

Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Students' Research Conference

Date: 18th March, 2025

Venue: ICSSR Conference Hall, J.P. Naik Bhavan, University of Mumbai, Vidyanagari, Santacruz (E), Mumbai-98

A Short Report



The Career Training and Placement Cell of the University of Mumbai, in collaboration with the Alkesh Dinesh Modi Institute for Financial and Management Studies, the University Department of Applied Psychology, and the University Department of English, organized an Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Students' Research Conference on 18th March 2025. The event received an enthusiastic response from various departments, with 60 students from over ten departments participating. A total of 22 students from 8 departments presented their research papers, contributing to a rich exchange of ideas and academic discussions. Here is a brief report of the conference.

Opening Session

The conference began with a warm welcome and introduction from Dr. Sachin Labade. He extended a heartfelt welcome to delegates, attendees, and organizers from various departments and centers, emphasizing that this initiative aligns with the University of Mumbai's (UoM) efforts under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This policy highlights the importance of practical and applied skills, and the conference aimed to

provide a dynamic platform for students across disciplines to enhance their research capabilities and effectively communicate their findings to a diverse audience. The event encouraged the exchange of ideas and diverse perspectives.



Following the welcome, Prof. Dr. Smita Shukla provided introductory remarks. She explained the interdisciplinary spirit behind the conference, which aimed to facilitate interaction among students across departments. She stressed the importance of well-rounded individuals to address future challenges in both the job market and research. She also acknowledged the hard work of the organizing committee.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Vibha Surana, reflected on the long history of interdisciplinary collaboration at the University of Mumbai and the need for a philosophy that integrates diverse viewpoints. She discussed pressing issues in India that the presenters had addressed and encouraged researchers to utilize the University's vast library resources. Dr. Surana ended her keynote with a thought-provoking question: "In our endeavor to make machines think like humans, have we made humans think like machines?"

The session concluded with a vote of thanks from Dr. Vivek Belhekar, in which he thanked the chief guest, the university authorities, the students, presenters, and the organizers for their contributions to the conference.



Session One

The first session was introduced by Dr. Mrudul Nile and Dr. Manisha Rao. The session featured several insightful presentations:



A group of presenters shared their research on social and economic issues. Foram Mehta discussed income inequality in BRICS countries, highlighting how skilled laborers benefit more in the short term despite overall growth. Khushi Vaishya focused on the challenges faced in India's Aspirational Districts Programme, particularly in financial inclusion. Chaitanya Dalvi examined corporate diversity and inclusion through the Godrej DEI Lab, with a focus on marginalized groups. Prajakta Jadhav shed light on the exploitation of women workers in the cane-cutting industry, specifically the issue of unnecessary hysterectomies. Finally, Kshiti Hegde & Mrunal Rajadhyaksha analyzed how corporate dress codes impact gender performance and reveal biases in workplace expectations.



The floor was opened for questions and comments after the presentations. The session concluded with a vote of thanks.

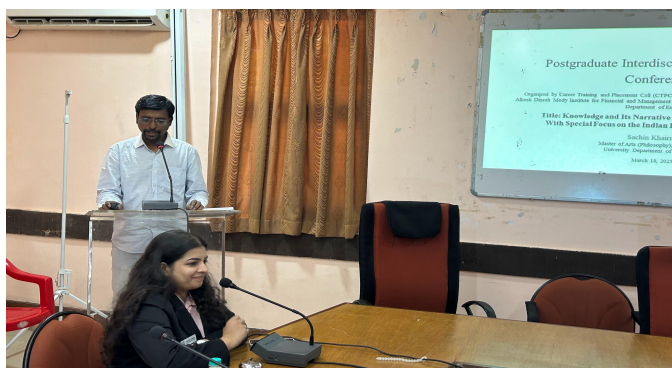


Session Two

Session 2 commenced with the introduction of session chairs, Dr. Aparna Phadke and Dr. Naina Salve.



The session featured a range of research topics covering various social, cultural, and psychological issues. Palakshi Shah discussed the creation of a Gujarati corpus and personality dictionary for linguistic research in Gujarati literature. Sumaima Khan applied trauma theory and muted group theory to literature from authoritarian regimes, focusing on trauma, silence, and the struggles of marginalized groups. Utrina Neog highlighted the mental health impacts of urban gentrification in Mumbai's Chandivali area, a largely ignored issue in urban planning. Sachin Khairnar explored how Buddhist traditions contribute to modern interdisciplinary education through their unique narratives of knowledge. Tanisha Tayshete examined the effects of modernization on India's elderly population, specifically how it affects their perceived social status. Aastha Chaubey analyzed scapegoating and intersectionality in literature, focusing on the representation of women and justice. Finally, Akshaya N shed light on the socio-political marginalization and cultural repression of non-Brahmin priests in Tamil Nadu, highlighting their fight against systemic discrimination.



The floor was opened for questions and comments after the presentations.

Session Three

Session 3 was chaired by Dr. Swati Raju, Dr. Anagha Kamble, and Dr. Wilbur Gonsalves. Presentations in this session included a diverse range of topics focusing on economics, sociology, politics, and environmental issues.



Anushka Sisodiya examined the modern relevance of the Silk Route in shaping India-China trade relations. Aditi Venkateswaran discussed the role of reinsurance in stabilizing the Indian insurance market. Riya Vaidya analyzed the impact of exchange rates on India's economy, specifically through nominal effective exchange rates. Kanwar Simar Singh reviewed the growing role of AI in banking and finance, highlighting its potential to transform the industry. Neha Kharnale and Gaurav Wakode studied the influence of LinkedIn on human interaction in the job-seeking process, emphasizing its role in modern employment. Annweshia Roy explored the experiences and human rights challenges faced by climate-induced migrants in Mumbai. Reema E.M. explored the effects of a dominant religious/cultural belief on urban residents by analyzing public perception, intercommunity relations, and the role of media in shaping discourse. Finally,

Tanushree Singh Balayan critically analyzed the commodification of national parks in India, linking capitalism with the commercialization of nature. The floor was opened for questions and comments after the presentations.

Closing Session

The conference concluded with a general discussion and reflection on the various presentations. Presenters shared insights and discussed the strengths and weaknesses of their work, while also offering advice on refining their research. Discussions centered on the future of interdisciplinary research and how to foster more collaboration.



The final Vote of Thanks was delivered by Miss Avanti Lele, thanking the University for its support, the guests and judges for their valuable feedback, and the organizers for their hard work. She also expressed gratitude to the presenters and participants for their contributions, closing the conference on a positive note.



This conference successfully highlighted the diversity of research and the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, offering valuable insights and a platform for students to

engage with various academic fields.

Scientific Committee

- Prof. Dr Mrudul Nile (Department of Civics and Politics)
- Prof. Dr. Swati Raju (Mumbai School of Public Policy and Economics)
- Prof. Dr. Namita Nimbalkar (Department of Philosophy)
- Dr. Manisha Rao (Department of Sociology)
- Dr. Rajesh Karankal (Department of English)
- Dr. Wilbur Gonsalves (Department of Applied Psychology)
- Dr. Aparna Phadke (Department of Geography)
- Dr. Anagha Kamble (Department of History)
- Dr. Sanhita Joshi (Department of Civics and Politics)
- Dr. Naina Salve-Kurane (Alkesh Dinesh Mody Institute for Financial & Management Studies)

Organizing Committee

- Dr. Wilbur Gonsalves (Department of Applied Psychology)
- Dr. Naina Salve (ADMIFMS)
- Mr. Shashak Tiwari (ADMIFMS)
- Ms. Avanti Lele (Department of English)

Dr. Sachin Labade

Hon. Director, CTPC
Head, Department of English

Prof. (Dr.) Smita Shukla

Director
Alkesh Dinesh Mody
Institute for Financial &
Management Studies

Dr. Vivek Belhekar

Head
Department of Applied
Psychology