputation, career, relationship, life, physical and psychological wellbeing. Through secondary appraisal one can assess potential resources available for dealing with an imminent stressful life event – such as: coping strategy, support system, skills of problem solving, organizing, memorizing, planning, time management, financial management, emotion regulation, empathy, communication, public relation and networking etc. If the available resources appear to be adequate for dealing with the demands of the situation, one remains relaxed. If the resources appear to be a bit inadequate, even then one feels positively aroused, but not stressed. In fact this might actually motivate the person to perform better and put in further passionate effort into the said pursuit.

This ability to stretch oneself keeping with the demands of the situation is called resilience. The degree of resilience one can allow varies from person to person. However, there is a limit or threshold for everyone, beyond which it leads to stress. At this point, the balance of our autonomic nervous system gets inclined toward sympathetic over activity which leads to acute stress responses. This is mediated via sympathetic adrenomedullary (SAM) system. As a result, heart rate, blood pressure increases, there occur sweating, trembling, rapid shallow breathing, palpitation etc. Other internal physiological processes like digestion, sleep, bladder-bowel function, immunity etc. get disturbed. If it continues for days, weeks or months at a stretch, chronic stress responses usher in mediated by hypothalamo-pituitary-adrenocortical (HPA) axis. This increases the risk of different Subhrangsu Aditya, Jadavpur University Page 2 chronic diseases like diabetes mellitus, peptic ulcer, rheumatoid arthritis, hormonal problems, obesity, autoimmune disorders etc. Moreover, certain brain areas get adversely affected by sustained high level of stress hormone (cortisol) in the blood. For example volume and connectivity of amygdala gets increased resulting in excessive anxiety, irritability, guilt, shame, jealousy, frustration, anger outbursts etc. Depression can follow secondarily as brain attempts to take defence against the ever increasing burden of emotional arousal.

On the other hand, another important brain area called hippocampus gets diminished in volume with diminished number of neural connections (less synapses and dendritic spines). This leads to a deficiency in the ability to learn and memorize. Such paradoxically opposite impact of chronic stress on amygdala and hippocampus have been reported by the research of Sumantra Chattarji (2012). At the same time, the prefrontal cortex of brain tends to perform poorly under such 'amygdala hijack' situation (Daniel Goleman, 2005). As a result rational thinking, problem solving, planning, time management, practical judgment, creativity, social skills – all tend to suffer. As an intervention strategy, cognitive approach recommends cognitive restructuring of the appraisal system. A positive and more adaptive re-appraisal of the stressful life situation as well as available coping options and resources can significantly reduce the intensity of stress response and resulting impact on physical and psychological wellbeing. The behavioural approach intends to bring back the autonomic balance toward parasympathetic end and thereby inducing a state of

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relaxation. The life style modification approach focuses on reducing stress prone lifestyle events. Instead, some enriching and meaningful engagements in life can help one recover from the ill effects of stress both physically and mentally. A positive, purposeful and esteem enhancing fantasy about self, life and future is also helpful in maintaining the islands of wellbeing amidst the ocean of stress. Psychological counselling can provide a space for exploring such meaningful options and make more adaptive self determined rational choices in life so as to progress toward growth and wellbeing.

References:

1. Richard S. Lazarus and Susan Folkman (1984): Stress, Appraisal, and Coping, Springer Publishing, ISBN 13: 9780826141910, EISBN: 9780826141927.

2. Daniel Goleman (2005): Emotional Intelligence: Why It Can Matter More Than IQ, Bantam Books, New York.

3. Sumantra Chattarji and Harini Lakshminarasimhan (2012): "Stress Leads to Contrasting Effects on the Levels of Brain Derived Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF) in the Hippocampus and Amygdala", PLoS ONE, January 2012, Volume 7, Issue 1, doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0030481.Some Features of The Global Economy: Drivers and Decelerators

An Introduction to the Freudian Unconscious

Santanu Biswas
Department of English, Jadavpur University

Date & Time: 3ʳᵈ August, 2017; 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Sigmund Freud described the unconscious (*das Unbewusste*) in two ways. To begin with, in the period between the late 1890s and 1918, he described the unconscious primarily in terms of the 4 formations of the unconscious, namely, dream-formation, error-formation, wit-formation and symptom-formation. Then, from 1919 onwards, Freud began to describe the unconscious in terms of repetition compulsion and the

death drive, with reference to children's games; recurrent traumatic dreams in war neurotics; repeated self-injurious behaviour of certain people that is also called 'fate neurosis'; the tendency of some people to repeatedly set themselves up for painful failures or to repeatedly recollect or enact unpleasant experiences of their past; masochism; and the strong wish to not be cured of one's suffering, called 'negative therapeutic reaction.' The one element in common to all of these is the repeated and compulsive invocation of something distressful, which explains why the compulsion is at once related to repetition and the death drive. In my lecture, I will try to explain these two paradigms of the Freudian unconscious with reference to the relevant works of Freud.

Works by Freud

The Interpretation of Dreams
The Psychopathology of Everyday Life
Jokes and their Relation to the Unconscious
Three essays on the Theory of Sexuality
The Ego and the Id
Beyond the Pleasure Principle

Interpersonal Skills-Transactional Analysis

Supriya Ghoshal
Secretary, West Bengal Right to Public Service Commission,
Government of West Bengal

Date & Time: 19th July, 2017; 10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

Interpersonal skills are the set of interactive skills which help us to interact successfully in our social and working life. These sets of skills may also be called as 'Human' or 'Life 'Skills' and are exhibited by us when we interact with people around us.

Transactional analysis is a very important tool in analysing our behavioural pattern which shows how effectively we interact with each other and is also one of the most accessible theories of modern psychology. It has wide application in clinical, therapeutic, organisational and personal development, encompassing communication, management, personality, relationship and behaviour.

The theory was founded by Dr. Eric Berne in 1950's. He said that verbal communication is at the centre of human social relationships and psychoanalysis. He also said that when two people interact, one of them will speak to the other. This he called the transaction stimulus. And the reaction from other person called the response.

Berne stated that each person interacts from three ego states: Parent, Adult and Child. Parent is the taught concept and conditioned and developed by copying our real parents or parent like figures. It is the repository of values and prejudices. We can change it but this is easier said than done.

The Child ego state is the' felt' concept and the emotional body of data within each of us. When anger or despair dominates reason then the Child is in control. Like our parent we can change our Child ego state as well.

Our 'Adult' is our ability to think and hence it is the thought concept. It determines action of us based on received data and it is oriented towards current reality. If we are to change our 'Parent' or 'Child' we must do so through our 'Adult'.

Emotional Intelligence

Supriya Ghoshal
Secretary, West Bengal Right to Public Service Commission,
Government of West Bengal

Date & Time: 19th July, 2017; 12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM

Emotional intelligence is the ability to monitor one's own and others' feelings and emotion, to discriminate among them, to use this information to guide one's thinking and action.

Emotional intelligence is scientifically anchored by four cognitive components:

1. The capacity to perceive emotion.

2. To integrate emotion in thought.

3. To understand emotion &

4. To manage emotion effectively.

When these cognitive components are effectively exhibited in interaction with others, a person has emotional competence, which includes:--
1. Self-awareness; 2. Impulse-control; 3. Persistence; 4. Confidence; 5. Self-motivation; 6. Empathy; 7. Social- deftness; 8. Trustworthiness; 9. Adaptability; 10. Ability to work cooperatively.

Daniel Goleman and others have categorised the component of EI into two areas of concern, each with an awareness and application dimension. Thus, EI has four dimensions:

1. Self-awareness

2. Self-management

3. Social awareness &

4. Relationship management

Applying EI at work requires:

· Being aware of our feeling and acting congruently.

· Sharing our feeling with straight forward and composed manner.

· Treating other with compassion, sensitivity and kindness.

· Being open to emotion and ideas of others.

· Building and mending relationships.

Economics and Politics

Some features of the Global Economy: Drivers and Decelerators

Anup K. Sinha
Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta

Date & Time: 22nd July, 2017; 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

During the past three decades, especially after the collapse of the Soviet Union and East European Socialism, there has been a resurgence of faith in markets. The ideology of neo-liberalism has been the basis on which a new global economy began to emerge since the decade of the 1990s. New technologies and integration of markets have contributed to a general period of high growth, especially in the emerging markets like China, India and Brazil. However, there have also been periods of unanticipated economic crisis like the South East Asian crisis in the late 1990s, and the sub-prime crisis in USA in 2007-08. These crises have proved to be contagious as economic contraction spread quickly across interconnected economies of the world. Standard economic policies did not seem to work. On the other hand, the growth of aggregate economic prosperity has been unevenly distributed across nations as well as individuals within nations. Never before has the world has witnessed such degrees of inequality. Moreover, despite the decline in absolute poverty (measured by people living below a particular poverty line), there is still too much of poverty and material deprivation in a world where prosperity has achieved new heights.

Specifically the discussion will focus on

1. Innovations in technology and their significance

2. Integration of international markets and their implications

3. Instability in economic growth and contagion

4. Inequalities in income and wealth – intra- as well as intergenerational issues

5. International fractures – backlash against globalization

Reading: The Globalization Paradox – Democracy and the Future of the World Economy W.W. Norton and Company, New York (2011) By Dani Rodrik (Chapters 1-3)

Strategic Studies

Shrikant Paranjpe
ICSSR National Fellow, Dept. of Defence & Strategic Studies
Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune 411007.

Date & Time: 17ᵗʰ July, 2017; 12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM

Background

Strategic Studies is considered a sub field of International Relations
- concerns with the Role of Force and war and peace
- focus on practice rather than theory

Framework

Study of strategy as opposed to the study of individual battles, campaigns, wars, leaders, weapons, is of recent origin. (of 1950s)

Some explanations:

Use of the term strategy:

- Art of distributing and applying military means to fulfil ends of policy (Liddell Hart)

- Strategy is not just about war and campaigns, it is more than that, it has peace time applications also.

-Strategic thought from Napoleon to Hitler focused on war. Post war strategic thought focuses on war as a means to achieving policy aims.   (Deterrence and crisis management in nuclear age)

Who are the Strategic analysts?

- Liddell Hart, JFC Fuller, Mahan, Marshall Foch, Mao Zedong, were all participants in war or men in uniform.

- Post war: Herman Kahn geophysicist; Thomas Schelling an economist; Albert Wholstetter a mathematician; Kissinger a historian.

Evolution

Evolution does not imply qualitative improvement (no value of better) - Thinking has become more sophisticated - Analysis has become abstract - Based on logic (Question about nature of confrontation in the nuclear age)

Framework

(a) Changes/ reference points/ historical context and corresponding writings on strategy.

-Changes in technology: industrial revolution; internal combustion engine; missile and rockets; satellites. - Technological Revolutions: Steam (1760); Petroleum, Electric (1860); Transistor and microprocessor (1960)

- Changes in politico-economic thinking: Soviet revolution, Chinese revolution, Khrushchev. Gorbachev.

(b) State centric nature: Westphalia (1648) - Realist and Idealist. Scientific approaches.

(c) Amoral, neutralist position.

Historical Context

Phase I: Age of nationalism and Industrial Revolution

Events: French Revolution, Napoleonic wars

Changes: Rise of nationalism – wars no more dynastic – warfare not restricted to the battlefield – new weapons and communication systems.

Phase II: Era of Armed Peace 1871 to 1914

Events: Backdrop of Prussian Austrian conflict (1866) and Franco-Russian conflict (1870-71)

Changes: Industrialization, Militant nationalism

Changes: - Steam engine, use of petroleum, air power, wireless – German unification, French resurgence – writing on colonial warfare, Britain on Naval warfare, Alfred Mahan's contribution.

Phase III: Total War 1914 to 1945

Events: World Wars, Bolshevik revolution1917

Changes: concept of total war – mechanized warfare, blitzkrieg, air power. – Soviet position, role of ideology.

Phase IV: Atomic Age

Events: Nuclear weapons

Changes: nuclear strategy - From total war to limited conflict – role of airpower – deterrence – balance of terror – strategic defence initiative – strategies of Khrushchev and Brezhnev (perceptions about deterrence and nuclear strategy)

Strategic Studies in the post-cold war era

Some of the key questions asked:

- What sort of future will serve our interest?

- What commitments and responsibilities be undertaken to further our goals?

- What instruments of power (military or otherwise) would be most effective?

- Which kind of international relationship you find most useful, most desirable. (Define your battle filed that you prefer to fight on)

- What kind of international sets do we have ?(Cultural, political, economic, religious, etc.)

- What is the core of international competition? What is the meaning of war?

   -Use of weapons (technology)

   - Ideology

   -History

   - Culture

   - Psychology

   -Technology

<u>**Traditional approaches**</u>

Most strategic theory dominated by realism and neo realism. They believed in :

- International relations based on state of anarchy

- Need for rationality in decision making

 Two kinds of reason: one interested in values, other is instrumental, bothered about ends not morality of means.- International politics in war is based on calculation, objectivity.

<u>**Change**</u>

Historical events that dominated thinking: US defeat in Vietnam; disintegration of USSR; problems of internal security (terrorism). - Why this happened? Has strategic thought failed?

Theory was mostly ethnocentric (and a historical)

Strategic thinking was dominated by American thinking? Thought to be universally applicable.

Situation today:

Strategic theory calls for and is an effort of an understanding of historical and cultural difference and relativity. And application of these factors for the political endeavour known as strategy.

Methodologically, today's strategic theory is no more explanatory in character (not explain how wars are to be won or lost). Today it is related to understanding (not explaining).

Earlier the unit or actor was the nation state. Now our unit is an agency (any system that has the capability to achieve or create things), it can be an entire practice of human activity e.g. human rights.

Indian Strategic Thought

Shrikant Paranjpe
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Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune 411007.

Date & Time: 17th July, 2017; 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Context

- George Tanham's argument that India lacks a strategic culture
- Estimates Committee, 19th report (1992-93) on Defence policy
- Western thinking more 'documentary', Indian abstract.

Influences on India

- Decline of Indus valley civilization and entry of Indo Aryans
- Rise of protestant religions: Buddhism and Jainism
- Immigration of world religions
- Islamic conquest

- Colonial rule.

Strategic perspectives through History:

<u>Ancient:</u>
- Unified State (3 empires of Ashoka, Peshwa and British)
- Defensive orientation, non- expansionist (impact of geography)
- Frontiers not boundaries
- Regime security not national security

<u>Colonial</u>
- Shift from civilizational state to nation state
- Boundaries not frontiers
- Defensive orientation
- Maritime control

<u>Freedom Struggle</u>
- Peace approach and independent understanding of world affairs
- Non-expansionist, anti-colonial.

<u>Independent India</u>
- Context of cold war
- Governing image: Peace and nonviolence (How is security maintained in a state of anarchy? Role of power vshow is security maintained in a society of nation state? Rejection of power)
- Debate on use of force – peace policy and legitimacy of use of power – Nehru position

<u>Post-cold war</u>
- Three watershed events: 1991 economic liberalization; 1998 Nuclear tests and 2005 Indo-US nuclear deal.
- India seeks space in the decision making circles of the world.

Contemporary debates
- Legitimacy of use of force: Indian policy towards Pakistan and China
- Revisionism vs Status quo: Policy post 1998
- Nuclear deterrence vs Disarmament: Indian nuclear doctrine

Politics of Security in South Asia

Anindya Jyoti Majumdar
Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Date & Time: 1ˢᵗ August, 2017; 10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

The region of South Asia has been experiencing a plethora of diverse security challenges for many years now. South Asian security matrix (considering that the eight member states of the SAARC constitute the region) includes among others, the challenge of a vortex of international terrorism with more potential security concerns within and beyond; the constant India-Pakistan rivalry having a nuclear edge; and the issues emanating from the presence of trans-national ethnic groups impacting on bilateral relations. Developments in this region may influence not only the policies and relations of the South Asian states but also of major powers like the U.S. and a rising China and might indicate the shape of power structure of the world in the coming days. The relations are changing as an 'Emerging India' departs from its erstwhile pattern of foreign policy and seeks greater role in the neighborhood. While an examination of historical developments would be undertaken to form a background, discussion will shed light primarily on current issues including the innate security challenges of cross-border terrorism, nuclear arms race, ethno-centrism and power rivalry in the region.

Initial Readings:

Baldev Raj Nayar and T.V. Paul, India in the World Order: Searching for Major-Power Status, Cambridge University Press, 2003.

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Eric S. Margolis, War at the Top of the World: the Struggle for Afghanistan, Kashmir and Tibet, Routledge, New York, 2002.

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Sashi Tharoor, Pax Indica: India and the World in the 21stCentury, Penguin Books India, 2012.

History

Undisciplining the Humanities Naturally: Concepts of Environmental Humanities for all

Mahuya Sarkar
Department of History, Jadavpur University

Date & Time: 26th July, 2017; 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Environmental Humanities is a relatively new but rapidly expanding field that brings cultural historical and ethical dimensions of environmental issues into conservation with the sciences, public policy and the arts. The field has attracted several interdisciplinary research networks linking academic and extra-academic partners throughout the globe. It is an arena where scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds can explore the possibilities of new assemblage of knowledge production for application to cross- cutting environmental social and cultural concerns. The term "environmental humanities" has emerged over the last five years to capture already existing theories across environmental philosophy, environmental history, ecocriticism, environmental economics, cultural geography, cultural anthropology, and political ecology, but it also seeks to integrate debates so far largely shaped by different disciplinary contexts. This concept can open up new forms of interdisciplinarity both within the humanities and in collaboration with the social and natural sciences, and can shape public debate and policies on environmental issues. The present paper deals with the diverse methods, subjects, and multidimensional aspects of environmental humanism to make broad generalizations that hold true across all the disciplines.

Women in Early Indian Society: Survey of Historiography

Nupur Dasgupta
Department of History, Jadavpur University

Date & Time: 27th July, 2017; 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

The issue under discussion falls under the rubrics of studies on women in history in a specific social context and hence forms a central aspect of social history. Within this context we find that major social events and institutions emerged through our social history that have laid the foundations for many of the frames – cognitive, ideological as well as moral - within which we understand the role, status and identity of women as a social category. We also talk about gender studies in order to situate the relational parameters within which we observe how the frames of men – women behaviors patterned out from a historical perspective. The roots of such behavioral patterns may be traced to past social institutions even as far back as ancient times in our society. Hence the study of women in ancient Indian society carries a lot of relevance even outside the pedagogic engagements. The first part of the presentation will begin with a brief comment on why it is important for us to be informed about women's history in ancient India and how it carries a relevance even to our present times. The central exercise would comprise of a survey of how the writing of this history has evolved up to the contemporary times and how this is impacted by our own social frames. In the second half of our discussions we shall make a foray into a new domain – that of visual representations of women from ancient Indian context - which would throw light on the dichotomies in social perspective evident within ancient Indian society itself. This last review would substantiate the relevance and significance of the newer turns taken in historiography of women in ancient India.

Since almost the beginning of modern history writing had evolved on the horizon of India in the late 18th century, explorations into social history has been limited to studies of social frames like caste, family, marriage rules, property rights, ethnic or kinship bonds etc., within a narrow scope of understanding. But the issues of women or women as a social category were never factored into these discussions in any meaningful way beyond mere descriptions of their almost imperceptible presence in the society.

The idea of reviewing social constructs from the perspective of social justice emerged a little later and we had especial researches undertaken on slavery and labour which added new and significant dimensions to social history. But the issue of women still remained a negligible part of such dynamic historical reviews. This gets clarified when we see how the history of the labouring caste (the Sudras) was discussed without reference to women labour.

A major trend was however, set earlier in the days of nationalist movement where the women's question was taken as a significant factor in rebuilding the new Indian society. A seminal history on the Position of Women in Ancient India was written from the nationalist frame where a major exercise was to direct the readers to examples from ancient India which would aid in valorising India's traditions in reframing a new social model. This perspective had had a magnum impact on later historiography till it was interrogated in the late 1980siii and a deeper enquiry into the premises of the nationalist perception of ancient India history was taken up by new generation of historians.

Since then more focused investigations into social history gradually unfurled from the late 20th century. Historians turned to review the ways in which social functions and institutions were constructed as given frames within which much of our present day social norms, ideas and behavioural patterns have taken shape and are practiced till date.

The task of social scientists henceforth has been to investigate into and discuss varied social relations, categories and institutions like family, caste, gender, marriage, legal issues, identities, ethnicity, urbanity rural experiences, frames of cognition, dissemination of knowledge and other matters related to lived experiences. The newer researches into the issues related to Women in Ancient Indian History form a part of this wider scope of Gender and Women's Studies.

Literature, Language and Culture

Documentary Film and Painting: The Crisis of Representation

Sanjoy Mukhopadhyay
Retired Professor, Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University

Date & Time: 25th July, 2017; 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

"I am not a painter, but a filmmaker who paints"
Michelangelo Antonioni

Today, the scopic regimes of modernity in which we live, demand that even an original work of art should be reproducible preferably by moving images. But is it at all possible/ desirable to 'document' a painting using the medium of film? This seems to me a very intriguing question because we, more often than not, encounter cinematic adaptations of painting. Notwithstanding their relative success or failure I remain in doubt whether painting can be located as a pro-filmic piece of art although I never question the usefulness of filming a particular piece of painting or sculpture. These reproductions can serve as historical evidences. At the same time I do remember that North European traditions are often considered to be more pro-cinematic than say Renaissance painting.

In any case I may give you an example, a very famous one in the history of cinema when Alain Resnais made a short film on Van Gogh or we can also refer to his more famous work on Picasso's Guernica. Despite the fact that the films were made by very competent artists like Resnais people's reaction were outrageous. They did not hesitate to call Resnais as immodest. Only at the intervention of Bazin, the great realist-theoretician Resnais was rescued. What was the fundamental reason of misunderstanding between the public and artist? I would submit that the functions of the frame in the cinematic images and paintings are different. The problem is when the French viewer believing that he was seeing the picture as painted was actually looking at through the instrumental form that profoundly changed its nature. Space as it is used in a painting is radically destroyed by the screen. One may ask -why? The answer is simple. Basically the frame of a painting encloses a space. In direct contrast to natural space the space in which is experience occurs, a painter opts for a space the representation of which is inward.

Whereas the outer ages of the screen are not the frames of the film image. They are the edges of a piece of masking that reveals only partial reality. A frame is centripetal. The screen is centrifugal. In a frame you see everything conversing

where as in screen there is clear divergence or outward movement. That is why the basic sense of movement in Guernica is lost in its film version. We have no reason to condemn Resnais. For the moment if we turn our attention to another great filmmaker Akira Kurosawa we would be compelled to see that in one of the segments of his unforgettable Dreams he, compared to Resnais, became more successful with Van Gogh because in that particular segment he could inform us on the differences of painting and film. He compared and contrasted both media in a superb way. Kurosawa was a student of painting and that is why his tributes to Van Gogh became so moving.

In fact Van Gogh often acts as a darling to filmmakers only because his representational mode. A careful investigation of the Dutch painter's works would expose that his revolution laying the fact that he like a true iconoclast forced painting to come in close liaison with music. His violent lines convincingly cross the boundaries of frame. They go outward. Instead of converging they diverge. That was one among the reasons for which Kurosawa attempted to pay tribute to Van Gogh's concept of motion appears to be so meaningful. Even if the moving camera sits on a motionless space, the film is still moving and we are still watching, expecting and representing our eyes and spirit in motion. Movies that end with fade outs on continuing action or freeze frames show how endlessness is at the core of the medium – no tableau can be a true stop to visual flow or to the flow of temporality. Let us again consider the case of the Inner Eye – the Satyajit Ray master piece on the artist Binod Behari Mukherjee who was Ray's teacher during his Shantiniketan days. To my mind the Inner Eye is a brilliant documentary not because Satyajit submitted a chronological account of Binod Behari Mukherjee's development and his unfortunate blindness in later years but owing to Satyajit's ability to decode a kind of untold motion in Binod Behari's murals. Satyajit made a horizontal journey through the murals but never lost his basic point that his tasks envisage a responsibility to translate Binod Babu's form into an apparently foreign term. One of the most striking

points in the film is the depiction of Dasaswamedh Ghat at Varanasi respectively by Binod Behari and Satyajit. Not only these two contradictory representations shake hands but also enter into a conversation on the nature of visual culture itself. Inner Eye therefore is more successful as a task and comment on the limitation of translation rather than illumination of an artist in totality. The same thing is also true for Ritwik Ghatak's unfinished project on Ramkinkar. The rushes would reveal that Ghatak refused to stay within the domain of neutrality. On the other hand the subjective camera discovers Ramkinkar's greatness from the most unusual angels. We can conveniently refer to the pieces of sculpture on Tagore and Buddhadev. It is impossible to miss that Tagore's long hair has been cut by Ramkinkar and Ritwik very consciously tried to handle these subtle moments as observations on the late age agony of a creative artist. In Lord Buddha the sweating in the form of water droplets in the screen of the saintly Buddha has been emphasized by Ramkinkar and Ritwik like a true admirer recorded it on the screen to preserve the austerity in his camera. Ultimately what Ritwik does is a kind of magic he comes closer and closer to Ramkinkar thus proving Ramkinkar as a work of sculpture in himself.

When I say film and painting are different media, I actually underscore the point that every great art form live within its own enclave and it has its own autonomy. It may be communicated to us to an extent but whenever you try to translate something gets lost in translation. Jean Luc Goddard in his 1982 film Passion showed us a series of classical paintings - most undoubtedly among them was Nightwatch Rembrandt. At one point of time he cried out in despair that even the best studio in Europe could not fixed the lighting pattern which was rare in the original canvas. One can at best try to have a very weak copy but the copies cannot reach the heights of original Leonardo, Goya and Delacroix.

This is the mystery where we usually get stuck and that inspired me to talk and listen to the debate around painting and film in India and abroad. Let us then proceed to the abstract space where still point of motion can be located.

NyAya view of vyApti relation

Rajaram Skukla
Banaras Hindu Univesrity, Varanasi

Date & Time: 25th July, 2017; 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

The advent of epistemology (pramAnamImAnsA)in Indian philosophy played the vital role in the development of polemical literature. Although the uses of the different means of knowledge (pramAnas) have already been there since the time when human being started thinking, yet there felt the necessity of independent study on pramAnas only after the advent of polemics in the process of thinking. This study on pramAnas is called epistemology and almost all the branches of philosophy have developed their own epistemology with the few differences due to the different fundamentals of those disciplines. Here the rise of navyanyAya was the main turning point in the field of philosophy. This school made a unique contribution by developing a typical methodology well known as parishkArapaddhati which was unanimously accepted by all the contemporary thinkers and by their successors as well, especially with the intension to protect their stands from criticism. Utmost importance is given to tarkain order to initiate the polemics with differing opinions of other schools and the school itself.

The discussion regarding pramAnas would not be completed without considering prameyas, i.e, the comprehensible objects. Some objects are there which come in the range of our sense organs and others do not. But they are also cognised, for, no object is unknowable. Knowableness is all-pervasive. On the other hand, some objects are there which cannot be perceived at any point of time though connected with the sense organs, because they are imperceptible by nature. Many pramAnasare suggested for cognising such objects, of which, anumAna(inference) is given utmost importance.

Any reasoning can come under the category of pramAnas only when it is defect-free, because defective reason doesn't give rise to a valid cognition, and hence cannot be pramAna. Now the question arises what does make a reason defect-free? According to nyAya view point, a reason(hetu) located in the place where something is to be inferred (paksha) and pervaded by the inferable object (sAdhya) is admitted to be

defect-free. For instance, the fire is inferred on the mountain on the basis of smoke, because smoke is located on the mountain and pervaded by fire. The pervasion or an unconditional relation between two objects of which one doesn't exist without other is technically known as vyApti, which is nothing but the necessary co-occurrence between two objects.

In NyAya School, many texts are written to discuss and examine the various definitions of vyApti. Here we propose to project a short glimpse of that discussion.

Origin of language – an introduction

Mahidas Bhattacharya
School of Languages and Linguistics, Jadavpur University

Date & Time: 26th July, 2017; 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Human being having the power of language i.e. the abstract system of verbal communication gifted by the nature or developed by exploring the nature throughout the ages, has separated themselves from all other species. This unique power of communication has made them to rule over the world. Whether this power was achieved or really gifted by nature is a question? To have an answer of it, the quarry on the 'Origin of language' has become one of the most cultivated and controversial areas of human knowledge which is not yet resolved satisfactorily. Sometimes people have become upset and advised to stop the discussion on the area, but that was not accepted to the scholars due to the boundless curiosity for the this truth of human mind. Since the beginning of history people have been trying to resolve this issue in different ways. Whether the socio-economic status of a speech community is advanced or backward is not a matter of consideration, the cat's curiosity of human nature is to explore the area of thought process of the member of that community in respect of language generation and comprehension. By defining and adopting a reasonable idea according to their own logical status and the peripheral knowledge the tried to map the historiophraphy of the mastery on the ability of speech for communication. Sometimes they imposed or adopt the roll of supreme power or a

prime mover force on the origin or experimented the human generative ability applying different methodologies like language depriving method, comparative method etc. Whether it is Rome or India the subject does not differ much. Gradually the expansion of knowledge, impact of other disciplines, different experiments and cross examinations etc have made them to adopt new ideas which are more acceptable than the previous one opening several other options for the research and experiments. From the mythological beginning to the genetic views, or from philosophical to the linguistic analysis and cognitive experiments several opinions came into picture one after another by enriching us in different ways. The present status of this study is also under the experiment. This discussion will just present some of the views related to this to have some ideas on the issue.

Theories OF Sentence-Meaning: Indian and Western

Rupa Bandyopadhyay
Department of Philosophy, Jadavpur University

Date & Time: 27th July, 2017; 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Philosophers of both the East and the West have concerned themselves with issues related to meaning since very ancient times. In present times philosophy of language is treated as one of the major branches of philosophy. There are philosophers who consider this branch as foundational in the sense that various issues in metaphysics and epistemology cannot be settled without settling certain basic issues pertaining to language.

These two lectures will mainly focus upon certain major issues which are discussed by both philosophers of ancient India and contemporary Western philosophers. Some of these issues are:

(1) What form should a theory of meaning take?

(2) What do we understand when we understand the meaning of a sentence?

(3) How do we understand the meaning of a sentence?

In the first half I shall consider the answers given to these issues by two leading philosophers of our times – Donald Davidson and Michael Dummett.

Davidson tried to build up a theory of meaning on the basis of Tarski's semantic theory of truth in which truth has been defined recursively on the basis of the notion of satisfaction.

He tried to develop a theory of truth which will yield direct ascriptions of meaning. One other important feature of Davidson's programme is that Davidson's theory adopts the stance of a radical interpreter who does not draw upon the internal mental states of the speaker while interpreting the sentences of an unknown natural language.

Dummett, however, thinks that any theory of meaning must be a theory of understanding which is capable of explaining the concepts deployed by the language to a person who does not already possesses those concepts. Dummett shows that Davidson's programme fails to serve this purpose.

The second half of the lecture will be devoted to discussing some classical Indian theories of sentence-meaning. Here I shall mainly consider the views of the two different schools of Mimamsa, namely the schools founded by Prabhakara and Kumarila Bhatta. We shall see that these ancient systems also tried to tackle some of these issues and came up with interesting solutions.
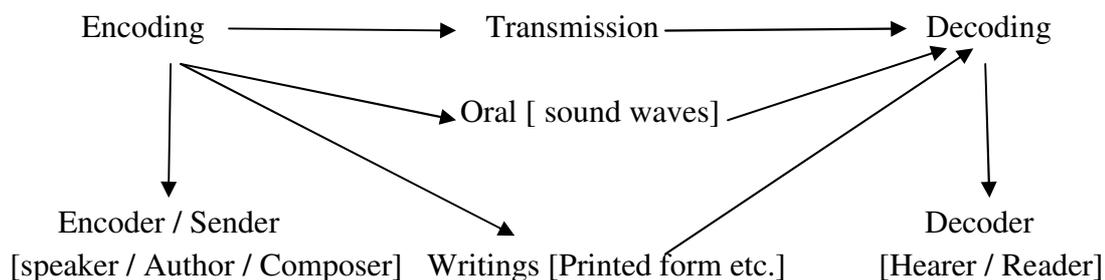
Communication and Periodicals in connection with Bengali Literature

Uday Kumar Chakraborty
Department of Bengali, Jadavpur University

Date & Time: 31st July, 2017; 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Periodicals are one of the medium for communication with literate society. Before printing press and publication of periodicals, the village *chandimandaps* or drawing rooms of some notable persons served the purpose to meet different curiosities of the local people, such as news of the localities, planning for the social works etc.

Communication has three main parts: encoding – transmission and decoding. Encoding of some theme may be transmitted through oral sounds or through some written matter. Decoding is the psychological phenomenon.

Our target period of discussion is nineteenth century. In the history of Bengali Literature, Bengali periodicals played an important role to express various ideas regarding literature, education, culture, regional history, social problems etc. of that time. We shall discuss how a periodical of a particular time becomes a vehicle of various thoughts of that time. We may formularize our thinking something like this:

$$[P^t] = [V/I^t]$$

Therefore, Periodical of a particular time $[P^t]$ is the vehicle of different ideas of that time $[V/I^t]$.

Moreover, any theme for communication is bound by the thematic rule like $\mathbf{E^{w,t}}$, expression bound by world and time. In our discussion on periodicals, we shall find

that, E is the various aspects and different ideas such as, literature, education, culture, regional history, social problems etc. and "w" is the world of Bengali periodicals and literature published in Bengal, bound by "t". In this discussion "t" is the nineteenth century Bengal.

Bi–Centenary of Bengali Periodicals

Gopa Datta
Department of Bengali, Jadavpur University

Date & Time: 31st July, 2017; 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

This year we are going to celebrate the bi - centenary of Bengali Periodicals. Needless to say in ancient and medieval age there were persons who collected and carried news. The Emperors and Kings always appointed spies for this purpose. If necessary common subjects were informed about some important events, such as a grand victory, royal marriage, birth of the heir etc. by the King's men along with loud beating of drums. Otherwise generally the people were kept in dark and gossips took the position of news in villages and town market, temples and other public places. Only in Rome, the report about important discussions in the Senate and great events were read in public places regularly. In Mughal period in India the discussions and events in the Royal Court and other information about the Empire were recorded carefully but common people did not have any access to them.

The scenario totally changed during late Eightieth Century. The printing presses were set up in Calcutta and the English Periodicals began to appear. These periodical give us attractive pictures of the English residents of the then Calcutta and adjoining areas, their luxurious and questionable life style, their rivalry and conflict and very important of course were the advertisements (some of them were about slave trade). The Bengali Printing Press brought a sea change in our intellectual and social life. In early Nineteenth Century the Bengali Periodicals brought a kind of silent revolution. *'Digdarshan', 'Samachar Darpan'* and *'Bengal Gegettee'* were followed by mushrooming of various periodicals, different in opinion, taste and outlook.

Research in the Humanities and Textual Studies

Swapan Chakravorty
Chair Professor, Presidency University

Date & Time: 4th August, 2017; 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Research and teaching in the Humanities rest on a sound understanding of the production, transmission and reception of the word. This involves a knowledge of paleography, printing house practice, bibliography, textual scholarship, book history, machine readable texts, and the sociology of the text. The presentation would focus on the a few fundamental aspects of these sub-disciplines.

Staging Life: The Worlds of Binodini Dasi

Jharna Sanyal
Retired Professor, Dept. of English, Calcutta University

Date & Time: 5th August, 2017; 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

At a time when Bengal/India was trying to forge a new national (swadeshi) identity in all spheres of activity, social, political and cultural, the arrival of a woman on the proscenium stage threw a challenge to the patriarchal, class/caste ridden underbelly of the enlightened bhadralok culture.

Binodini Dasi (1842-1941), more popularly known as Nati Binodini, is now well known (mostly, due to the representations in popular media) as the most powerful, versatile and culturally sensitive actress of her time. But her image as an actress is framed by the legends of her mentor, Girish Chandra Ghosh, and one of her most notable spectators, Sri Ramkrishna. The issues that come up while discussing her life as an actress relate to her social status as a prostitute, her professionalism as an actress, she being utilized as an investment in (sacrifice for?) the establishment of , what came to be known as, the Star theatre.

Binodini was also a powerful writer. If her assessment as an actress has to depend on contemporary reviews, reports and anecdotes, her power as a writer is felt in scripts which she herself had penned. Her autobiographical writings are testimonies to her keen, analytical frame of mind that tears through the veil of the hypocrisy and betrayal of her social milieu. These are not only historical documents on the status of contemporary theatre but also of the socio-cultural discourses and practices relating to class, gender, theatre, nation etc. She expresses her private anguish in her poetry which finds their resonance in the poems of other poets of the period. A poem like 'শিখাও আমায়' (shikhao amay /Teach Me) cuts a subterranean path between her private and public spheres.

Whether it is the public or the private domain, Binodini, in spite of her 'marginal' place had the confidence or rather, the guts, to 'write', - which is, to strike back, to leave a mark. If her life as an actress has been relegated to cultural memory, her writing is 'live' to remind us that writing as performance, for her, was a more radical act than acting itself.

Performing Arts

Raga and Realization

Suchisree Ray

Date & Time: 3rd August, 2017; 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

*The little girl had the making of a poet in her who, being told to be sure of her meaning before she spoke, said: ''how can I know what I think till I see what I say."
Graham Wallas, The Art of Thought.*

North Indian classical music is all about expressing one's experience though certain rules and techniques those are to be followed. Two sorts of (classical) musical- forms are there, Dhrupad - the older and conservative genre and kheyal - the younger and democratic one. My genre is kheyal.

The ancient form of classical singing after the Vedic age had been "Dhrupad" and " Dhamar". Basically gods and goddesses were praised through the bandishes (lyrical composition) of Dhrupad ; and Dhamar describes the joyful and colourful Hori festival. Thus Dhrupad was very conservative style of singing . Tansen , the legendary vocalist of Akbar the grate's Court used to sing dhrupad.

After Islamic invasion in India dueto the amalgamation of art and culture between two extremely different religion and country, entire socio-economic character of our country as well as music and its form changed. It must be mentioned that court musicians that time had to perform before a Mughal emperor or Sultan and so influences of Persian music could never be avoided. Thus evolved kheyal (a Persian word) that means imagination. This style gave classical vocalists more freedom and space .

The protagonist of the singing style, may be dhrupad , dhamar or kheyal, is Raga. Raga means mood, or emotion though technically means a phrase of musical notes , may be of five six or eight *swara*-s but not less than four. In the vedic age there were only three notes, one middle, one lower and the other upper, gradually other notes were added and thus it became saptak, the seven notes.

As there were no proper scripture of North Indian classical music, Pandit Bhatkhandeji started working on it(i.e framing the pattern of manifestation,

compiling the grammar, and registering the do-s and don't-setc) in the beginning of 20th century though till today it is mostly taught and learnt by listening.It is well understood why, really difficult is the attempt to maintain the authenticity of this core of the core art-form, when we believe in guru shishya parampara, supreme faith in guru, the teacher and his lineage that is Gharana, depending on our limited merit and composure.

The protagonist of north Indian classical music is Raga . Surprisingly, time and hour are mentioned while describing each Raga, like, 'Yaman' is sung in the evening just after dusk. There are ragas, sung in afternoon, moonlit night, midnight, late night, day break. Even the ragas are there for different monsoon like autumn, spring and rainy season! So raga is related to nature and concept of raga emerges out of relation and communication between nature and human being and even with animals.

I personally do feel that we personify a raga while singing. We give him or her a particular character, nature and temperament. It is like portraying someone. He/she may be extrovert, smart and linear; may be shy, introvert and soft. May be, very complicated or simple, bright or sad! We practice difficult vocal workouts to make our voice ready enough to describe and portray apt and appropriate character of the raga.

To be precise my focus in this lecture demonstration will be to focus on how I do relate myself to a specific raga-portrayal and how do i give it a soulful rebirth. I believe it all depends on my approach, reaction and reciprocation towards life and nature. It is more a process of evolution than a process of mathematics.

Science

Evolution of Scientific Ideas from Aristotle to Newton

Bichitra Kumar Guha
Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur, Howrah

Date & Time: 2nd August, 2017; 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Search for truth about the Universe surrounding us started from ancient times. A number of philosophers in ancient Greece contributed in development of ideas about the earth and the heavens; notable among them was Aristotle who proposed different laws to work for the earth and the heavens and tried to establish logically the workings of terrestrial and celestial mechanics. His ideas may also be compared with those of ancient Indian philosophers. Later on, as the Catholic Church gained power, Aristotle's ideas were declared to be infallible and any contradiction was supposed to be anti Bible. From the time of the Renaissance, systematic scientific ideas started developing through Copernicus, Bruno and Galileo. After a long drawn struggle, finally through Newton, the modern science took shape. The ideas of these great thinkers have been discussed in details following chronologically the development of scientific ideas.

Socio-medical importance of Snake and snake venom

Anthony Gomes
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Date & Time: 18th July, 2017; 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Snakes are the most feared, most worshiped, most poisonous living creature on earth. In India, there are 300 varieties of snakes available, among which 50 are venomous. Cobra, viper, krait are common venomous snakes found in West Bengal. Snake venom is the secretion of their venom glands, which is used to capture their prey and

in defence. The venom is composed of lethal protein toxins, enzymes, peptides and unidentified substances.

The protein toxins (like, cardiotoxin, neurotoxin, hemorrhagins, nephrotoxins, hemolysins, etc) that affect living system (the heart, brain, kidney, RBC, etc) due to envenomatiom. Snake-bite is a neglected tropical diseases declared by World health organization. Snake-bite is a major socio-medical problem in rural India that leads to large number of death each year and a good number of death that has been recorded from West Bengal. The one and only treatment available is the polyvalent snake venom antiserum (ASVS), which was invented by Dr Albert Calmett in 1894 at Pasteur Institute, Paris. In India, there are several ASVS manufacturing companies that meet the demand of ASVS raised in horses against four common poisonous snake venoms (cobra, viper, krait). Apart from the cost factor, ASVS has its own limitations and side effects.

Use of herbs against snake-bite is an age old practice in India and has been mentioned in folk-traditional medicine system including Ayurveda. Several Indian medicinal herbs claim to be active against snake venom but till today, no herbal antidote against snake venom is available. From the present laboratory, many herbs and their active constituents has been identified and proved to be effective against snake venom tested in animal models. Recently it has been established that conjugation of nanoparticles with the herbal compounds significantly increased the efficacy of the herbal compounds. It is expected that these information may enlightened to develop supportive herbal antagonists against snake-bite in the near future.

VALEDICTORY LECTURE

Kashmir, 2017: Lack of Governance, Militancy and External Intervention (Synopsis)

Dr. Arun Kumar Banerji
Retired Professor, Former Dean, Faculty of Arts, Jadavpur University.

Date & Time: 12th August, 2017; 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Kashmir is on the boil again and this is almost a repetition of the situation that prevailed in Kashmir in 2016, after the killing of Burhan Wani, a militant leader of *Hizbul Mujahideen*. That militancy would be revived in Kashmir with the onset of summer was predictable, as infiltration from across the border increased after the melting of ice in the mountainous terrains of Jammu and Kashmir. It is now quite clear that militancy in Kashmir is sustained not only by the infiltrators pushed to the Indian side of the LoC by the Pakistani military/Rangers, but also by the financial largesse that the separatists/ militants receive from sources across the border, as confirmed by the recent raids conducted by the NIA and the ED, and, the confessions of some of the second-rung separatist leaders of the APHC. What is more disturbing is that money is channelled through conduits that have links with influential persons in business, politics and Administration. (*The Sunday Statesman*, 4 June, 2017). So unless serious attempts are made to break these links and stop the flow of foreign funds, terrorism in Kashmir cannot be dealt with effectively.

 It is reasonable to argue that the current turmoil in Kashmir is sustained by the support - political /diplomatic , military as well as financial - the separatists receive from across the border, but the problem has deeper roots and requires careful consideration, if the situation is to be retrieved. When boys and girls studying in schools/colleges take to the streets and start pelting stones at the security forces, they do it out of frustration and a sense of alienation, although many among the stone-pelting youths might have been doing it at the behest of their masters who have recruited them for this job, perhaps on payment of pecuniary benefits. But this would not have been possible without a sense of alienation, created by the lack of educational and job opportunities, aggravated by the frequent disruption of normal life by the activities of separatists /militants, and the response of the security forces. The stone-pelting young boys and girls, it should be noted, were born during the turbulent

nineties of the last century and have lived through two decades that have seen frequent outbreak of violence in Kashmir, particularly in the Valley, with no signs of stable peace returning. Their anger and resentment is not unnatural, though all of them are not necessarily anti-Indian.

How the situation in Kashmir could become so volatile within three years after the elections to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, held in 2014? In terms of voter participation, that was a land- mark election with more than 65 per cent voters exercising their right to vote, which was the highest in the last 25 years, despite the call for poll boycott issued by the Hurriyat leaders. This was hailed by the European Parliament, as an example of free and fair election, for which India was complemented. In the previous elections to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly held in 2002 and 2008, voter turnout was more than 60 per cent , in some of the constituencies, while the conduct of elections was reasonably free and fair.

The current situation in Kashmir is to a large extent the result of the short sighted policies of political parties that have been more interested in capturing power than in serving the people. An attempt will be made here to analyse the present situation in Kashmir and to suggest means for a long -term settlement of the problem that will bring peace to Kashmir.

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