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FOREWORD

Current Contents is a Current Awareness Service under “**NASSDOC Research Information Series**”. It provides ready access to bibliographic details of articles with abstracts from the recently published leading scholarly journals in Social Sciences and is available in NASSDOC. In this publication, “**Table of Contents**” of selected print journals are arranged under the title of the journal and at its end **Author Index** and **Keyword Index** have been provided in alphabetical order.

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Dr. S.N. Chari
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- 1 A Conceptual Study on Role, Opportunities, and Challenges of Chat GPT in Education / Rani, Anju ., pg. 167-170

This paper explores the role, opportunities, and challenges of Chat GPT, an advanced language model developed by OpenAI, in the realm of education. As educational institutions increasingly integrate technology into their teaching and learning processes, Chat GPT offers significant potential for enhancing educational outcomes. This study delves into how Chat GPT can be utilized in educational settings, the benefits it brings, and the challenges that need to be addressed to optimize its use.

- 2 Role of Technology in Enhancing Education Under NEP-2020 / Panwar, Vijay ., pg. 172-181

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes the transformative role of technology in education. This paper explores the integration of technology as outlined in NEP-2020, highlighting key aspects such as digital and online learning, virtual classrooms, and personalized education. It examines how technology enhances curriculum development through interactive content and gamification, and the inclusion of coding skills. The paper also addresses challenges such as the digital divide, teacher readiness, and infrastructure issues. By evaluating government initiatives and future prospects, the study provides recommendations for effective implementation and underscores technology's potential to revolutionize education in India.

- 3 Philosophical perspectives on Verification and Meaning / Das, Swapan Kumar ., pg. 182-187

In the early 20th century, philosopher A. J. Ayer introduced the principle of verification in his seminal work, *Language, Truth, and Logic*. This principle, a cornerstone of logical positivism, asserts that metaphysical statements are literally meaningless due to their unverifiable nature. Ayer and like-minded logical positivists contend that metaphysical problems are pseudo-problems, rendering them unanswerable or meaningless. They challenge metaphysics from the perspective of propositional meaning, tying truth and meaning to empirical experience. According to logical positivism, sentence meaning derives from sensory experience, making language a product of sense experience. Consequently, the principle of verification posits that a sentence is meaningful only if it is empirically verifiable or meets specific conditions. This paper aims to demonstrate that Ayer's verification theory of meaning is a significant empiricist milestone.

- 4 A Psychological Study of Stress and Techniques for Managing Stress Among Working and Non-Working Women / Veena ; Kumar, Vikas ., pg. 188-197

Stress is defined as "the non-specific response of the body to any demand placed upon it. Women play a crucial role in the economic and social development of nations worldwide, yet working women face a range of challenges as they navigate both family and professional responsibilities. They have to manage their career while maintaining traditional roles. Due to dual responsibilities traditional roles seem to be one of the major sources of stress that working women have to face. The study aims to evaluate the stress level in working women and housewives and to know about the techniques for managing stress adopted by working and non-working women. A quota sampling method was used in selecting the 50 women i.e. 25 working and 25 non-working (Housewives). SPSSI-Singh's Personal Stress Source Inventory was used to evaluate the degree of stress. Here t-test was used to calculate the significance of the difference. The outcomes show that the degree of stress was high in the working women in collaboration with the housewives. From the help of a self-prepared stress management techniques list in which the researcher included eight healthy coping skills, adopted by the women for both groups.

- 5 Women in Pahari Miniature / Mishra, Om Prakash ; Gupta, Divya ., pg. 198-205

Miniatures are the highly detailed works that not only fascinate artists but also the viewers. Miniature flourished in different regions and artists gave a specific touch to each miniature style consisting of different characteristics, so as Pahari Miniature was among them. In the Pahari style, artists not only depicted the beauty of hills but also gave importance to Female Indian Beauty. The way females dressed during that period, their style, posture, mood and their importance all are discussed in this research paper.

- 6 Solitude Rock Art of Spiti Valley: Importance, Conservation, and Challenges / Gautam, Jiten Dutt ; Chatterjee, Him ., pg. 206-214

Himachal Pradesh in northern India is known for its mountains, stunning landscapes, and rich historical and cultural heritage, including rock art. Rock art, such as petroglyphs and pictographs, offers insights into the ancient life of early humans, it also reflects artistic expressions and belief systems. History and significance of rock art Rock art refer to prehistoric carvings, pictures and paintings carved into natural rock surfaces. Himachal Pradesh is known for its cultural and historical heritage Rock art in Himachal Pradesh (Spiti Valley) is important because it gives insight into the lives of the early inhabitants of the region. These archaeological treasures depict animals, hunting scenes, geometric patterns, and religious symbols, and many more which throws a light on the cultural and religious practices of early societies. Rock art can be classified into petroglyphs (mainly using a sharp tool to scratch the rock surface) and pictographs (paintings made with natural pigments). These artworks are found in districts like Lahaul-Spiti, influenced by local cultures and civilizations such as Indo-Aryans and Tibetans. Major rock art sites like Spiti Valley in Lahaul-Spiti, exhibit carvings and paintings of human figures, animals, and religious symbols. This rock art is the reflection of religious or ritualistic practices, social organization, and cultural identity. Most of these works of art, which are believed to be ancient and historical, reflect the cultural and religious practices of that time. These are some of the earliest forms of visual communication, featuring everyday scenes, religious symbols and mythological figures.

- 7 Complexities & Challenges Faced by Assistant Professors in Degree Colleges / Bhatnagar, Amit Kumar ., pg. 215-222

Assistant professors in degree colleges face a wide range of complexities and challenges that can significantly impact their professional growth and personal well-being. This article explores the key obstacles encountered in their roles, including the difficulty of teaching, research, and administrative duties, the pressure to publish, and the pursuit of tenure. Additional challenges such as managing large classes, limited resources, and facing institutional politics further complicate their responsibilities. The article also examines the effects of job insecurity, the evolving demands of educational technology, and the struggle to maintain work-life balance. By identifying these challenges, this article emphasizes the need for academic institutions to provide better support systems, mentorship, and professional development opportunities to help assistant professors succeed in their academic careers. Addressing these issues is crucial for creating an environment that promotes academic excellence and faculty well-being.

- 8 Analytical Discussion of Rasa Theory in Indian Painting / Mishra, Om Prakash ; Kumari, Roshni ., pg. 223-229

The theory of rasa, originally developed in the context of Indian performance arts such as drama and dance, has been applied to Indian painting with intriguing results. Analyzing the theory of rasa in Indian painting involves examining how visual art can evoke and communicate the same range of emotional experiences described by the rasas in classical Indian aesthetics. Rasa is an essence of every work of art like dance, music and Literature that can only be suggested and not articulated. It is a type of thoughtful abstraction in which the world of physical forms is permeated by the interiority of the human feelings. However the word may seem magical at first but it is, not so in actual because to experience rasa one does not need any magical spell but has to be sensitive enough to connect with the emotions of the work. It is the concept of emotions, connections and feelings. This research paper aims to explore the meaning, history and scope of rasa theory in present scenario.

- 9 Crisis in the Fields: Examining the Root Causes of Agrarian Distress in India / Juli ; Mainwal, Sujata ., pg. 230-239

Agricultural distress in India is a multifaceted issue marked by rising farmer suicides, decreasing incomes, food security, threatening rural livelihoods and unequal resource access,. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, suicides increased by 3.7% in 2022, with 11,290 cases reported, translating to one farmer's death every hour. Key factors include erratic weather, limited access to credit, fragmented land ownership, and volatile markets, exacerbating economic instability and debt. The crisis is further intensified by ecological challenges and natural disasters, although government initiatives like the PM Fasal Bima Yojana aim to address these issues. Effective solutions require diverse strategies and better resource utilization, with agricultural extension services crucial for promoting technology and financial literacy. Collaboration among policymakers and institutions is essential to create a resilient agrarian future.

- 10 Burnout in Relation to Psychological Hardiness Among Post-Graduate Students / Rani, Pratiksha ; Khokar, Manju ., pg. 240-250

In today's changeable environment college students in a lot of stress. They deal with multiple stressors due to these, they have no time to relax and recharge themselves. These stressors are affecting student's life in a variety of negative ways and causing burnout syndromes. Keeping in mind the problems of burnout especially among college students, the present study has been undertaken. The purpose of the study is to examine the relationship between burnout and psychological hardiness. Psychological hardiness is a type of attitude or behavioral tendency for commitment, control and challenges. The study was conducted on a sample of 300 students comprising both male and female postgraduate students studying in art, science and commerce faculties. Burnout was measured by Copenhagen's (2012) student burnout scale and psychological hardiness scale by A.K. Singh (2008). The data was analyzed with the help of a simple descriptive method, correlation method and simple multiple regression. Analysis revealed a linear correlation between Psychological hardiness and burnout. Similarly gender was also emerged as a significant predictor for the burnout. Thus, the present study has applied application in the field of higher institutions. Accordingly some intervention strategies should be evolved to reduce burnout problems among post-graduate students

- 11 The Impact of Art Therapy on Mental Health / Mishra, Om Prakash ; Rawat, Sakshi ., pg. 251-256

Through the provision of a creative outlet for the exploration and processing of emotions, trauma, and psychological difficulties, art therapy has become recognized as an efficacious therapeutic approach for enhancing mental health. Through the use of creative expression and psychological support, this type of therapy helps clients communicate ideas and emotions that might be challenging to convey verbally. According to research, art therapy can foster emotional resilience, self-awareness, and self-esteem while easing the symptoms of stress, anxiety, and depression. It offers a safe environment for self-expression, healing, and personal development,

making it especially helpful for people coping with trauma, grief, and longterm mental health issues. Because art therapy is non-verbal, it can be used with a variety of populations, such as children, and the elderly.

- 12 Review of Literature: Impact of Skill Development, Education, and Health on Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women in India / Praveen, Simran ; Verma, Atul Kumar ., pg. 257-264

Research is a systematic method of finding the solution to a problem. The systematic method lies in enunciating the problem, collecting data, analyzing them critically and reaching conclusions based on them. Collecting of data is not research. It is only a preparatory step, conclusions are important, and Generalization is even more important. Research is an art of scientific investigation it is a movement from known to unknown and a voyage of discovery. Generalization, interpretation and future scope are more important segments of any research. Planning of any research remains incomplete without a survey or review of its existing literature. So, a review of the literature is almost mandatory in a Ph.D. thesis. Therefore, this chapter is designed to fulfill this mandatory requirement. The present study contains the reviews of the impact of skill, education and health on the socio-economic empowerment of women in India.

- 13 Life Skills Education: A Significant Role in Holistic Development of an Adolescent / Tyagi, Khushboo ; Rani, Manju ., pg. 265-272

Adolescence is a phase of development that falls between puberty and maturity and is characterized by changes in physical, cognitive, and psychological traits. According to Hall, Adolescence is a period of “Storm and Stress” and states “conflict at this developmental stage is normal”. It is very crucial period of various emotions like anxiety, fear, love and danger and characterized by complex changes both mentally and physically. They are unable to understand the emotional turmoil. In many cases adolescents are not utilising their abilities positively in right direction. Most common psychosocial disorders include depression and anxiety, delinquency, aggression, educational difficulties, and truancy (Ahmad A. et al, 2007) and psychological problems like neglect, suicidal behaviour, sexual behaviour and bullying are occurs among adolescents so they need proper guidance and orientation. If given the chance to get prepared to face their future responsibilities as parents, employees, managers, volunteers, and entrepreneurs, today’s kids can rise to the difficulties of the future. Young people will need to acquire a wide range of life skills in order to reach their full potential as adults. Life skills are the capacity for adaptable and constructive conduct that enables people to successfully navigate the responsibilities, difficulties, and stress of daily life (WHO). The present paper focuses on the importance of life skills education and how it is helpful in holistic development of an adolescent. Schools are failing to teach real life skills that are crucial to success and fulfilment. There is a need to incorporate life skills education in our curriculum so that our future generation become productive member of society.

- 14 Landscape Study on Pahari School / Mishra, Om Prakash ; Kothari, Shivanshi ., pg. 273-280

The Pahari School, emanating from the hilly tract of northern India, is known for its rich cultural narratives through intricate landscape representations and vibrant color gamut. This study focuses on the landscape representation of the Pahari School and the effects of natural elements, spatial organization, and cultural symbolism on aesthetics and meaning. It explores diverse regional styles and investigates the role of landscape in Pahari paintings, attempting to get a reflection of the sociocultural environment of that period.

- 15 Advertising Media / Sharma, Himanshu ; Thapli, Vanshika ., pg. 281-294

Advertising media encompasses the various channels and platforms through which promotional messages are communicated to target audiences. This overview explores both traditional media, such as television, radio, print, and outdoor advertising, and digital media, including social media, search engine marketing, email, and display ads. Each type offers unique advantages, such as wide reach and precise targeting, but also faces challenges like ad saturation and regulatory constraints. As consumer behavior evolves, future trends in advertising media are leaning towards increased personalization, the use of augmented and virtual reality, and interactive content. Understanding the landscape of advertising media is essential for marketers to create effective strategies that engage consumers and drive brand loyalty in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

- 16 Branding and Packaging / Kumari, Sapna ; Kothari, Ayushi ., pg. 295-307

Branding and packaging are very important in shaping how consumers see a product and influencing their buying choices in a competitive market. This research looks at how branding and packaging affect consumer decisions, focusing on how visual and emotional aspects strengthen brand identity and customer loyalty. The study examines key elements like logo design, color combinations, fonts, and packaging materials, and how these help make a brand stand out. Using both surveys and group discussions, the research analyses how consumers respond to different branding and packaging strategies in various product categories. The findings show that packaging not only protects the product but also communicates the brand's values, personality, and quality. The study concludes that well-designed branding and innovative packaging can leave a strong impression, improve brand recall, and significantly influence consumers' purchase decisions.

- 17 Breaking Chains: A Historical Timeline of the Struggle of Untouchables for Education / Sushma ., pg. 308-316

This research article delves into the historical, sociocultural, and contemporary perspectives of education for the untouchable communities in India, also known as Dalits. The education was denied to the untouchables in a highly vertical hierarchical caste system where prevalent notions of purity, endogamy, prohibition on inter-dining etc. were life death issue of higher caste Hindus. In the coming of the East India Company to the India since 1757, some of these untouchables employed in various roles in their Army, got the first hand idea of modern education and the Christian Missionaries efforts to spread their religion brought the light of education to them. After completing his course of study in Scottish Mission's High School in Pune, a young Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, opened his first school for low-caste (Shudratishudra) girls in 1848. His efforts were equally supported by her devoted wife Savitri Bai Phule and his likeminded friends, who supported his cause with money and kind. His constant demand to the Government for allowing the untouchables access to public schools brought the desired result when the British Government allowed the untouchable student's admission to Government Schools. The struggle has passed through many developments including Hunter Commission formed in 1882; the demands of affirmative action for educations, reservation in employment, scholarships have been raised from time to time by various Dalit Organizations including Satyashodhak Samaj, Shahu ji Maharaj, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Despite constitutional guarantees and affirmative action policies, Dalits have faced systemic discrimination and social exclusion

- 18 United Nations Organization Instruments on Juvenile Justice: In the Indian Context / Chandra, Lalit Mohan; Upadhyay, Raj Kumar ., pg. 317-320

In this research paper we will study the key worldwide principles and recommendations that have been given which allocate foundation on account of appropriate command of adolescent fairness and the system as applying them. It should be similar to the wide-open space that exists in a large number of nations between this framework and the true circumstances at the grassroots. An acquaintance of essential global statutes and principles is critical for proponents to negotiate concern minor's justness assisting policy interference allot adequately. The mechanism emphasized in this research paper may be permitted in many distinctive ways like that evaluative tool at national legislation and furnish new laws or policies. The age limit of Children fewer than 18 will be taken as the sample for this research, which will be further divided into sub-groups as per our requirements. U.P. West region, consisting will be selected to support the social trends of that particular reign. This will help the Policymakers, Social Activists, Advocates, Police system, NGOs as well as public in creating strategies focused on the Juvenile. In the end we will work on our research topic to either prove or disapprove our proper Abstract: In this research we will study the condition of juveniles in Western U.P. reign the age bracket 18 will be taken as the sample for this research, which will be further divided into sub-groups as per our requirements. Western U.P. reign, consisting of 18 Districts will be selected in order to support the social trends of that particular reign. This will help the Policymakers, Social Activists, NGOs as well as the public in creating strategies focused on the juvenile. In the end we will work on our research topic to either prove or disapprove our proposed hypothesis.

- 19 Micro, Small, and Medium Industries: Role and Contribution in Economic Development / Yadav, Bhavna ., pg. 335-343

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are contributing significantly to employment generation, economic growth, and innovation worldwide thus proving themselves as a foundation for Economic Growth. This research paper explores the role of MSMEs in the Indian economy, focusing on their contributions, challenges, and their possible solutions. By examining the diverse challenges faced by MSMEs, including limited access to finance, regulatory hurdles, technological constraints, and market barriers, the paper provides an in-depth understanding of these enterprises. Acknowledging the important role of MSMEs as drivers of economic growth, the paper aims to study their role in generating employment opportunities, fostering entrepreneurship, and promoting inclusive growth in both Rural and Urban Areas. Moreover, it highlights how MSMEs contribute to employment generation in rural and urban areas as well as sex-wise employment generation. The study delves into the challenges faced by these Industries and possible solutions thereafter, the significance of infrastructure development, and access to markets for enhancing the growth of these enterprises. In conclusion, the research paper synthesizes key findings to understand the importance of continued support for MSME development. It emphasizes that concerted efforts from policymakers, industry stakeholders, and researchers are essential to address the challenges faced by MSMEs and create an enabling environment for their sustainable growth.

- 20 Cultural Dilemmas, Globalization, and Misconceptions Depicted in Kiran Desai's Novel – The Inheritance of Loss / Singh, Poonam ., pg. 355-360

Cultural dilemmas seem to be everywhere as the world has become a global village due to communication and technological developments and so people come across people of diverse cultures, traditions and practices. To be competent and successful in the present business world of electronic communication, transaction, transportation, banking, commerce etc., it becomes a necessity to identify, analyze and reconcile the cultural dilemmas by realizing the cultural adaptive solutions. It also becomes vital to respect the culture. Differences as it also involve creating new ways to resolve cultural dilemmas in order to be transculturally comperent with the diverse global community. These cultural dilemmas and is differences are depicted in Kirun Desal's The Inheritance of Loss through the character Jemubhai Patel, the embittered retired judge living in a crumbled house. The novel is the remembrance of Jemubhai Patel's journeys, arrivals and departures which brings forth Jentolici Patel's cultural dilemmas whether to inherit the Indianess or to follow the western ideals. It highlights the bitter experience a man faces in his transition to a different culture and the need of the hour is to overcome those differences.

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- 21 Impact of Library Resources on Prison Education in India: A Review of Re-habilitation Efforts / Iliyas, Sana ; Ansari, Mehtab Alam ., pg. 81-86

This review synthesizes findings from two case studies focusing on the role of library resources in facilitating education and rehabilitation in Indian prisons. The first study explores the educational landscape within Indian prisons, highlighting various initiatives and challenges in delivering effective educational programs to inmates. The second study delves into the specific impact of library services in the District Jail of Gautam Buddha Nagar, examining how access to diverse reading materials and information resources aids in the intellectual and emotional development of inmates. Together, these studies underscore the significant role of library resources in supporting prisoner education and rehabilitation in India. They reveal how well-managed prison libraries, equipped with a broad range of materials and services, can contribute to the reformation, skill development, and overall well-being of inmates, thereby playing a crucial part in their successful reintegration into society.

- 22 Newspaper Reading Habit of College Students: A Study of Guru Nanak College Budhlada / Maan, Inderjeet Singh ; Ghuman, Surinder Singh ., pg. 87-96

The present study was done to know the newspaper reading habits of the students studying at the Guru Nanak College Budhlada which is situated in the rural belt of Punjab. Structured questionnaire was prepared and distributed to one hundred students of college through google form. Study was conducted to know the various preferences regarding newspaper reading. Data received from the google form was presented through pie charts and graphs. Study found that most of the respondents daily read newspaper for current affairs purpose and education is their favorite section. Students prefer hard copy of the newspaper in Punjabi language. College students find availability of news on other media and busy schedule as major hindrances to reading newspaper.

- 23 Marketing Strategy for Information Products and Services in Library: In view of the Ranganathan's five Laws of Library and Information Science / Mahendra Kumar ., pg.. 75-80

The paper emphasises the need of information products and services and marketing strategies five laws of LIS have been amended to match the marketing of Library Services.

- 24 Comprehending the Print Books and E-Books Preferences: Comparing the Contrasts / Rani, Mamta ; Jain, Rishabh Kumar ; Sukula, Shiva Kanaujia ; Sukula, Nageswara Rao Kondamud ., pg.. 41-50

The evolution of literature consumption has witnessed a paradigm shift between print books and e-books, shaping the reading landscape. This paper explores the coexistence and impact of both formats on readership habits and preferences. It scrutinizes the tangible allure of print books, emphasizing sensory experiences and nostalgic sentiments associated with physical copies. In contrast, the paper delves into the convenience and accessibility of e-books, analyzing the role of digital platforms in democratizing literature. The article intends to described and shed light on the ongoing discourse between traditional and digital reading.

- 25 Measuring and Analyzing Scholarly Literature Published on Diabetes Mellitus Type 1 with Special Reference to Bradford Law of Scattering and Leimkuhler Model: A Scientometric Study / Richa Arya ; Jaiswal, Babita ; Bisaria, Garima ., pg. 41-50

The present paper deals with the applicability of Bradford's law of Scattering to the literature on Diabetes Mellitus type 1 disease. The PubMed database has been selected to collect data for the present study. A total of 489 journals published 1542 articles during the year 2012 to 2021 on Diabetes Mellitus type 1 disease. It was found that Current Diabetes Reports was the top core journal that published the highest number of articles (100) along with citation 4550. Bradford's law was tested for applicability using a ranked list of journals and publishing output. The Diabetes Mellitus type 1 literature's journal distribution pattern corresponded to Bradford's distribution pattern. The applicability of Leimkuhler's model was also tested and it is also fitted to the selected disease dataset of Diabetes Mellitus Type-1

- 26 What Environmentalists want to Cite: A Bibliometric Study based on Environmental Conservation Journal / Dhiman, Anil Kumar ; Kaushik, Sachin Kumar ., pg. 65-74

The current bibliometric study is focussed on an examination of 255 articles/research papers that were published in the Environmental Conservation Journal, a venerable journal in the environmental area by taking into consideration its last five volumes from 2016 to 2020. In addition to discussing the average length of an article and the number of references per article, the study also covers the year and volume-wise number of articles, authorship patterns, most productive authors of the journal, state-wise contribution of the articles, and foreign contribution to the journal.

- 27 Information Literacy Skills among PG Students and Researchers in Accessing the Resources / Nayana ; Padmavathi N ., pg. 35-40

Information Literacy is essential for each individual to obtain the required Information from the vast availability of resources. With Information Literacy, one can identify, evaluate, apply and acknowledge the source of Information. Information Literate evolution plays a important function in the growth of the Nation. Significant steps need to be taken to transform the young Indians into Information literate Indians. The lifelong learning process should be an essential component of the Higher education system. The present study attempted to understand the level of understanding of information sources available in the university, recognize their level of digital Literacy, and find out their diverse search strategies.

- 28 Shaping the Smart Search Possible: An Inside Story of ETD Metadata / Shukla, Shiva Kanaugia ; Awasthi, Shipra ., pg. 29-33

Metadata is very important in scientific literature. Metadata in electronic dissertations and dissertations (ETDs) requires a modular workflow based on a flexible architecture. Metadata methods must be simplified by adapting procedures for different document formats and structures. The structure of the dissertation document, including Fig.s, tables, footnotes, etc., requires greater attention to the identification and organization of metadata in the ETD for rich textual content. Reliable extraction of appropriate metadata elements, such as title, author, abstract, keywords, etc., is essential for future citation capabilities. Such mechanisms are crucial for evaluating processes and adjusting ETD metadata to facilitate architecture expansion. Most modern ETDs rely on the organization of quality text documents, ranging from raw PDF documents or semi-structured XML documents to uniform standard TEI (Text Encoding Initiative) documents. The present study discusses metadata creation and harvesting, various extraction methods and digital library search, metadata for MARC records in ETD, and access to ETD metadata in the context of the current scenario. It also highlights the tags adopted for the creation of the MARC records in JNU Central Library ETD System for simple-level learning

- 29 Comparing Library Science Education in India and Australia: Issues, Challenges and Growth Strategies for India / Ansari, Mehtab Alam ; Munshi, Shamim Aktar ., pg. 7-19

Library education in India and Australia has developed independently with distinct features. This paper provides brief profile of the history of India and Australia followed by discussion of the evolution of LIS education in both the countries. The paper is a comparative study. It discusses the different issues and challenges encountered in LIS education in India and Australia. This comparison is an attempt to critique improvements that must be made to LIS education in India to ensure on going sustainability and relevance. In India, the growth of library schools; dated LIS curricula; increasing student faculty ratios; accreditation; and the employability of graduates are some key issues. In Australia challenges include the broad employment landscape; mismatch between pay and qualifications; decreasing numbers of educators; existence of a multi-tiered system; LIS students and institutional affiliations. A number of strategies have been used in both India and Australia to enhance LIS education. Using LIS education in Australia as a benchmark the authors show how LIS education in India can be enhanced and improved.

- 30 Scientometric Portrait of Prof. M. Santappa / Shanthi, B. ; Thangarasu, K. ., pg. 21-26

In this paper, 357 articles published by Prof. Dr. Santappa, a Polymer Chemist, were collected from various sources and analysed. Out of these 8 articles are single authored and the remaining 349 are multi-authored papers. He has published in 56 reputed journals. He is a role model Scientist to young researchers.



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Editor-in-Chief

INDIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
DELHI



- 31 Academic Information Seeking Behaviour and Library Use among Visually Impaired Students in Karnataka: A Comparative Study / Kori, Dayanandappa ., pg. 510-520

The study of academic information-seeking behavior and library use by visually impaired students in Karnataka: a comparative study collected data using quantitative and qualitative methods, including in-depth interviews, survey methods, and focus groups conducted among 1027 visually impaired students in Karnataka. The research showed that visually impaired students' information-seeking behaviors are similar to regular students. Still, they face distinct challenges due to the lack of modern facilities and support infrastructures at school, resulting in barriers that hinder their information-seeking process. This impediment causes them to spend more time seeking information, thus affecting their academic progress. The study identifies these constraints and suggests ways to improve the academic information-seeking behavior and library use of visually impaired students in Karnataka. The implications of this research are significant for educators, librarians, and policymakers who seek to support visually impaired students' academic success. Understanding these disparities can lead to targeted interventions addressing these inequities and providing equal opportunities for all students.

- 32 Impact and Challenges of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) on Library Sources and Services: With Special Reference to IIT Delhi / Faizan, Mohd ., pg. 521-534

A questionnaire survey was undertaken in order to get user feedback pertaining to diverse facets of resources and information services provided by IIT Delhi central library. The findings indicated that IIT Delhi has fully automated its library services and also provides traditional services along with ICT-based services. The findings show that ICT has a significant impact on information sources and library services. The study also found that A significant portion of the respondents 50.8% (N=142) of the respondents agreed and 29.7% (N=83) strongly agreed that ICT has made it possible to access library information resources and services quickly, and 56.9% (N=159) were satisfied and 30.8% (N=86) were very satisfied with the availability of ICT equipment in the library. However, the study also highlights some issues and challenges, such as lack of ICT knowledge among the users is the major problem, as it is acknowledged by 30.1% (N=84) respondents followed by lack of confidence in finding information in their respective areas 27.5% (N=77) and slow internet connection 14.3% (N=40) respectively.

- 33 Application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Public Libraries in Karnataka / S., Akshaya Kumar K. ., pg. 535-547

Application of information and communication technology (ICT) enables public libraries to provide user oriented library services effectively using emerging technologies. Public libraries in South India are trying to embrace ICT in their day to day library operations. This study examines the application of ICT on library operations and services in city central public libraries in Karnataka. It also examine the ICT infrastructure and software used by city central libraries in Karnataka and opinion of library professionals on the effect of ICT on various library operations and services. In Karnataka, there are 27 city central public libraries in various districts. Simple random sampling was technique was applied in order to obtain a representative sample. Data was collected from librarians/ heads of 20 city central public libraries using survey method using questionnaire. Questionnaire aimed at collecting data regarding application of ICT, level of automation, ICT infrastructure, software used, ICT based library services and opinion of head regarding the effect of ICT on library operations and services. Study found that all the 20 libraries have adopted ICT to some extent but only eight libraries fully automated circulation. Results indicates that all city central libraries (20) which responded to the study provides internet access, digital library services and access to full text documents. City central libraries often use ICT while providing recreational services, conducting outreach programs and serving differently abled. Librarians have a positive opinion

on the effect of ICT in library operations and services. Main problem identified was the limited use of ICT in providing core services such as alert services, career information services, community information services, current awareness services and services to children. The study was limited to only 25 city central libraries in Karnataka. There have many studies in public libraries in South India but they never focused on the application of ICT in city central libraries in Karnataka.

- 34 Research Productivity in Indian Journal of Agricultural Research: From the Scopus Database / Dinakaran, M. ; Gomathi. P. ., pg. 548-559

This paper mainly analyzes the "Indian Journal of Agricultural Research" productivity during 2013-2022 based on Scopus (Elsevier abstract and citation database). The study assessed the yearly output, annual and relative growth rate, doubling time, most eminent authors, most cited documents, highly contributed countries, institutions, funding sponsors, frequently used keywords, and document types during the selected period. The data was retrieved using the search string (Source title: "Indian Journal of Agricultural Research"). Out of 1114 articles, most (133) articles (11.33%) were published in 2019. The funding body of this journal is the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, which has published 15 articles. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has been identified as the most productive institution, with 52(4.64%). The findings conclude that mass articles have contributed to India's 823(73.89%).

- 35 Application of Web 2.0 Tools in Digital Marketing of Library Resources and Services / Sharma, Neha ., pg. 560-566

There have been enormous developments in marketing of library and information services around the world. The present paper explores the discipline of digital marketing of library resources and services as a new area in library and information science focusing on the Indian library professionals' opinion on use of web 2.0 tools in digital marketing of libraries. The results of the present study indicate that most library professionals use web 2.0 tools like website, Email, etc. on daily basis for promoting libraries and publishing library news/announcements/events. Library professionals have found web 2.0 tools as both time saving and cost effective in digital marketing of libraries. Library professionals feel that lack of ICT infrastructure/internet and lack of training are major factors impeding the use of web 2.0 technology in digital marketing of libraries.

- 36 Usage and User Satisfaction of Library Collections in Colleges of Assam: An Evaluative Study / Swapnali Saikia ; Barooah, P. K. ., pg. 567-573

The collection development process includes various activities that are related to the development of collections, including user requirements, collection evaluation, resolution of selection policy, management of library collections, analysis, storage, and sharing resources with the user. The present study examines user assessment of collections, the purposes of library visits, the most frequently used library collections, and user satisfaction with the collections at affiliated colleges of Dibrugarh and Gauhati Universities in Assam. The study was survey-based, and a structured questionnaire was distributed among the library users. The study concluded that many respondents participated in seminars, webinars, and workshops on e-resources, while many users had not attended library orientation programs. Most library users visited the library once a week to read textbooks or reference books and expressed satisfaction with their library collections. The introduction of electronic resources has opened new opportunities for library collections. The study recommended conducting workshops, seminars, and webinars to raise awareness and encourage library users to utilize open access resources.

- 37 Assessment of Internet Literacy Skills among the Post-Graduation Students of Bangalore University: A Case Study / V , Dhanalakshmi ; Raghunandana, M. ., pg. 574-579

In the present (ICT) information and communication technology-driven world, social and professional lives are becoming more and more dependent on our ability to navigate and interact online. The Internet has emerged as a powerful educational tool. Hence students, scholars, and other academic fertility need to be aware of what these internet skills entail and how they differ between common users. The present survey results for internet literacy usage patterns and access to e-resources are highlighted. In addition, some of the respondent's issues have been examined, and a few quick solutions and recommendations have been listed.

- 38 A Review of Literature on Disaster Management Preparedness in Libraries: Post-Pandemic Issues and Challenges / Kaur, Harpreet ; Mahajan, Preeti ., pg. 580-588

Libraries along with their information and knowledge resources often face the threat of both human-induced as well as natural disasters, yet the reactive and proactive approaches spanning the area are not investigated at the grassroots. Disaster management preparedness is a novel area of research and entails an extensive focus on awareness and proactive management besides a preparedness perspective on the part of library professionals. This area needs more attention, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. The research made use of a mixed methods approach and a keyword search to identify potential patterns in disaster management techniques in the post-pandemic phase in libraries and information centers. The preparedness literature speaks about the varied dimensions of subject matter that reflect tremendously on the aspects of staff-based intentional and conscious preparedness and personnel-based unconditional resolve to cope with the scale and scope of disaster-derived problems. The paper explores the awareness prerogative and the implementation notions across libraries and reflects the diversity of undertaken approaches on the subject across different aspects.

- 39 Agricultural Extension Services in India: Challenges and Opportunities for the Libraries / Dr. Chari, S. N. ., pg. 589-598

The agricultural extension system in India plays a crucial role in disseminating knowledge and information to farmers. Libraries, as repositories of knowledge, can contribute significantly to this system. This research paper identifies opportunities for libraries to enhance their support in this context. Further it aims to shed light on the challenges faced by the agricultural extension system in India and how libraries can serve as valuable resources and partners to address these challenges, ultimately contributing to the enhancement of agricultural practices and rural development in the country. Libraries have a crucial role to play in the enhancement of agricultural extension services in India. Despite the challenges, there are abundant opportunities for libraries to evolve and adapt to the changing needs of the agricultural community. By addressing issues such as limited reach, outdated information, language barriers, and the digital divide, libraries can become dynamic and inclusive hubs for agricultural information and support.

- 40 Modernization of Library Services of Central Universities in North East India in the Domain of Mobile Technology: A Study / Das, Phool Rani ; Lahkar, Narendra ., pg. 599-605

Central Universities are modernizing their library services by the use of mobile technology. They are taking the advantages by adopting mobile technology to assist the users with timely access to information needs and providing services effectively and efficiently. The application of mobile technologies for modern service delivery has become trend in libraries. This paper examined the use of mobile technology and highlights the availability of various development tools for implementing mobile technology in Central University Libraries of North East India. The survey method was adopted for collecting data and analysis. The structured questionnaire was designed and distributed among respective Librarians/ Library-in-charge of 9 Central University Libraries in North East India. The response received was 100%. The paper discusses about the major findings regarding the use of mobile technology in delivering modern library services i.e. SMS service, QR Code, MOPAC, etc. and also aims to investigate the implementation of social media based service through mobile device in Central University

Libraries of North East India. The study is based on original and primary research data collected from 9 Central University Libraries of North East India and depicts the use of mobile technology in these libraries.

- 41 Service Quality- The Secret Ingredient to Elevate Library User Satisfaction / Devi, Gattagoni Rama ; Bhatt, Dhaval ., pg. 606-615

Libraries continuously strive to meet the changing needs and expectations of their users by providing exceptional services and experiences. To gauge user satisfaction, LibQual+ has emerged as a valuable tool, effectively measuring service quality across various dimensions. The aim of this research is to examine how LibQual+ dimensions affect library user satisfaction, shedding light on the specific aspects that significantly influence their overall experience. The research methodology employed a combination of a structural equation model and an exploratory research approach to achieve the study's objectives. Convenient sampling was utilized to collect primary data from library users in universities situated in Telangana, India. Statistical tools such as Structural Equation Model were applied to understand the influence of User satisfaction as determined by LibQual+ is influenced by the library service quality aspects of responsiveness, empathy, tangibility, assurance, and reliability. Additionally, exploratory factor analysis was employed to identify the challenges faced by users when accessing quality services in Telangana universities. The findings of the study emphasize the crucial role played by various factors in shaping library user satisfaction. Tangibility, responsiveness, reliability, empathy, assurance, online resources, communication, staff accessibility and knowledge, and fee structures were identified as key dimensions impacting user satisfaction. By addressing these factors, libraries can enhance the overall user experience and effectively meet the evolving needs of their patrons. For library administrators and legislators, the study's findings offer insightful information, allowing them to optimize service quality and prioritize areas for improvement. By implementing the necessary changes, libraries can ensure a satisfying experience for library users, ultimately fostering a positive relationship between the library and its users.



The poster features a red and white color scheme with a decorative background of concentric circles and dots. At the top left is the ICSSR logo, a stylized red flame. To its right, the text 'Indian Council of Social Science Research' and 'National Social Science Documentation Center' is displayed in black. A QR code is positioned on the top right. The central heading 'Library Membership' is in red. Below it, a paragraph in black text describes eligibility. A section titled 'Membership Fee Structure:' lists five membership options with their respective fees. At the bottom, a red URL is provided.

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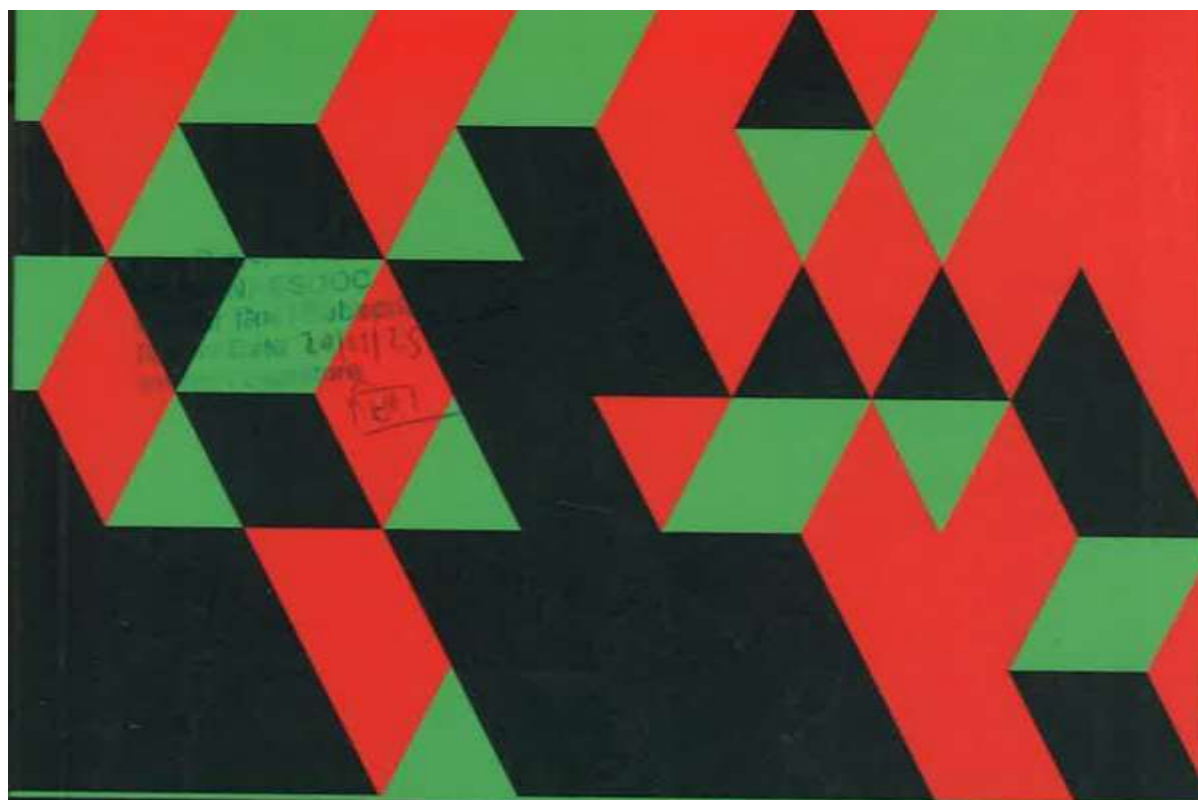
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- 42 Ethnic Identity and Violence in Urban Spaces: Looking Through the Lens of 'Cultural Conditioning' / Pal, Gobinda C. ., pg. 163–180

In the recent past, the episodes of violence against the Northeast migrants in major metropolitan cities have raised debates on the racial nature of such violence and have drawn scholarly attention. This article maps the experiences of differential treatment and violence among the Northeast migrants in the national capital city and looks into the consequences of such experiences and strategies to cope with various challenges in daily life. It critically examines the experiences through the sociocultural dynamics of the local societies within the city where the ethnic migrants live. It considers the experiential accounts of a sample of 130 Northeast migrants from different urban local cultures in the national capital of India. Data on lived experiences and various perspectives of the Northeast migrants are collected using a mixed-method approach. The article reveals that ethnic identity plays a role in everyday experiences with some sorts of disadvantages. The 'construction of otherness' is found to have a disproportionate impact on their day-to-day life. However, there have been perceived positive changes in the 'perceptual distance' and inter-group behaviours. Given that most of the experiences of differential treatment and violence among Northeast migrants are located within the context of the local societies in the city and they have everyday encounters for social acceptance, the article argues that the inter-group relationships are exceedingly shaped by the sociocultural orientations of the people in local societies. The article asserts that understanding the violence against a migrant ethnic minority in cosmopolitan cities cannot undermine the role of social and cultural boundaries of urban local societies.

- 43 Caste and Sale Market: A Study of Economic Discrimination in Business Enterprises of Andhra Pradesh / Samuyelu Mathangi ., pg. 181–199

This article attempts to analyse the issue of caste discrimination, with a special focus on the experience of business enterprises in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. It tries to examine the discrimination faced by scheduled caste business owners (SCBOs) of the non-farm sector, especially of business enterprises in the sale market, based on a field study conducted in Guntur district. The study is based on a sample of 225 respondents, comprising 150 Scheduled Caste (SC) and 75 non-SC/Scheduled Tribe (ST) business owners. A structured questionnaire was followed for the interview. The objective of this article is to understand the nature and pattern of discrimination existing among business owners. In the present day, even though SCBOs are allowed in business enterprises, they still face economic discrimination in markets. The present study has found that there is an existence of discrimination in the sale market as about 61.7% of respondents reported that their caste background affects their sales and access to the common market. The immediate impact of discrimination is evident from the existing disparities in profits between SCBOs and other business owners (OBOs). If identity negatively affects profit expectations, the chance of survival in small business will be very low for the underprivileged group. This is why, this article seeks to examine whether caste background affects the profitability of businesses significantly or not?

- 44 Divided by Ideology and United by Gender Stereotypes: Debating Politics of Representation and Tokenism in Student Politics in India / Renukuntla, Anusha ; Mocherla, Ashok Kumar ., pg. 200–216

This article attempts to problematise the student activism on university campuses, which has been a prominent political space for the youth. Student movements through their respective organisations have induced multiple levels of political consciousness among students during their stay. By critically looking at student activism on campus, one could not overlook the fact that student activism on campus has long been a masculine domain with a little or almost negligible presence of women student leaders in university politics. Against such lopsided gender realities, this article proposed to examine the nature and praxis of student political organisations with the help of gender perspectives. This article argues that despite being divided on lines of political ideology, these student organisations are, at one level, united by gender stereotypes that are creating permanent political barriers for women student leaders on campus. In doing so, it focuses on unexplored and undocumented internal politics of the student organisations that seem to have established invisible gender structures leading to under-representation and discrimination of women participants in student politics and activism. Analytical concepts of this article have been developed based on ethnographic data collected from women students at a central university located in South India.

- 45 Caste, Gender and the Development Interface: A Study of Vikas Mitra Scheme Among Musahar Women in Bihar / Priyanandini ., pg. 217–234

In an effort to develop the disadvantaged dalit population, the Bihar Government introduced a category called 'Mahadalit'. Under the rubric of this nomenclature, many schemes have been introduced to uplift the Mahadalits, including the Musahars, often described as 'dalit among dalits'. One such scheme is the Vikas Mitras scheme, which aims to appoint people from the Mahadalit population to the lowest position in the bureaucracy, envisioning them to emerge as 'change agents'. In this scheme, fifty per cent of the positions are reserved for the Mahadalit women. The article presents an ethnographic study of the experiences of Musahar women navigating through the bureaucracy as Vikas Mitras while engaging with their intersectional identities related to caste, class and gender. The reflexive engagement with the scheme's intent and reality on the field raises critical questions about the broader categories of development, empowerment, intersectionality and depoliticisation.

- 46 Politics of Resistance: Political Reservation for Women in Nagaland, India / Buragohain, Sujata ., pg. 235–246

Gender quota opens politics to women and ensures full and equal participation of women in politics. However, the initiative is not an end itself to ensure the representation of women in politics. In 2017, Nagaland witnessed the protest against the thirty-three per cent reservation for women in the urban local body (ULB) after the government's decision to conduct local election. The article seeks to understand the negligible presence of women representation in the political sphere despite having better gender indicators compared to national average in terms of education, literacy rate and employment in Nagaland, India. Based on the empirical research, it explores the various reasons for resisting the implementation of thirty-three per cent reservation for women in ULB elections. Since the formation of Nagaland as a state in 1963, nineteen women have stood in the assembly election. None of them have won in the election till the year 2022. Even though women are completely absent in the institutional forum, there is a resistance against the implementation of the policy. In its continued exploration, the article discusses the impact of group rights on the women in accessing liberty.

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When Actions Speak Louder Than Words:
Adversary Perceptions of Nuclear
No-First-Use Pledges

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Lisa Michelini, and
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When Foreign Countries Push the Button

Joshua A. Schwartz

Not So Innocent: Clerics, Monarchs, and the
Ethnoreligious Cleansing of Western Europe

Şener Aktürk

Writing Policy Recommendations for
Academic Journals: A Guide for the
Perplexed

Daniel Byman

- 47 When Actions Speak Louder Than Words: Adversary Perceptions of Nuclear No-First-Use Pledges / Caitlin Talmadge ; Lisa Michelini ; Vipin Narang ., pg. 7–46

The United States has repeatedly debated whether to adopt a nuclear no-first-use (NFU) pledge. Advocates for such a pledge emphasize its potential advantages, including strengthening crisis stability, decreasing hostility, and bolstering nonproliferation and arms control. But these benefits depend heavily on nuclear-armed adversaries finding a U.S. NFU pledge credible. A new theory based on the logic of costly signals and tested on evidence from NFU pledges by the Soviet Union, China, and India suggests that adversaries perceive such pledges as credible only when: (1) the political relationship between a state and its adversary is already relatively benign, or (2) the state's military has no ability to engage in nuclear first use against the adversary. Empirically, these conditions rarely arise. More typically, hostile political relations combined with even latent first-use capabilities lead adversaries to distrust NFU pledges and to assume the continued possibility of being subject to first use. The implication is that changes to U.S. declaratory policy alone are unlikely to convince adversaries to disregard the prospect of U.S. nuclear first use without changes in these countries' political relationships or U.S. nuclear force posture. The beneficial effects of an NFU pledge are therefore likely to be more minimal than advocates often claim.

- 48 When Foreign Countries Push the Button / Schwartz, Joshua A. ., pg. 47–86

How strong are the constraints against nuclear use? Experimental studies find that a majority or near majority of citizens in multiple major powers approve of their own governments' nuclear strikes if they create military advantages or protect co-national soldiers. But what if the nuclear taboo only begins at the water's edge when individuals evaluate the use of nuclear weapons by a foreign government? Many policymakers believe that the international reaction to nuclear use would be severe, especially among allies. Yet prior studies have not tested this assumption. An identity-based theory of support for nuclear weapons use proposes that this argument is incorrect. The public will display favoritism toward allied and partner countries because it views them as members of the in-group. Four survey experiments in the United States and India provide evidence for this theory. In contrast to many policymakers' expectations, public approval of nuclear use is not significantly lower for allies or strategic partners than for one's own government. As expected, however, approval is lower for out-groups, such as non-allied and non-partner countries. Absolute support for nuclear attacks is also high, even when it is foreign countries pushing the button. On balance, these findings are inconsistent with the existence of a nuclear taboo or strong non-use norm.

- 49 Not So Innocent: Clerics, Monarchs, and the Ethnoreligious Cleansing of Western Europe / Aktürk, Şener ., pg. 87–136

Sizeable Jewish and Muslim communities lived across large swathes of medieval Western Europe. But all the Muslim communities and almost all the Jewish communities in polities that correspond to present-day England, France, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, and Spain were eradicated between 1064 and 1526. Most studies of ethnoreligious violence in Europe focus on communal, regional, and national political dynamics to explain its outbreak and variation. Recent scholarship shows how the Catholic Church in medieval Europe contributed to the long-term political development and the "rise of the West." But the Church was also responsible for eradicating non-Christian minorities. Three factors explain ethnoreligious cleansing of non-

Christians in medieval Western Europe: (1) the papacy as a supranational religious authority with increasing powers; (2) the dehumanization of non-Christians and their classification as monarchical property; and (3) fierce geopolitical competition among Catholic Western European monarchs that made them particularly vulnerable to papal-clerical demands to eradicate non-Christians. The extant scholarship maintains that ethnoreligious cleansing is a modern phenomenon that is often committed by nationalist actors for secular purposes. In contrast, a novel explanation highlights the central role that the supranational hierocratic actors played in ethnoreligious cleansing. These findings also contribute to understanding recent and current ethnic cleansing in places like Cambodia, Iraq, Myanmar, the Soviet Union, and Syria.

- 50 Writing Policy Recommendations for Academic Journals: A Guide for the Perplexed / Byman, Daniel ., pg. 137–166

Academic research can inform decision-makers on what actions to take or to avoid to make the world safer, more peaceful, and more equitable. There are many good works on bridging the gap between policymakers and academics but few on how scholars writing in academic journals can influence the policy process. In contrast to most policy-focused research, academic journals have long shelf lives and provide space for scholars to present heavily researched empirical evidence, theories, and analyses. Long, well-researched articles can, over time, shape the broader narrative for how to think about complex issues. Scholars also tend to be more objective and less partisan than policymakers. Despite the potential importance of academic work to the policy debate, many scholars receive little training on why and how to make policy recommendations. To remedy this problem, steps are offered to guide scholars as they begin developing policy recommendations for their articles. These include recognizing the dilemmas that policymakers themselves face, considering the audience before starting to write, identifying and using policy option menus, among others. When crafting recommendations, scholars should consider the long-term implications of their research on current policy as well as recommendations that might lead to more effective approaches. At the same time, scholars should consider the costs and limits of their recommendations.



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- 51 Gender Stigma Consciousness, Imposter Phenomenon, and Self-Silencing: A Mediation Relationship / Maji, Sucharita ; Dixit, Shikha ., pg. 375 – 384

Gender stigma consciousness (GSC) is one of the relevant aspects of an individual's experiences, especially for women. The current study was an attempt to investigate whether gender stigma consciousness significantly impacts the imposter phenomenon (IP) (a self-perception of intellectual fraudulence despite having objective and consistent career accomplishments) and self-silencing (SS) (suppression of genuine emotions and opinions in intimate partner relationships). Moreover, this study investigated whether the imposter phenomenon mediates the relationship between gender stigma consciousness and self-silencing. To address these research objectives, this survey-based quantitative study was conducted on a sample of 237 female software engineers in India. The data have been analyzed by using structural equation modeling, where a mediation model that connects gender stigma consciousness, imposter phenomenon, and self-silencing was tested. The findings revealed that gender stigma consciousness significantly predicts the imposter phenomenon and self-silencing. Further, the imposter phenomenon mediates the relationship between gender stigma consciousness and self-silencing.

- 52 Eunuchs in India: Experiences of Stigmatization and Well-Being / Verma, Sunil K. ., pg. 385 – 394

The paper reports research findings of the Indian eunuch's perceived stigmatization experiences, economic deprivation, and physical and mental well-being. The participants constituted 42 eunuchs from Uttar Pradesh, India, selected through the technique of convenience sampling. The sample characteristics varied over three dimensions: education, religion, and caste. They rated their perception and experiences on the Socio-Economic Survey Measurement Scale, which included the Social Stigma Scale that covered various dimensions such as stigma, dehumanization, identity, attribution to their present status, coping, and physical and mental well-being. The findings reveal that eunuchs experience high stigmatization, dehumanization, low self-esteem, and poor physical and psychological health. In addition, physical health problems were negatively associated with attribution to fate and psychological health problems were positively related to fatalism and fightback, coping strategies. The findings indicate a mismatch between the political efforts toward the inclusion of eunuch in the mainstream and the actual ground state of their experiences.

- 53 Poverty and Stigma / Bharti, Pankaj ., pg. 395 – 403

The poor, oppressed, and victimized continue to suffer discriminatory practices of India's dominant others. The study reports social and psychological experiences of the downtrodden section of the Indian society and reflects their concerns of being subjected to dehumanizing and stigmatizing experiences. Sixty-three respondents—residents of unauthorized, highly deprived slums of Allahabad city—were participants in the study. The findings revealed that perceived poverty correlated positively with experiences of stigmatization and dehumanization. The participants also had lower self-esteem and were more down on perceived well-being. The results suggest that dehumanization and stigmatization have implications for actualizing human potential. Results also implied that poverty had psychological consequences. In addition to economic and social disadvantages, they experienced dehumanization and stigmatization.

- 54 Perceptions of Economic Status and Social Stigma among Beggars: Implications for Health / Bajpai, Alka ; Tripathi, Nandita ., pg. 404 – 416

In India, extreme economic inequalities with a sizeable population below the poverty line are the harsh realities forcing a section to beg for their survival and existence. The paper reports beggars' perception of social–economic status and their stigmatization. The participants were 58 beggars (male 27 and female 31) who earned their living by begging on the streets, around the temples of Allahabad, a middle size city of northern India. Each participant was contacted and interviewed to complete the Social Stigma Scale which included perceived economic status, social stigma, attribution of causality, and coping. The participants attributed their condition to God's wishes, fate, and rated negative personal identity. Humiliation and fate attributions were the most significant predictors of both physical and psychological health. The results facilitate our understanding of the beggars' socio-economic status, their marginalization in society and provide insights for their rehabilitation.

- 55 Discrimination Experiences of Old Settlers in Sikkim: A Qualitative Exploration / Malu, Bhasker ; Rajan, Santhosh Kareepadath ; Jindal, Nikhita ; Thakur, Aishwarya ., pg. 417 – 431

Race-based stigma and discrimination have been extensively studied from the perspective of the northeastern community due to their minority status in most states of India. Discrimination experiences of the mainland Indians in the northeastern states, where they are a minority, are little discussed. The Rajya Sabha (upper house of the parliament) Committee of Petitions in 2014 acknowledged that the old settlers were treated as “second-class citizens” in Sikkim. In the present study, we explored the existence and manifestation of discrimination experiences of old settlers who settled in Sikkim before 1975 and perceive themselves to be stigmatized. This study focused on Sikkim because the state merged with India in 1975 and has had less time integrating with migrants or mainlanders than other northeastern states. We conducted nine semi-structured interviews with seven male and two female participants from the Marwari, Bihari, and Punjabi mainland communities. Using thematic analysis, we developed 1 global theme, 2 organizing themes, and 24 basic themes. The analysis showed the existence of discrimination and racism against old settlers and their manifestations at institutional and interpersonal levels. The findings are important from a policymaking perspective as they provide evidence to the conclusion reached by the Rajya Sabha Committee on Petitions and provide valued suggestions for reports on race-based discrimination in India.

- 56 People with HIV/AIDS: Stigma, Self-Esteem and Psychological Health / Kohli, Neena ; Kumar, Vipul ; Yadav, Shreshtha ; Tripathi, Pankaj ., pg. 432 – 440

The major objectives of the present study were (a) to explore the perception of stigma associated with HIV/AIDS among people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs); (b) to investigate the relationship between stigma, self-esteem and psychological health, and; (c) to examine the mediating role of self-esteem in the relationship between (a) felt stigma and psychological health, and; (b) enacted stigma and psychological health. The sample consisted of 200 HIV positive individuals (100 females and 100 males) from Prayagraj (North India). Data were collected using a set of questionnaires (self-report measure). It contained questions related to demographic information (age, gender, marital status, education and income), the experience of stigma, self-esteem and psychological health. Results revealed that perceived and enacted stigma were negatively correlated with self-esteem and psychological health. Enacted stigma emerged as a significant predictor (negative) of self-esteem and psychological health. Self-

esteem also emerged as a significant predictor of psychological health. It also revealed that the relationship between enacted stigma and psychological health was significantly mediated by self-esteem. Based on the findings, it is suggested that PLWHAs should be treated with respect and dignity, and efforts should be made to align them with the mainstream. Further, they should be encouraged to think above stigma in order to have a better quality of life.

- 57 Experiences of Caste Stigmatization: Health and Well-being / Bhanot, Divya ; Verma, Sunil K. ., pg. 441 – 454

The Government of India has always worked for the upliftment and inclusion of the historically caste-marginalized sections of Indian society. Sadly, it has only partially succeeded in that. The present study attempts to examine the influence of age, education, and family income, along with the psychosocial experiences on the overall health and well-being of historically caste-marginalized groups. It also endeavored to assess the gender differences along these experiences in addition to examining the predictors of health and well-being. Quantitative data were collected from 406 respondents employing a correlational research design. Overall, the respondents reported less perceived economic condition, stigmatization, dehumanization, attribution, passive coping; and high positive personal and social identity, active coping, health, and well-being. Health and well-being were found to be significantly influenced by context and the psychosocial experiences of perceived economic condition, stigmatization, dehumanization, identity, attribution, and coping. Females were found to be high on perceived ritualistic inclusion, dehumanization, and diminished self-esteem. The results serve as valuable insights for the Government of India to work on the educational and economic upliftment of the historically caste-marginalized sections of Indian society. The study calls for important interventions to better the state of Dalit women in society.



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- 58 The Effect of Entrepreneurial Orientation on SME Business Performance in Ethiopia: The Configurational Approach / Bate, Adisu Fanta ; Pittaway, Luke ., pg. 439–484

Entrepreneurial orientation (EO) is a firm-level equivalent of individual entrepreneurship, and its impact on business performance is widely debated in entrepreneurship literature. However, research findings have been inconclusive due to the influence of moderators such as market dynamism and access to capital. This study aims to address this gap by examining these factors and their configurational effects on the EO–performance relationship using data from Ethiopian manufacturing SMEs. The results signal a moderate EO implementation, suggesting a need for industry-tailored EO training that emphasises innovativeness, risk-taking, proactiveness, competitive aggressiveness, autonomy and networking. EO significantly affects business growth, highlighting the importance of enhancing EO practices to improve SME performance. Contrary to normative assumptions, the configuration of high market dynamism, greater access to finance and EO level is not required for superior performance. SMEs can excel in performance even in less volatile environments with reasonable access to finance and EO practices. Thus, maintaining market stability, enhancing finance access and implementing EO can effectively boost a firm’s business performance. The study contributes to understanding the EO–performance relationship by adopting networking as an additional EO dimension, pursuing a configurational approach and employing a blend of PROCESS macro-moderation models and hierarchical linear regression.

- 59 Predictive Variables of Organisational Performance in Creative Industry Companies from the Perspective of Managers: Experiences in SMEs / Mateus, Marelby Amado ; Rincón, Alfredo Guzmán ; Hinestroza, Merlin Patricia Grueso ., pg. 485–516

The creative industry has emerged as a crucial global development and economic growth driver. This study aims to identify and analyse predictive variables that influence the organisational performance of creative industry SMEs from the entrepreneurs’ perspective, providing a deeper understanding of the sector’s dynamics and guiding businesses and decision-makers towards effective strategies. A quantitative methodology was used to survey 500 managers of creative SMEs in Colombia. The results indicate that reputation, based on client recommendations, and the capacity for innovation significantly impact performance. Notably, concern for technology showed a negative effect, suggesting the need for more strategic technological adoption. These findings highlight the importance of effective reputation management and the promotion of innovation, offering valuable insights for policy and strategy formulation in the creative economy.

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SOCIAL CHANGE

Journal of the COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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- 60 Historicising the Spiritual–Political Fold in Asceticism: The Sree Narayana Gurukulam and Social Change / Cybil, K. V. ., pg. 179–192

Narayana guru (1856–1928), in whose name the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam was formed in early twentieth-century Kerala, challenged the claim that brahmins made to the exclusive possession of the wisdom and practices of the Vedic and Vedantic texts. Guru did this by preaching a variant of Upanishadic philosophy and establishing temples in which he installed the deities. Drawing mainly upon the writings of a disciple, Nataraja guru (1895–1973), this article explores the links between the spiritual and the political through a historicising perspective.

- 61 Identity and the New Rhetorics of Contention: The Vanniyar Mobilisation in Tamil Nadu in the 1980s / Raja, R. Saravana ., pg. 193–207

The Vanniyar caste became an important political player in Tamil Nadu in the 1980s, a decade widely acknowledged as a crucial and interesting decade in Indian politics in general and Tamil politics in particular. The Vanniyar caste mobilisation that re-emerged in this period indicates the changes in articulation that are important to our understanding of caste politics and social movements. This article highlights the process by which Vanniyar mobilisation initially emerged to represent caste concerns and later negotiated electoral politics. This process involved going beyond caste concerns and the inclusion of issues related to language, ethnicity, concerns of backward classes, and Tamil ‘common masses.’ The article maps the dynamics in the trajectory of Vanniyar mobilisation in the 1980s by bringing to light the shifts in concerns and identity claims. It thereby points to the nature of caste mobilisation in contemporary times, particularly within the larger context of an anti-caste initiative in the form of the Dravidian movement/politics.

- 62 Views From an Anti-Caste Movement: Caste, Labour, and Religion in Sangharsh / Janarthanan, Dhivya ., pg. 208–228

While the sociology and anthropology of India are replete with the thematic of caste and caste-based oppression and inequalities, the world of ethnographic film-making is largely silent on these issues. This article analyses an exception to this situation—Sangharsh: Times of Strife [Dir. Nicolas Jaoul, 2018], filmed in the late 1990s–early 2000s and revolving around activists of the Bhartiya Dalit Panthers, an anti-caste formation in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. I examine the film’s enactment of caste relations through its focus on this anti-caste movement and its activists. To this end, I attend to questions of cinematic form and structure, link the film’s representational strategies to film-making lineages, and analyse sequences in which some of the most contentious, topical issues are developed—namely, the connections between caste and labour as well as between caste, religion, and communalism. The article therein analyses the implications of these cinematic engagements to our understanding of caste relations.

- 63 Music as an Anti-Caste Counterpublic: Notes From North India / Kalyani, K. ., pg. 229–242

This article aims to understand the acts of resistance in the everyday music of oppressed caste communities and the repertoire of anti-caste musical performances in specific moments in history. The everyday soundscape has the potential to bring together shared experiences of displacement, casteism, and social exclusion. For dalit–bahujan singers, an engagement with music is a resource with which to ‘talk back’ to the structures of caste and to recast their identity. The practices of such musical form have also been part of the cultural transmission of an anti-caste narrative. Using printed material and oral narratives collected during fieldwork in selected regions of North India, this article explores anti-caste musical practices. It engages

with the concept of ‘counterpublics’ and the implications of the term ‘anti-caste counterpublics’ for an understanding of anti-caste movements.

- 64 Everyday Caste and Everyday Resistance: An Ethnographic Account From Western Uttar Pradesh / Singh, Yaduvendra Pratap ., pg. 243–256

In the last three decades or so, there have been considerable political changes in Uttar Pradesh (UP), particularly where caste is concerned. This is linked to the anti-caste movements in the state and the rise of the Bahujan Samaj Party, which is seen to address issues of Jatavs and other Scheduled Castes that had been politically marginalised. In the years since it first came to power, dalits in the city of Meerut have not witnessed the kind of brutal state aggression they did in Shergarhi after an Ambedkar statue was installed in a local park in 1994. And yet casteism and the fear of it continue to shape the everyday lives of dalits in the city. This article is based on fieldwork conducted in three neighbourhoods in Meerut city in western UP. It explores the ways Jatavs experience casteism as well as the modes of resistance and the multiple strategies employed by them to gain dignity and self-respect.

- 65 Caste Concerns in Transgender Communities in India: Contesting Cohesiveness, Broadening Horizon(s) / Kumar, Pushpesh ; Datta, Sayantan / pg. 257–272

In this article, we recount the development of an anti-caste consciousness in queer and transgender rights movements in India. We begin by tracing the history of queer mobilisation in India, especially the political participation of Hijras and the movement for decriminalisation of consensual adult homosexuality. This movement was shaped by the context of economic liberalisation and a burgeoning public health crisis due to a rise in HIV infections among several sexually minoritised groups. The movement, however, was focused on the law, and issues of caste and marginality within the queer and trans communities were not addressed. This changed in the 2000s. We trace this phase of the movement in which questions of class and non-urban geographies were foregrounded and look at the way critical moments in the second decade of the twenty-first century precipitate the foregrounding of caste questions in contemporary queer and transgender movements in India.

- 66 Caste, Merit, and Technical Education in India / Ranjan, Priya / pg. 282–289

Ajantha Subramanian, *The Caste of Merit: Engineering Education in India*, Harvard University Press, 2019, 374 pp., GBP 22.02, ISBN 978-0-6749-8788-3 (Hardback).

- 67 The Long Road to Justice: Equality and the Caste Question From Colonial Times to the Present / Chakravarti, Anand / pg. 290–296

Manoj Mitta, *Caste Pride: Battles for Equality in Hindu India*, Context, 2023, xxviii + 596 pp., ₹999, ISBN 978-9-3577-6294-6 (Hardback). Caste-based discrimination and oppression are woven into the fabric of Indian society. Manoj Mitta’s book is an exhaustive and original exploration of both archival material and case law that reveals in great detail how the British colonial administration, and later the post-colonial Indian state, confronted caste, especially untouchability—its most virulent expression. His research, as shown in this review, adds another dimension to the literature on caste as a system of inequality, which is based on three principal sources: (i) Hindu sacred literature; (ii) census reports, gazetteers, and accounts on caste by colonial authorities; and (iii) studies by sociologists and social anthropologists.

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- 68 On the Long-run Sustainability of Current Account Deficits in India: Some Insights from Linear and Non-linear Cointegration Tests / Abdhuth Deheri ., pg. 585–601

This article assesses the long-run intertemporal sustainability of the current account deficit in India for the period 1974–2018. We employ various linear and non-linear models, such as the Johansen cointegration test, the non-linear autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL), threshold autoregression (TAR) and momentum autoregression (MTAR) models, to validate the intertemporal budget constraint. The results of the linear cointegration test reveal no cointegration between exports and imports, plus interest payment on external debt. Results from non-linear models, however, provide evidence of cointegration between the variables, implying that the intertemporal budget constraint is validated. The estimates of the TAR model reveal that the current account disequilibrium adjustment process towards the long-run equilibrium follows an asymmetric pattern. Results of the non-linear ARDL model further show that, in the long run, exports react differently to positive and negative changes in imports. Overall, our results show the presence of asymmetries in the current account adjustment process. The estimated cointegrating vector suggests that the current account deficit exhibits weak sustainability. From a policy perspective, the findings recommend implementing suitable macroeconomic and trade policies to reduce the current account deficit.

- 69 Determinants of Road Traffic Crash Fatalities: A Case of Road Accidents in India, 2004–2018 / Kunroo, Mohd Hussain ; Alam, Md. Absar ., pg. 602–622

The purpose of this study is to determine the factors that influence deaths in road accidents in India. The study uses panel econometric methodologies such as the fixed effects model, random effects model, and Hausman–Taylor instrumental variable technique to achieve this goal. Unobserved heterogeneity between states/union territories (UTs) and time is accounted for by time-fixed and state-fixed effects. Based on the panel data set from Indian states/UTs for the period 2004–2018, the study confirms previous results that motorisation, population, urbanisation and income level are all potential contributors to road accidents and fatalities. It also shows that spending on health care and law enforcement appears to help the Indian states minimise mortality in road traffic accidents. On the one hand, spending on health care facilities can provide health-related assistance to persons who have been involved in traffic accidents; on the other hand, spending on police increases the enforcement of rules, resulting in a reduction in traffic accidents. Thus, to lessen the economic and financial cost of road accidents in the country, the government should focus on boosting both per capita health expenditure and per capita police expenditure.

- 70 Fiscal Conundrum of the North-Eastern States of India / Rymbai, Motika Sinha ; Thangkhiew, Darishisha W. ., pg. 623–640

A smooth operation of the public budget requires simultaneous growth of macro-fiscal instruments. In this background, the study intends to estimate the macro-fiscal determinants of the public budget in the North-Eastern states (NES). The percentage estimation of fiscal capacity, fiscal dependency and revenue base depicts an overall fiscal conundrum in the NES. The empirical estimation procedure begins with the unit root test, followed by a Pedroni cointegration test, followed by the fully modified least square and the dynamic least square model to estimate the degree of relationship. Two series have been estimated to avoid multicollinearity. The results depict a cointegration between the macro-fiscal instruments (total government expenditure, state's own revenue (SOR), gross state domestic product (GSDP), grants (GR), gross fiscal deficit (GFD) and revenue deficit (RD)). The results show that the SOR, GSDP and GR are the positive and significant determinants of government expenditure. On the other hand, GFD is a positive yet insignificant determinant of government expenditure. RD is a negative and significant determinant of government expenditure. This

implies that a stronger revenue generation capacity could result in augmenting the public budget for the efficient provision of public services.

- 71 Does Efficiency Bring Down Default Risk in Indian Banks? / Kanoujiya, Jagjeevan ; Rastogi, Shailesh ., pg. 641–656

Banks are an integral part of a nation's economy. Therefore, soundness of a bank's financial health is foremost important for the good economic condition of the country. This article proposes to assess the bank efficiency (BE) and default risk (DR) of banks in India, and to examine the link between BE and DR of banks in India. This study uses the secondary data of 34 banks operating in India for the period from 2016 to 2019 for panel data analysis. BE as technical efficiency of banks and their DR are evaluated using data envelopment analysis and Altman's Z-score, respectively. The findings of the study indicate no significant association between BE and DR of banks in India. This article is a novel study of its kind and provides surprising result, which indicates encouraging outcome for banks in India.

- 72 Service Sector Growth and Inequality in India: An Analysis of Household Consumption Spending* / Talreja, Chaitanya ., pg. 657–671

Two important aspects of service sector growth in India in the post-1991 reform period from the demand side have been identified in the literature. Ghose (2015) suggests that the rapid service demand expansion has been driven by the rich, who have disproportionately benefited from the information and communication technology (ICT)-based service boom. Basu and Das (2017) argue that service spending by the poorer section also rose, and the service demand expansion is partly a result of the coercive nature of privatised service expansion. This article examines these two critical aspects in greater detail using the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) consumer expenditure surveys from 1993–94, 2004–05 and 2011–12. The article finds clear evidence to show that the service expenditure in India was dominated by the top 20% of Indian households. Even as bottom 20% devoted larger household budget share to services over time, their share in aggregate service expenditure remained marginal. State per capita income, servicification of output, social expenditure by the government, urbanisation and changing nature of the economy post liberalisation are found to be important factors associated with variation in household service expenditure share across quintile classes. The relationships of these factors with service expenditure share differ across expenditure quintiles. Further, service expenditure elasticity estimates by decile classes indicate more than unit elasticity for various services over time, depicting non-saturating demand for services. The decile-wide rise in demand for services during this period, especially for the poorer households, is possibly due to a complex mechanism involving necessity, aspirations and enhanced access to new services and may not fit into the binary of discretion versus involuntary spending.

- 73 Does Female on Board Affect M&A Participating Firms' Performance? Empirical Evidence from India Using Dynamic Panel Data Analysis / Kumar, Sarika ; Kapil, Sheeba ., pg. 672–688

The aim of this research is to examine the impact of gender diversity and female leadership position on the firm performance of Indian listed firms participating in mergers and acquisitions (M&A) activities. Available research has focused on a small sample of firms and considered 'gender diversity' as the only variable. Bearing this in mind, this study focusses on the leadership positions females hold on corporate board along with gender diversity affecting the firm performance measures for the sample of M&A participating firms, as M&As lead to major restructuring of the board. The 'gender diversity' is measured with the number of females present on corporate board as directors, 'leadership position' is measured with females holding the position either as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or Chairperson on the board. The study employs panel data set for Indian non-financial National Stock Exchange listed M&A participating firms for the period 2013–2020. Using a system of GMM dynamic panel estimates, the study analyses the relationship between gender diversity and females' varied leadership position on the firm performance measures, that is, return on asset, Tobin's q. The findings reveal that there is a positive association between gender diversity and firm performance measures. Females holding the top leadership positions as either CEO or Chairperson on the board positively impact the firm performance measures. This study adds to

the existing literature on gender diversity at the board level and M&A literature in the Indian context.

- 74 International Remittances and Household Expenditure Patterns in Bangladesh / Dey, Sima Rani ; Ahmed, Faroque ., pg. 689–710

The study endeavours to investigate how the transfers of international remittances influence the expenditure behaviour of returnee migrant families in Bangladesh. The primary data were collected using the multi-stage stratified random sampling technique through a structured questionnaire from Tangail and Comilla on several expenditure characteristics of migrants. Propensity score matching (PSM) method is employed to assess the impact of remittances on expenditure patterns of returnee migrant households through the estimation of average treatment effects on the treated. The PSM technique has allowed us to evaluate the impact of remittances on several expenditure categories such as food, non-food, education, medical and so on. The study findings divulge that remittances exhibit a significant and positive impact on poverty reduction since they have contributed a lot in terms of income generation and increment of consumption expenditures. Moreover, compared to non-migrant families, migrant families are more exposed to positive behavioural transformations because of their spending on productive investments like non-durable goods, education and health care. Therefore, the findings underline the optimistic view of migration and development theory that foreign remittances support to increase the investments both in the physical and human capital of migrant families as well as to improve the wellbeing of Bangladeshi people.

- 75 Gender Conundrum and Unpaid Work in India: Empirical Evidence from India's First Large-scale Time Use Survey / Sahu, Dakrushi ., pg. 711–727

The study was aimed at (a) exploring the anomalies in conceptualising and measuring work, especially that of the women, (b) analysing the patterns of unpaid work distribution between men and women, and (c) examining the drivers of time spent on unpaid work in India. It has been argued that the under-conceptualisation of work and the methodological constraints led to invisibilising several activities, mostly performed by girls and women, in the prevailing labour force statistics and national income accountings. We have noted that such anomalies could be overcome with the advancement of robust statistical tools like that of time use survey. By employing the first and the most recent pan time use survey, conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization across the country in 2019, we have assessed the gender patterns of unpaid work and its determinants. We found the existence of a stark gender gap both in terms of participation and average time spent on unpaid work across rural and urban regions. Again, the findings, obtained through the Tobit regression model, reveal that the nature of the association and the extent of time allocated to unpaid work vary substantially across the demographic and socio-economic characteristics.

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- 76 A feminism of the soul? Postfeminism, postsecular feminism and contemporary feminine spiritualities / Poutiainen, Ella ., pg. 1087–1104

Increasingly popular ‘feminine spiritualities’ urge women to foster personal transformation and social change through spiritual empowerment and healing of ‘the feminine’. However, in spite of feminist undertones, feminism is rarely explicitly evoked, and is often even rejected. Gender scholars have debated over the ambivalent feminism of contemporary spiritualities, which are readily seen as closer to postfeminist rather than feminist ideals, or framed as a form of old-fashioned cultural feminism. While some recent analyses do explore the feminist potential of feminine spiritualities in more positive terms, the debates often lack practitioner perspectives on feminism and deeper considerations of the practitioners’ own self-definitions. Based on ethnographic interview material across Finnish and Anglo-American contexts, this article explores how adherents of feminine spirituality imagine feminism, and whether they consider their spirituality to be feminist or not and why. I argue that while practitioners hold varying, often ambiguous positions in relation to feminism, the narratives iterate shared themes that render feminism and feminine spirituality as incompatible: an emphasis on femininity over feminism, and a focus on spirituality instead of politics. Furthermore, practitioners critique mainstream feminism for being too secular, while often simultaneously agreeing with feminist criticisms of both cultural feminist and postfeminist ideals. I suggest that failing to take the voices of spiritual women into account prevents constructive dialogue and solidarity among secular and spiritual feminists as well as non-feminist women, and offers little room for emerging postsecular feminist identities.

- 77 We have never been human: Staging subjectivity from Diderot and Artaud to the aesthetics of the European refugee crisis / Darvay, Daniel ., pg. 1105–1121

This essay explores the shifting matrix underlying the pervasive theater that enacts the making and unmaking of human subjectivity by focusing on key historical transformations and prominent contemporary manifestations. Offering a comparative analysis of Denis Diderot’s theory of the actor, and Antonin Artaud’s theater of cruelty, I argue that the paradox of the human had led to human–artwork hybrids well before the digital age of the posthuman recast the body as virtuality. Drawing on a broader understanding and scope of human–artwork hybridization, I examine two different yet equally memorable and infamous responses in 2015 to the European refugee crisis: the Petra László video and Norbert Baksa’s *Der Migrant*. The aesthetic and cultural practices revolving around the staging of the European refugee crisis constitute a key sphere in which this hybridization is tested, played out and in the context of East-Central Europe, calibrated to a ballad tradition whose generic conventions were reinvented in conjunction with a growing national identity in the 19th century. The ballad of ‘The Walled-Up Wife’ has enjoyed sustained popularity in East-Central Europe, ever since its anachronistic ‘rediscovery’ in multiple national literatures around the mid 1800s. It deserves critical attention, for its extensive cultural history as well as its rich vernacular heritage can shed new light on the ways in which the idea of material embodiment comes to bear extended meanings for a reconceptualization of the human in digital spaces of aesthetic rather than merely socio-political signification.

- 78 ‘Rocking the establishment’: Subculture, authenticity and the populist radical right in Sweden / Schiller, Melanie ., pg. 1122–1139

This article uses the recent rise of populist radical right discourses in society as a cultural and political phenomenon to explore the role of popular music in constructing these discourses, with a focus on the Sweden Democrats (SD) and musician Peter Jezewski. By examining Jezewski's direct collaborations with the SD and his song 'My Land', the article uncovers how popular music culture participates in the construction of populist discourses of 'the people' in nativist terms. The article contends that certain subcultural styles in popular music resonate strongly with populist discourses of a 'silenced majority' in need of a strong populist leader and as such contribute to the construction of the 'people' versus 'elite' antagonism beyond the political realm. The case study of Jezewski's song and music video emphasises how nostalgic rock culture enables populist articulations by aligning with populist radical right anti-establishment, preservationist–nativist discourses and the performative construction of 'the people'. Drawing on cultural studies resources, the article hence investigates the practices that bring 'a people' into existence through cultural tropes and mechanisms to better comprehend the links between articulations of populism, popular culture and subcultural performances of counter-hegemonic resistance.

- 79 Religious migrant women as builders of the new ummah in the Netherlands: A belonging path for Muslims? / Yilmaz, Zehra ; Sönmez, Pelin ., pg. 1140–1158

This article examines the relationship between Islam and migrant Turkish and Syrian women living in the Netherlands and their patterns of belonging, while also questioning the dynamics of identity. It reveals that religious Muslim migrants tend to exhibit their Islamic identity as a salient identity with self-representation of being Muslims. This is seen through the new ummah concept and their demands for a Sharia Council. This new definition of the ummah is discussed in terms of the sense of belonging it brings, asserting that religion cannot always function as a means of resistance, in that the religiosity of Muslims in the Netherlands is not an attempt to exclude themselves from the system, but rather a means by which they can be part of it. The article reveals that the new definition of the ummah is highly driven by migrant religious women in the Netherlands, who resist both the traditionalist and institutional understanding of Islam, while also rejecting their national ties. They aspire to create an Islamic space (dar'al Islam) for themselves within the ummah and seek to achieve this legally through a Sharia Council.

- 80 The intimate thing that makes her feel at home: An analysis of the diasporic objects of women migrants / Zeng, Hong ., pg. 1159–1175

Accelerating globalisation and transnational migration in recent decades has led to an increasing number of women migrants. This phenomenon calls for an investigation of women's identities as migrants. This article examines women migrants' sense of belonging through their everyday material practices. I draw on the concept of diasporic objects to examine the material objects that women migrants take with them, which function as prisms for their relationships to their national cultures. I adopt a theoretical framework of intimacy – including national intimacy, intimate culture and diasporic intimacy – to examine how women relate to their nations via a nation–family continuum. Through an analysis of 18 women migrants' narratives about their diasporic objects, I argue that the diasporic objects of women migrants articulate their domestic and familial life and connect them with their imagined national cultures. Their concept of 'home' is haunted by memories of war, patriarchal oppression and authoritarianism. I conclude by discussing how they use their diasporic objects to transform the idea of home into a rooted and transitive concept.

- 81 'Punch up, punch down o! All I know is there is punch': Jokes about Africa(ns) in cross-cultural contexts / Nwankwo, Izuu ., pg. 1176–1193

Jokes concurrently produce humour and offence owing to differences in cultural considerations of funniness and taboo. With growing audience diversity and online dissemination of live events, stand-up comics are exposed to increased scrutiny for irreverent anecdotes. Yet, 'punching up' has become an acceptable form of benign transgression. This is more so in cross-cultural contexts where differences heighten offence, because jokes do not just make us laugh but also create discomfort, especially when the joke-teller is different from us; whether it is 'up' or 'down', a punch is still a punch. Using the stand-up acts of four African diaspora comedians – Andi Osho, Dave Davis, Urzila Carlson and Trevor Noah – this essay interrogates cross-cultural joke presentation mechanics, themes and performer–audience relations to determine how and why these jokesters variously utilize punch-up jokes. Queries guiding the study include, what performance specificities do humourists enact to mitigate offence while dealing with sensitive/volatile subjects and a more diverse, political correctness-conscious audience? What is/are the relationship(s) between identity, cultural representations and jokes? In answering these questions, the emphasis is on discussing how the selected comedians craftily erect pre-determined sets of values that establish the context(s) within which the offensiveness of their 'punch(es)' is/are mitigated.

- 82 How time flows making games: An ethnographic analysis of experiences of temporality in an indie videogame studio / Pelletier, Caroline ., pg. 1194–1210

In research on videogame production, much attention has been given, justifiably, to 'crunch', whereby employees in large studios work extremely long hours for months at a time prior to a game's launch, at the request of management. There has to date been limited research about how duration and urgency are experienced at other periods, and also in the economically and culturally significant 'independent' (or indie) sectors and companies. This article draws on a Deleuzian framework initially developed to analyse experience of temporality in academic research, and applies it to data generated by an ethnography of a UK-based indie game studio, which examined how games are produced as part of a more routine working life. The framework enables a re-examination of how 'passionate' work in the cultural industries is lived day-to-day, and aims to contribute to debates about the politics of time in the games sector, offering analytic resources which expand the vocabulary for expressing desired experiences of time in game work.

- 83 Machinic, inadequate, entrepreneurial: Uncovering the citizen subject of the human-centric welfare state / Räisänen, Santeri ., pg. 1211–1232

This article argues that in the turn towards the human-centric in Finnish welfare reform, the human is a flexible signifier which arises out of technical metaphor to stand for certain neoliberal fantasies regarding welfare citizenship, market society and the state. I situate my analysis in the preceding literature on the cultural production of the citizen in market-oriented welfare reform. Through a close reading of user representations in a governmental AI Programme seeking transform the welfare state towards human centrality, I identify three dominant articulations of the human: the machinic, the inadequate and the entrepreneurial. These articulations disambiguate the human-in-the-centre as a chimaeral fantasy representing a late-neoliberal policy regime and evince the role of the imagination of engineers in government technopolitics.

- 84 Moving with affects in Finnish academia: Resistance practices of social science and humanities researchers and a possibility of change / Suopajarvi, Tiina ., pg. 1233–1248

This article discusses the resistance practices of the social sciences and humanities researchers who are doing small-scale qualitative research in Finnish universities. The research material was generated in three online ‘cafés’ where 22 researchers from different academic career stages gathered to share and discuss their experiences and emotions related to both their everyday work and to the effects of current research strategies on their work. The social sciences and humanities researchers felt discomfort with current neoliberal science politics, but they must, to some extent, play by its rules. However, they have found different ways to resist them, too, and this study scrutinises what kinds of resistance practices were generated in the café encounters and, further, how affects became part of these practices. Through my analysis, anxiety, anger, pride and hope came into being as the most meaningful affects that circulated through the cafés, and which fostered the resistance practices. Furthermore, with these affects, academics move towards individual or collective, but sometimes ambiguously towards both of these ways of resisting. The individual way supports the neoliberal idea of competing individuals, whereas a more collective way can open a possibility for more substantial and rapid change.

- 85 Stuck inside: Context, precarity and the effect of COVID-19 on Romanian performers / Pavelea, Alina Maria ., pg. 1249–1265

The coronavirus disease (COVID)-19 pandemic was expected to be particularly detrimental for performing artists, given the nature of their work. The scarce literature on the precarity experiences of performers following the COVID-19 pandemic has predominantly focused on Western and Central Europe. The present article contributes to the literature by investigating the experience of Romanian performers before and after the COVID-19 outbreak through in-depth semi-structured interviews. Romania is a valuable case study, given its peculiarities in terms of cultural policy. After the fall of communism, cultural policy was characterised by a constant dominant strategic focus on (mostly religious) heritage, while the cultural funding model is particularly detrimental to smaller independent artists and organisations. By focusing on it, the study shows that research on precarity needs to be embedded in the local (cultural) policy context, as it shapes the precarity experiences of artists. Without a proper understanding of the policy context, research will likely fail to offer effective policy recommendations.

- 86 ‘It’s like almost hypnotised people’: An exploration of vernacular discourses and social imaginaries of terrorism in the United Kingdom / Rodrigo-Jusué, Itoiz ., pg. 1266–1284

Despite recent calls for ‘ordinary’ citizens to become active and responsible as individuals in preventing and countering terrorism and radicalisation in the United Kingdom, little is yet known about how members of the general public make sense of political violence, or about how they think it should be dealt with. Using a bottom-up vernacular security studies approach, this article examines what lay citizens believe about the causes of terrorism and what responses they think are appropriate. Based on qualitative data from one-to-one interviews with members of the public and an analysis based on constructivist grounded theory methodology, the article discusses three key figures that emerged from interviewees’ accounts of terrorism: the vulnerable subject, the radicalised individual and the radicaliser. Overall, the results reveal that a radicalisation framework is dominant in participants’ discourses on terrorism. The article argues that the dominant imaginaries of terrorism identified in this research draw consent towards pre-emptive security practices such as the Prevent duty and de-radicalisation interventions. The discussion problematises the depoliticisation of political violence and the normalisation of illiberal security measures that this conceptualisation of terrorism entails, while stressing the discriminatory character of the social imaginaries of terrorism.

- 87 Marginalized disappearances: Shaping the power relations of the search for the missing / Matyska, Anna ., pg. 1285–1303

Every year, tens of thousands of people go missing in Europe and across the globe, leaving the families of these individuals in the anguish of the unknown. Yet only some missing gain media attention, with others remaining the ‘missing missing’, and this contributes to a definition of who is, and who is not, worthy of being searched for. This article focuses on the Polish television programme *Ktokolwiek widział, ktokolwiek wie* (Has anybody seen, does anybody know), which for the last three decades has been helping to establish a more egalitarian politics of the visibility of, and the search for, the missing in Poland, going against the grain of the mass media’s tendency to ‘symbolically annihilate’ those with less power in society. I explore how the programme supports the search for the marginalized missing, that is, those who have led precarious lives on the socio-spatial margins of Polish society, people who, to utilize Gatti’s term, were ‘socially disappeared’ before they went physically missing. I show how the programme utilizes its power of mediation to articulate disappearances of the marginalized missing and mobilizes institutions and the public to help in finding them.

- 88 No such thing as peacetime: Notes on Gaza, Hannah Arendt and cultural studies / McRobbie, Angela ., pg. 1304–1313

This comment piece, prompted by the ongoing conflict in Gaza and the terrible toll of lives of Gazan people following the Hamas attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, argues that the field of cultural studies has its origins in a notion of post-war peacetime and that this has created a vocabulary deficit in regard to war, genocide and state violence. Paul Gilroy and Stuart Hall have confronted patterns of violence in regard to the urban environment and the policing of Black youth as well as the escalation in day-to-day authoritarianism and the rise of the right. There is a strong case to be made however for the field of cultural studies to more fully draw on political philosophy including Middle East scholarship to engage more directly with the politics of occupation, settler colonialism, neo-nationalism and the far right.



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