

Visiting Researcher at CoHaB IDC



Miss Namiko Yamashiro is a visiting researcher at CoHaB IDC. She is currently pursuing research about movements of sexual minorities in India with special emphasis on their religious practices. A graduate student at the University of Tokyo, Japan, Ms Yamashiro chose to work under Professor Nilufer Bharucha, Director, CoHaB IDC to better understand the structure of Indian society.

Her research is motivated by the belief that the conflict between one's sexuality and one's religious faith is the key to understanding one's self. She wishes to posit her research in the larger implications of the LGBT community's place in a globalised world. In India, the LGBT community is still struggling to be legally recognised as a sexual minority with rights. Ms Yamashiro has chosen to centre her research in Mumbai owing to the city's cosmopolitan nature. During her month long affiliation with CoHaB IDC, she intends to visit NGOs committed to ameliorating the lives of sexual minorities in the city; she also hopes to interact with members of LGBT communities in Mumbai.

She wishes to demonstrate how queer studies are different from the school of feminism. Her aim is to direct this emergent field of queer studies to recognise its own weaknesses and evaluate its own standing. With her research, Ms Yamashiro hopes to shed new light on the gender structures of the real world.