

CONTRIBUTORS' BIONOTES

Contributors

Meenu Anand is an Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, University of Delhi. ORCID ID: 0000-0002-0866-8799

Poushali Basak is a feminist activist trying to dialogue between different movements and institutional spaces; a researcher struggling to dismantle academic cannons and engage in pedagogic practices where activist-academic knowledge can be produced. Presently, she is a PhD scholar at Advanced Centre for Women's Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Her academic research areas have been primarily histories of feminist and queer movements, social and feminist geographies, public education, place-making and urban studies. She is a part of Forum against Oppression of Women (an autonomous feminist organisation working since the 1980s) in Bombay, Sappho for Equality (a queer feminist LGBTQ organization, 1999) and Feminists in Resistance (an autonomous feminist collective, 2019) in Kolkata.

Omkar Bhatkar is a sociologist with a doctoral thesis dealing in proxemics and social Ecology. He has been teaching Gender Studies, Film Theory and Aesthetics as a visiting faculty at St. Andrew's College and Somaiya Vidyavihar University. His academic interest comprises cultural studies, phenomenology, film theory, and aesthetics, alongside, visual communication, gender studies, existentialism and inter-religious studies. He has contributed research papers/chapters for several national and international journals and book publications. He is the Co-Founder and Head of 'St. Andrew's Centre for Philosophy and Performing Arts', which aims to bridge the arts with academics. He also runs his own theatre group known as Metamorphosis Theatre Inc. His works largely focus on poetry in motion, existentialist themes and contemporary French plays in translation. He has written and directed more than twenty plays, several of which have been performed at Art and Theatre Festivals. In collaboration with Alliance Française de Bombay, he has directed several contemporary French plays in

English. Though he is grounded in theatre, he also explores the world of films. As a filmmaker, he has written and directed independent feature films. He is a thalassophile who finds solace by drowning in the depths of poetry and spends his waking life painting, reading, writing and engaging in conversations over black tea. He has two Poetry books published viz, *Desires Blue*, *Wheel of Solstice*. Four of his plays are published, viz. *Raindrops on My Window*, *Flowers in December*, *Fly On* and *Cinema Mon Amour*. They are also translated into Hindustani, Portuguese, Spanish and French and published as well.

Aishe Debnath is a Ph.D. Scholar and an Assistant professor at the Department of Applied Psychology, University of Mumbai. She received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Anthropology from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, and a Master's degree in Psychology with a specialization in Industrial-Organizational Psychology. She has completed a course on the Science of Well-Being from Yale University and is also trained and certified in Appreciative Inquiry. She has completed and earned a certificate in Psychological First Aid from Johns Hopkins University, and an Introductory course on Positive Psychology under Martin Seligman from the University of Pennsylvania. She also possesses a certificate in Foundations of Mindfulness from Rice University.

Keerti Dewal holds a PhD in Industrial Psychology from the University of Mumbai and a postgraduate degree in psychology from the Faculty of Arts, North Campus, University of Delhi. She is a recipient of the Senior Research fellowship from the University Grants Commission (UGC). Her areas of interest include small-scale entrepreneurship, informal sector entrepreneurship, women empowerment, positive psychology, migration and gender and so on. Currently, she is a post-doctoral research fellow with the Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR) and is affiliated with the University of Mumbai.

Lata Dyaram is a Professor of Organization Behavior at the Department of Management Studies, Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM). Dyaram currently teaches and actively researches Organizational Theory and Organisational behaviour.

Irfan Engineer is Director, the Centre for Study of Society and Secularism (CSSS). The CSSS monitors communal violence in India and promotes communal harmony through educational campaigns. He writes on the issues of freedom of religion, minority rights and communal conflicts.

Wilbur Gonsalves is currently an Assistant Professor at the Department of Applied Psychology, University of Mumbai, where he has been working for the last 10 years. He has completed his M.A. in Psychology (with a specialization in Counselling Psychology) and PhD in Psychology from the University of Mumbai. His PhD has been in the area of Vocational Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. Over the years he has engaged in psychological research recognized through his paper presentations at conferences, publications in journals, and edited books, specifically in the area of psychology and disability studies. He has also been engaged in teaching post-graduate psychology courses related to counselling psychology and rehabilitation psychology.

Madhura Hate is a PhD research scholar at the Department of Applied Psychology and Counselling Centre, University of Mumbai and works as a Faculty Research Associate at the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) for the past 5 years. She completed her Master's degree in the same department and had since accumulated diverse professional experiences. She played a pivotal role in establishing the Hong Kong-based startup Lalamove in India and was involved in reformatory HR practices at prominent companies such as Atos Syntel and Kokuyo Camlin. Additionally, she has conducted behavioural research in the tribal regions of Maharashtra as a Research Fellow at the Wildlife Conservation Trust and briefly served as a visiting faculty, teaching a semester to students of Industrial Organisational Psychology at Mithibai College. Her varied experiences have fueled her primary research interest in exploring creative achievement and its antecedents. She is particularly focused on studying and addressing larger organizational issues through her research.

Jivitesh Patil is a Ph.D from the University of Mumbai, Department of Philosophy. He is an Adhoc Faculty in the Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai. As a researcher, his areas of interest include Analytic philosophy, Shraman Tradition, Metaphysics, Empiricism, J. Krishnamurti, Wittgenstein and many more.

Hasina Khan is a feminist activist, founder of the Bebaak Collective and part of the Forum Against Oppression of Women.

Shreya Kurnool is a Bachelor of Science Undergraduate Student from Stella Maris College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. Kurnool is currently interning at a retail technology firm.

Lakshmi Muthukumar heads the Department of English at the South Indian Education Society's College of Arts, Science and Commerce (Autonomous), Sion West, Mumbai. She has been teaching undergraduate courses in language and literature for more than 29 years. A recognized guide for PhD in English Literature, her areas of interest include language studies, gender studies, geo-critical studies and creative writing amongst others. Her doctoral work was on the topic 'Negotiating the Private and the Public Spheres: A Feminist Exploration of the Gendered Spheres and Identity Struggles in the Plays of Wendy Wasserstein'. A frequent member of several syllabus design committees for autonomous institutions across Mumbai and for the master's programme in English Literature and Cultural Studies at the University of Mumbai, she has published over 30 research papers in various national and international journals. Amongst her other publications are around 5 chapters in edited books, a textbook for an Introductory Course in English Literature for the University of Mumbai that she co-authored, course materials for the Institute of Distance and Open Learning and recently, a murder mystery, titled Beauty Sleep. When she is not reading or writing, she likes to chill by playing the violin.

Arpita Naik is a Junior Research Fellow and PhD scholar in the Department of Applied Psychology and Counselling Centre at the University of Mumbai. She is also working as an Assistant Editor for the journal Sambhashan. Holding a Master's degree in Applied Psychology, she is currently working in the research areas of environmental sustainability and suicide prevention. Alongside their academic pursuits, she is a dedicated language enthusiast currently learning Japanese and German.

Rina Patel is an Assistant Professor in Psychology at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Hazarimal Somani College, University of Mumbai for the last 15 years. She has completed her M.A. in Psychology (with a

specialization in Counselling Psychology) and is currently pursuing PhD in Psychology from the Department of Applied Psychology, University of Mumbai. She has presented research papers at Conferences and Seminars and has a few research publications in Journals.

Hadley Quadros Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at St. Andrew's College. He has completed his BA, and MA (Honors) and cleared his NET in Sociology. His area of interest lies in the Sociology of Religion, Culture and Photography.

Sanjay Ranade After working for a decade in news and public relations with institutions like The Times of India and the Ministry of Power, Government of India, Sanjay Ranade was called upon to set up the Department of Communication and Journalism at the University of Mumbai in August 2003. Ranade has a bachelor's degree in Commerce, a Master's in Counselling Psychology, a Master's in International Relations and Strategic Studies and a Doctorate in Politics. Ranade is a psychologist practising in the Indian psychology tradition and Director of the Anthroposophic Psychology and Research Association (APARA), India. Ranade presently is Executive Vice President, Concept Communication Ltd.

Alokananda Rudra is a neurodevelopmental researcher with a special interest in autism. She has over ten years of working experience in the field of Developmental Psychology alongside reputed autism researchers, the autism community, autism advocates and charities, in India, the UK and Israel. Rudra was awarded the Felix fellowship to do a PhD at the University of Reading, (5 students chosen from India in a year), the Daphne Jackson fellowship for Postdoctoral research at Durham University, UK (awarded to only 2 applicants in a year from Durham University) and an Autistica early career leadership training award in 2021 in the UK (16 participants chosen from 100 applicants). Presently she is a senior research analyst at UMMEED Child Development Centre in Mumbai, India.

Vatika Sibal Associate Professor and Head, Department of Sociology, St. Andrew's College. Graduate and Postgraduate in Sociology from Savitribai Phule Pune University, Graduate in Law from Pune University. NET in Sociology and a Doctorate from the University

of Mumbai. Areas of interest lie in Gerontology- Sociology of Aging, Geriatric Care, Women, Cinema and Food culture and identity.

Sneha Subhedar has been in the teaching field for around 15 years. She is currently working as an Assistant Professor, in the Dept of Mass Media at K.C College. She also has a Master's in International Relations and Strategic Studies. She is currently pursuing her Masters in Hindu Studies. Her research focus is on the intersection of culture, community and power structures.

Sathyanand Thekkedath is a Doctoral Research Scholar at the Department of Social Work University of Delhi.

Geeta Thatra is an independent researcher, activist and affiliated with Bebaak Collective.