

## **SAMBHASHAN /संभाषण**

A Free Open Access Online Journal of University of Mumbai

On the occasion of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's 129<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020, the Office of the Dean, Humanities, University of Mumbai is launching a free open access online journal, SAMBHASHAN /संभाषण . This interdisciplinary and bilingual journal hopes to bring diverse disciplines to dialogue with each other through critical reflections on contemporary themes.

### **Description:**

*Sambhashan/ संभाषण* or conversation as an art of dialogue has been crucial to the development of both Indian and Western thought. *Dialogos* in Greek literally means "through word", where one establishes relationships on the basis of conversations to initiate processes of thinking, listening and speaking with others. Thinkers such as M.K. Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, Sarojini Naidu, David Bohm, Hans Georg Gadamer, Anthony Appiah and Martha Nussbaum have projected shared dialogue as a way of understanding the relationship between the individual and the society. While Jyotiba Phule, Savitribai Phule, B.R. Ambedkar, Pandita Ramabai Jürgen Habermas, Paul Ricoeur, Patricia Hill Collins and Judith Butler, to name a few, have started out anew through ruptures in conversations. The inevitability of conversation in academic life emerges from its centrality to human development and ecology. Conversations are not restricted to any single territory, but are enacted between global and the local topographies. This online bi-lingual journal aims at continuing and renewing plural conversations across cultures that have sustained and invigorate academic activities.

**Sambhashan**( संभाषण ) an interdisciplinary and bilingual monthly online journal in English and Marathi endeavors to:

- be an open platform, where scholars can freely enter into a discussion to speak, be heard and listen. In this spirit, this journal aims at generating open conversations between diverse disciplines in social sciences, humanities and law.
- preserve and cultivate pluralism as a normative ideal. Hence, it attempts to articulate a plurality of points of view for any theme, where in there is both a need to listen and to speak, while engaging with another's perspective.
- act as a bridge towards briefly expressing points of view on a relevant subject with originality, evidence, argument, experience, imagination and the power of texts. It hopes that these points of view can be shaped towards full-fledged research papers and projects in the future.

### **Framework:**

- (1) This journal will be open to established academics, young teachers, research students and writers from diverse institutional and geographical locations.

- (2) Papers can be empirical, analytical or hermeneutic following the scholarly culture of critique and creativity, while adhering to academic norms.
- (3) Book reviews will also be published.
- (4) Submissions will be peer-reviewed anonymously
- (5) Some of the issues will publish invited papers and reviews, though there will be a call for papers for most issues.
- (6) There would be an occasional thematic focus.

### **Guidelines for Submissions:**

- Original, scholarly, creative and critical papers with reference points when necessary.
- All references to the author should be removed from the submission to enable the anonymous review process.
- There can be a limit from 1200 to 1500 words(for papers) and 700 words (for book reviews)
- Essays should follow the Times New Roman font in size 12 with double space.

**Publisher :** *Office of Dean, Humanities, University of Mumbai, , Mumbai-400 032*

This journal accepts original essays that critically address contemporary issues related to social sciences, humanities and law from an interdisciplinary perspective. The first issue will have invited papers that respond to the following theme as suggested by Hon. Vice Chancellor of University of Mumbai: **RESPONSES TO COVID-19: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ITS IMPACT ON MAHARASHTRA.**

### **Theme Note:**

This issue will explore the various ways in which COVID-19 specifically, along with epidemics and pandemics in general have affected thought, experiences and various domains of institutions and practices with special reference to Maharashtra. A key question is whether COVID-19 is exceptional, given the many epidemics and pandemics that have ravaged modern India since the colonial period. The possibility of coping with disease through digital technology is undoubtedly unique to the present pandemic. However, the stark presence of digital disparity and weak public health systems repeat history in providing succor only to the privileged. The outbreak of the plague in erstwhile Bombay in August 1896 led to a two decade long destruction. The influenza unleashed in 1918 carried out its devastation without even sparing Gandhi. Colonial institutions of frail public health could not protect masses of Indians from the ruin of mass disease. A cursory glance at the history of the social dimensions of disease in India reveals that vulnerabilities of caste, gender and class impacted a section of Indians more adversely than others during the colonial era pandemics. This is evident in the way Savitribai Phule and her son Dr. Yashwant Rao both died while healing a casteist society from the ravages of plague. In 1867, Pandita Ramabai wrote to the British administration about the challenges that women faced due to the appalling conditions in plague shelters. Similar questions of social inequality, social welfare, psychological trauma and ecology have arisen as we combat a pandemic a century later in India in quarantine. These questions also open up possibilities of living together in egalitarian, enabling and empowering ways. In the spirit of Albert Camus's *The Plague*, a contagious disease compels human beings

to engage with the existentialist questions of renewing life with creativity and imagination, while being haunted by their own mortality.

This issue hopes to generate discussion on “Responses to COVID-19 with special reference to its impact on Maharashtra” by addressing some of the following concerns:

1. Social impact (with reference to caste, class and gender)
2. Political impact
3. Economic impact
4. Cultural impact
5. Psychological impact
6. Ecological impact
7. History of disease
8. The role of the welfare state
9. The role of media
10. Digital disparity
11. Health care systems and public distribution systems
12. Responsibilities to the socially vulnerable and marginalized sections of society

Last date for submission, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**Contact:**

Authors interested in writing on any one of the topic or theme are welcome to submit their articles to email ID: dean.humanities@mu.ac.in