

humanities social sciences

language fiction empiricism  
archeology gender realism  
paleontology philosophy poetry  
art praxis ethnography modern  
history epistemology political theory  
prose economic quantitative  
rationality analytical fieldwork postmodern  
anthropology evolution progressive urban



IN PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE



## Director's Note

I congratulate the Convener, Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) for bringing out this brochure for the department. Humanities and Social Sciences form an integral part of the curriculum at IISER-Mohali. While pursuing their scientific goals, scientists must remember that they are human beings first and that they are obliged to the society. As science progresses, it is important to understand its philosophy and history, so that scientific developments can be looked at from the right perspective by the society at large. There has to be a symbiotic relationship between science and society. Therefore, IISER Mohali has gone about building its department of Humanities and Social Sciences with the faculty teaching courses on communication skills, history of science, philosophy of science, social history, human identity, arts and related courses. I wish the department all the best in its effort to inculcate the HSS perspective in the minds of the students, thereby drawing like-minded faculty to its fold.

Prof. N. Sathyamurthy  
Director, IISER Mohali



What is the role of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) in a science institute? The answer lies in the IISER Mohali motto: *In pursuit of knowledge*. We seek to understand the nature of science and the nature of humanity. We help situate science within the wider framework of society. We bring to the fore questions of ethics and aesthetics, of history and philosophy, of poetry and politics. It is in this spirit that HSS has been an integral part of IISER Mohali right from its inception.

The emphasis at IISER Mohali is on interdisciplinary scholarship and integration of teaching and research. All MS students at IISER Mohali are required to take at least 5 HSS courses. The HSS courses are well integrated into the MS curriculum with the following objectives: to make the students aware of the social/economic/ethical implications of science research, to inculcate an understanding of the historical and philosophical dimensions of knowledge production, to foster critical thinking, and to initiate an interdisciplinary dialogue. In teaching these courses, we see our role as transformative in the educational process of scientists— we contribute by taking students beyond a mere *doing of science* to developing an *understanding of science* as a historically and socially situated practice. In this respect, IISER Mohali students have an edge over students from all other IISERs.

The PhD program in HSS is multi-disciplinary and allows our students to draw from a wide range of faculty expertise. Our students receive strong training in theoretical as well as empirical aspects relevant to their research trajectory.

HSS faculty contributes towards original research that has impact across national borders and across disciplinary boundaries. Areas of research currently represented in the department include philosophy of scientific concepts, history of science and its embeddedness in cultural histories, post-war American literature, archaeology, understanding evolution through paleoanthropology, feminist and critical geographic approaches to labour studies and questions of identity, and the intellectual history of the progressive writers association. Our objective in the coming years is to expand and strengthen the disciplinary diversity of our department.

Anu Sabhlok  
Head of Department, HSS.

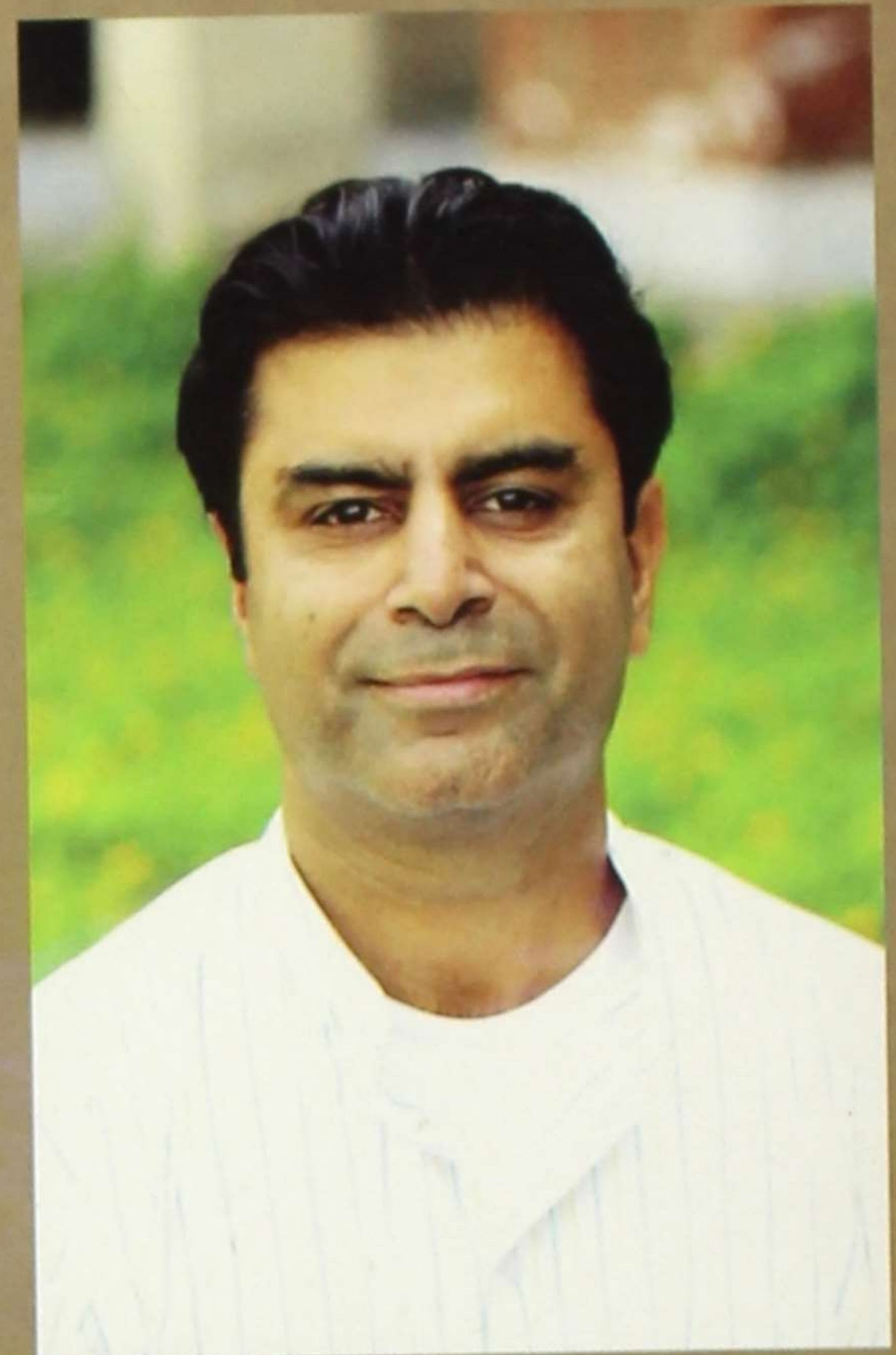


I am a Paleolithic archaeologist specializing in human evolutionary studies in the Indian Subcontinent. Using various data, my colleagues and I are attempting to understand early human adaptations and behaviors in changing environments (climatically and ecologically). The last two million years fostered key changes in our biological evolution and technological progression. The Indian Subcontinent is an important region to investigate dispersals, extinctions and inter-species relationships. To address these broad issues, I am carrying out multiple projects through international collaborations (with scientists from India, U.S.A., U.K., Australia, Yemen and Sudan) in India and abroad. Specific aims include applying various relative and absolute dating methods, reconstructing ancient environments through sedimentary and paleontological analyses and understanding technological adaptations/change.

**Narmada Basin Paleoanthropology Project:** The project's goal is to understand patterns of human occupation in central India over the last one million years and also search for hominin fossils. Thus far, our efforts have resulted in the dating of the only pre-modern human fossil site in South Asia, identification of the first Early Pleistocene archaeological evidence and the discovery of numerous fossils, lithics and rock art sites.

**Siwalik Paleoanthropology Project:** This project involves vertebrate and invertebrate paleontology and taphonomy to understand the South Asian Early Pleistocene and also includes actualistic observations of contemporary ecological conditions. A related target is to search for early Homo fossils.

**Human dispersals in southern Arabia and eastern Africa:** My colleagues and I are working on identifying signals of these movements from East Africa through two separate but complimentary projects. One project is with Yemeni colleagues in Yemen and the other is in coastal Sudan with American and Sudanese colleagues.



**Parth.R.Chauhan**

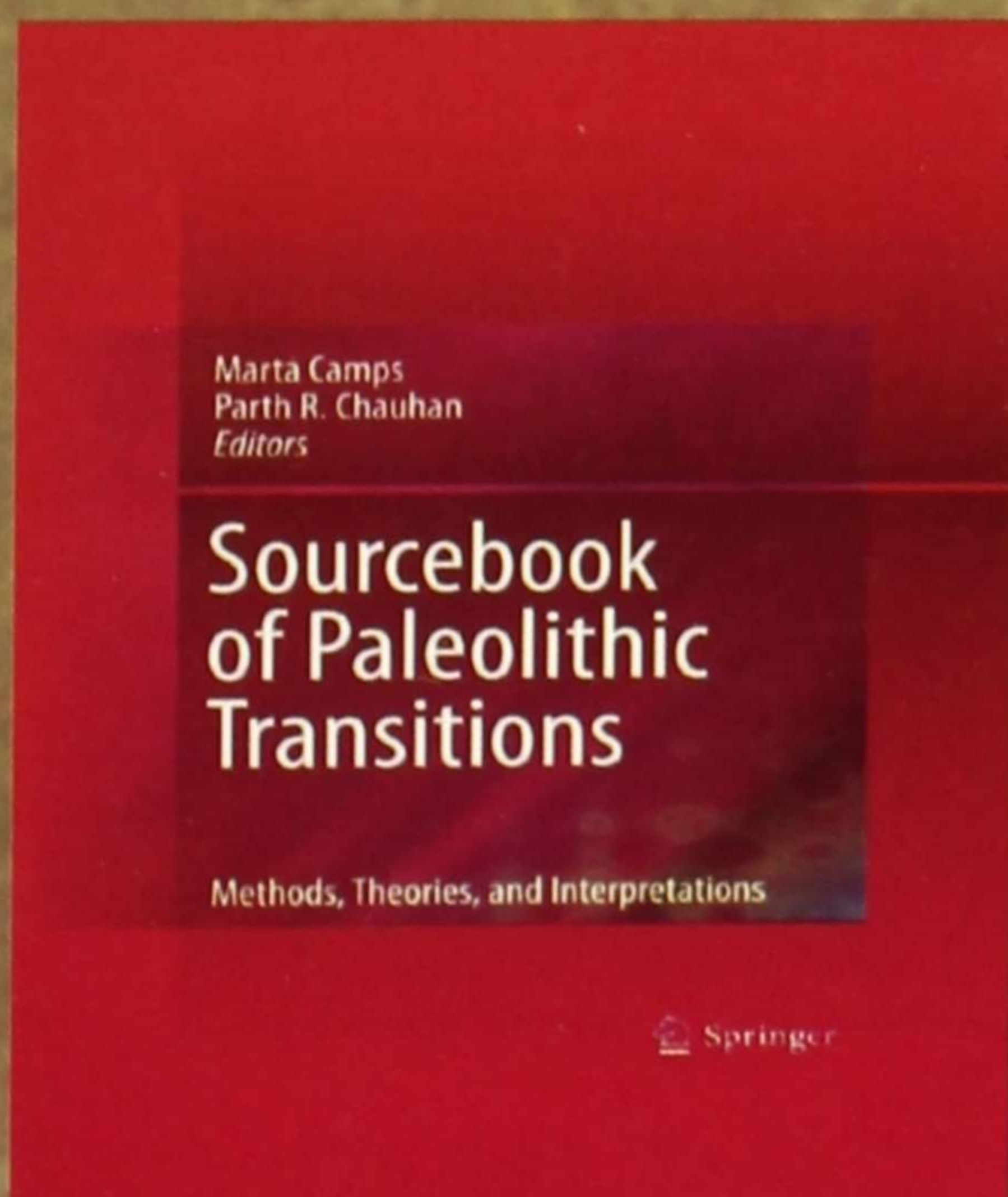
Paleoanthropology; prehistory; human evolution, dispersals, adaptations & behavior, vertebrate paleontology, experimental archaeology

PhD (Archaeology & Prehistory), University of Sheffield, UK, 2005.

MA (Archaeology) Deccan College Post-Graduate & Research Institute, 1998.

BA (Anthropology), Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA.





## Representative Publications

Chauhan, P. R., David R. Bridgland, Marie-Hélène Moncel, Pierre Antoine, Jean-Jacques Bahain, Rebecca Briant, Pedro P. Cunha, Jackie Despriée, Nicole Limondin-Lozoue, Jean-Luc Locht, Antonio A. Martins, Danielle C. Schreve, Andrew D. Shaw, Pierre Voinchet, Rob Westaway, Mark J. White, Tom S. White. 2017. Fluvial deposits as an archive of early human activity: Progress during the 20 years of the Fluvial Archives Group. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 166: 114-149.

Chauhan, P.R., S. Ozarkar, S. Kulkarni. (2014), 'Genes, stone tools and modern human dispersals in center of the Old World', *Proceedings of the Symposium on the Emergence and Diversity of Modern Human Behavior in Palaeolithic Asia*. November 29-December 1; Tokyo, Japan. Kaifu Y, and Goebel T, editors. Texas A&M University Press, 94-113.

Chauhan, P.R. (2013), 'Lion figurine from Abhayagiri', *Current Science*, 105 (6): 751-752.

Chauhan, P.R., Sathe, V., Shaik, S. (2013), 'A short note on prehistoric re-investigations at Durkadi, central India', *Indian Journal of Physical Anthropology and Human Genetics*, 32 (1): 185-193. (Guest Eds. D.K. Bhattacharya and P.R. Chauhan).

Chauhan, P.R. (2010), 'The Indian subcontinent and 'Out of Africa I', *Out of Africa I: The First Hominins of Eurasia*. J. Fleagle, J. Shea and R. Leakey (Eds.). *Paleobiology and Paleoanthropology Series*, Springer Press, 145-164.

Chauhan, P.R. (2010), 'Comment on 'Lower and Early Middle Pleistocene Acheulian in the Indian Sub-Continent' by Gaillard et al. 2009 (*Quaternary International*). *Quaternary International* 223-224:248-259.

Lycett, S.J., Chauhan, P.R., Eds. (2010), *New Perspectives on Old Stones: Analytical Approaches to Palaeolithic Technologies*, Netherlands, Springer Press.

Chauhan, P.R. (2009), 'The Lower Paleolithic of the Indian Subcontinent', *Evolutionary Anthropology* 18:62-78.

Camps, M., Chauhan, P.R., Eds. (2009). *Sourcebook of Paleolithic Transitions: Methods, Theories, and Interpretations*. Netherlands, Springer Press.



I am a historian specializing in intellectual and cultural history of modern India. My earlier research dealt with the reproduction and reception of classical Tamil literature in colonial India. Focusing on what is understood in Tamil literary tradition as 'Sangam' anthologies my work investigated the transmission of this body of literature in Tamil literary tradition in a long term historical perspective and interrogated the historiographical assumption of its dramatic 'rediscovery' in the second half of the nineteenth century with the expansion of print technology. The research provided a background and structure to the history of print-publication of classical Tamil literature during the late 19th and early 20th century. Currently, I am investigating the history of progressive literary movement and the intellectual history of various strands of Marxist thought in Tamil language. The vernacular profile of the Marxist thought in the intellectual history of modern India offers scope to engage with questions like how Marxian ideology was domesticated in regional context. More specifically, I am interested in exploring the particular deployment of Tamil language and its literary tradition and how such understanding resulted in particular ways of domesticating Marxism in regional context. Left has never been an electoral force in Tamilnadu but the intellectual presence of Marxist thought with peculiar Tamil characteristics cannot be missed and that require investigation into questions of language and identity.

While my research revolves around Tamil language and literature, I have wider interest in cultural and intellectual history of other regions of the subcontinent. I have been teaching three elective courses – (i) a survey course on modern Indian history (ii) intellectual history of Orientalism (iii) idea of India that deals with the critical reading of modern Indian political thought.



V. Rajesh

Intellectual history of modern India, Marxism, Tamil literary history

PhD (History), IIT Madras, 2010

MPhil (History), University of Hyderabad, 2005.

MA (History), University of Hyderabad, 2003.

BA (History), Madras Christian College, 2001.



## Representative Publications

Ravi, V & Rajesh, V. (2015) 'Beyond the Politics of Identity: The Left and the Politics of Caste and Identity in Tamil Nadu, 1920-63', *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, 38, 4: 543-557.

Rajesh, V. (2014) *Manuscripts, Memory and History: Classical Tamil Literature in Colonial India*, Cambridge University Press, New Delhi.

Rajesh, V. (2013) 'Intellectual Awakening in Late 19th century Tamil Nadu: A Study of P. Sundaram Pillai', *Journal of Tamil Studies*, 83: 49-60.

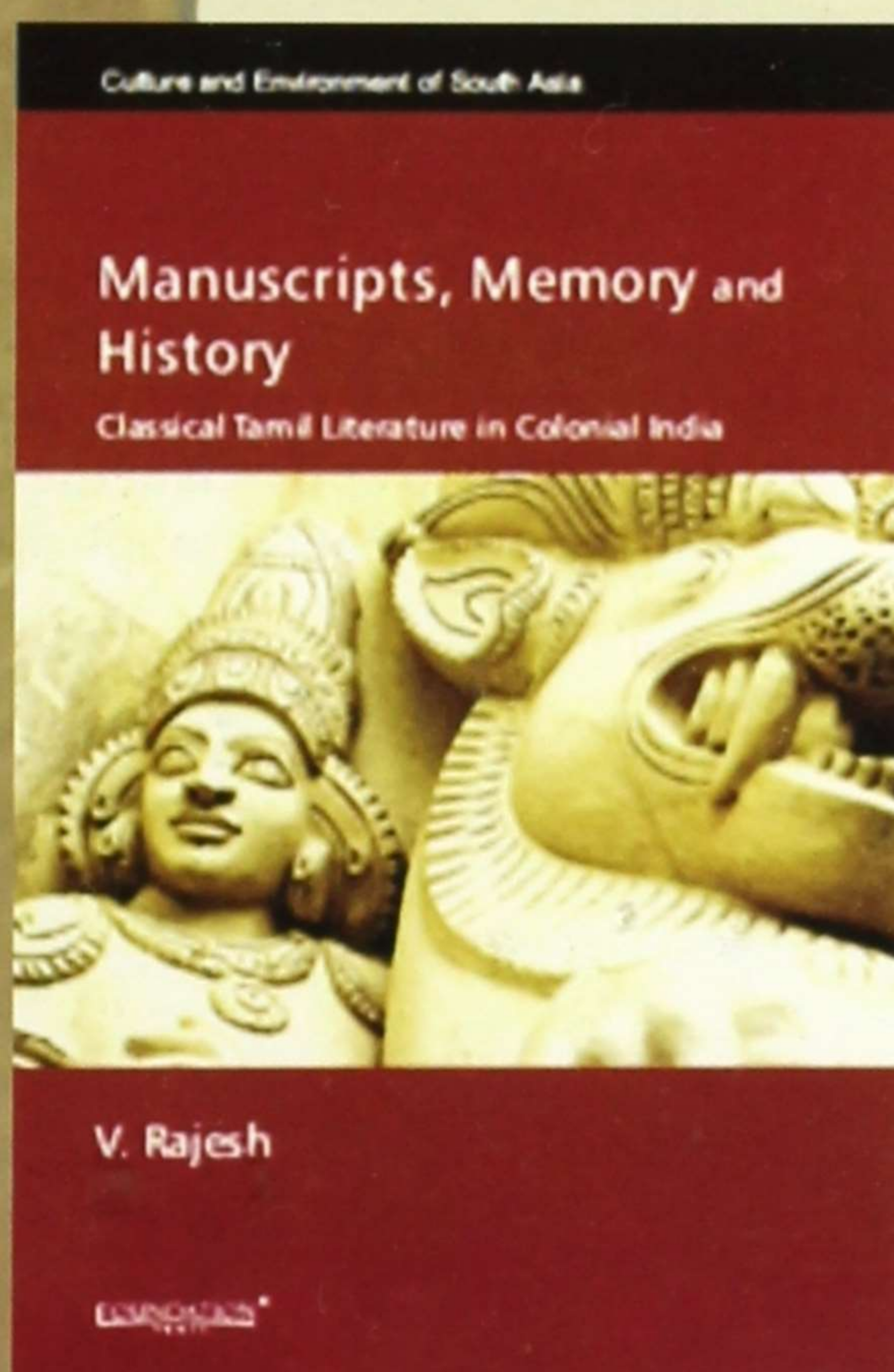
Rajesh, V. (2013) Review of Michael Bergunder, Heiko Frese and Ulrike Schroder (eds), *Ritual, Caste and Religion in Colonial South India*, Verlag der Franckeschen zu Halle, Halle, 2010, *Relegere: Studies in Religion and Reception*, 3, 2: 415-419.

Rajesh, V. (2010) 'Sanga Ilakkiya Marapu Uruvakkam' (Formation of Literary Conventions in Sangam Literature) in Pa. Ilamaran et al (eds.), *Tamil Nool Thoguppu Varalaru* (History of Compilations in Tamil), Puthiya Puthagam Pesuthu Sirappu Malar, Bharathi Puthagalayam, Chennai: 23-34.

Rajesh, V. (2008), 'The Making of Sangam Literary Canon and Tamil Identity', in R. Cheran, Darshan Ambalavanar and Chelva Kanakanayagam, (eds.), *New Demarcations: Essays in Tamil Studies*, Canadian Scholars' Press Inc, Toronto: 133-147.

Rajesh, V. (2007), 'Evaluating the Meanings of Globalization on a Caste Association in Contemporary Tamilnadu', in Jyotirmaya Tripathy, (ed.), *After Globalization: Essays in Religion, Culture and Identity*, Allied Publishers, New Delhi: 139-149.

Rajesh, V. (2006), 'Text and Time in Early Tamilakam', in M. Kannan and Carlos Mena, (eds.), *Negotiations with the Past: Classical Tamil in Contemporary Tamil*, Department of Indology, French Institute Pondicherry and Department of South and South East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley: 231-265.





My broad research area is post war (Second World War) American fiction. My work primarily centres on the postwar American novelists who elaborate on an unconventional understanding of the notion of excess and the role it plays in culture. One of the defining characteristics of postmodern aesthetics is the much neglected liberating implication of 'excess.' A study on postmodern excess is incomplete without a mention of poststructural thought. Drawing on postwar American novels, I attempt to sketch the interface between postmodern literature and poststructural literary theory. I am currently working on the American novelists Don DeLillo, Jonathan S. Foer, and David Foster Wallace.

The research area in which I plan to work in future is 'Science-in-theatre,' a genre termed by the chemist Carl Djerassi. I have initiated by exploring the different themes and nuances that are portrayed in the play Oxygen (2001) by Carl Djerassi and Roald Hoffmann. The works which I plan to take up in this context are Christopher Marlowe's Dr. Faustus (1604), Ben Jonson's The Alchemist (1610), Tom Stoppard's Arcadia (1993), Michael Frayn's Copenhagen (1998), Carl Djerassi's An Immaculate Misconception (2000), Manjula Padmanabhan's Harvest (2003). I am interested in exploring the social implications of science in these works. Complementing my research work, I would also like to use these texts for an appropriate course that will enable students of IISER to appreciate the larger implications of science on society through literature.



Adrene Freeda D'cruz

English Language and Literature

PhD (English Literature), IIT Kanpur, 2011

MPhil (English Literature), Pondicherry University, 2005

MA (English Literature), Kannur University, Kerala, 2004

BA (English Literature), Kannur University, Kerala, 2002



## Representative Publications

Pawar, Harshal S., D'cruz, Adrene F. "Introducing a Third Culture: Carl Djerassi and Roald Hoffmann in Theatre." *Current Science* (forthcoming)

D'cruz, Adrene F. "Violence and Scapegoating in Don DeLillo's *Libra*." *The Explicator* 73.4 (2015): 325-330.

D'cruz, Adrene F. (2013), 'Locating Derridean Supplementarity in Don DeLillo's *The Names*', *Intellectual Resonance*, 1.1: 102-109.

D'cruz, Adrene F. (2013), 'Symbolic Terror in Don DeLillo's *The Body Artist*', *The Atlantic Critical Review*, 12.1: 69-78.

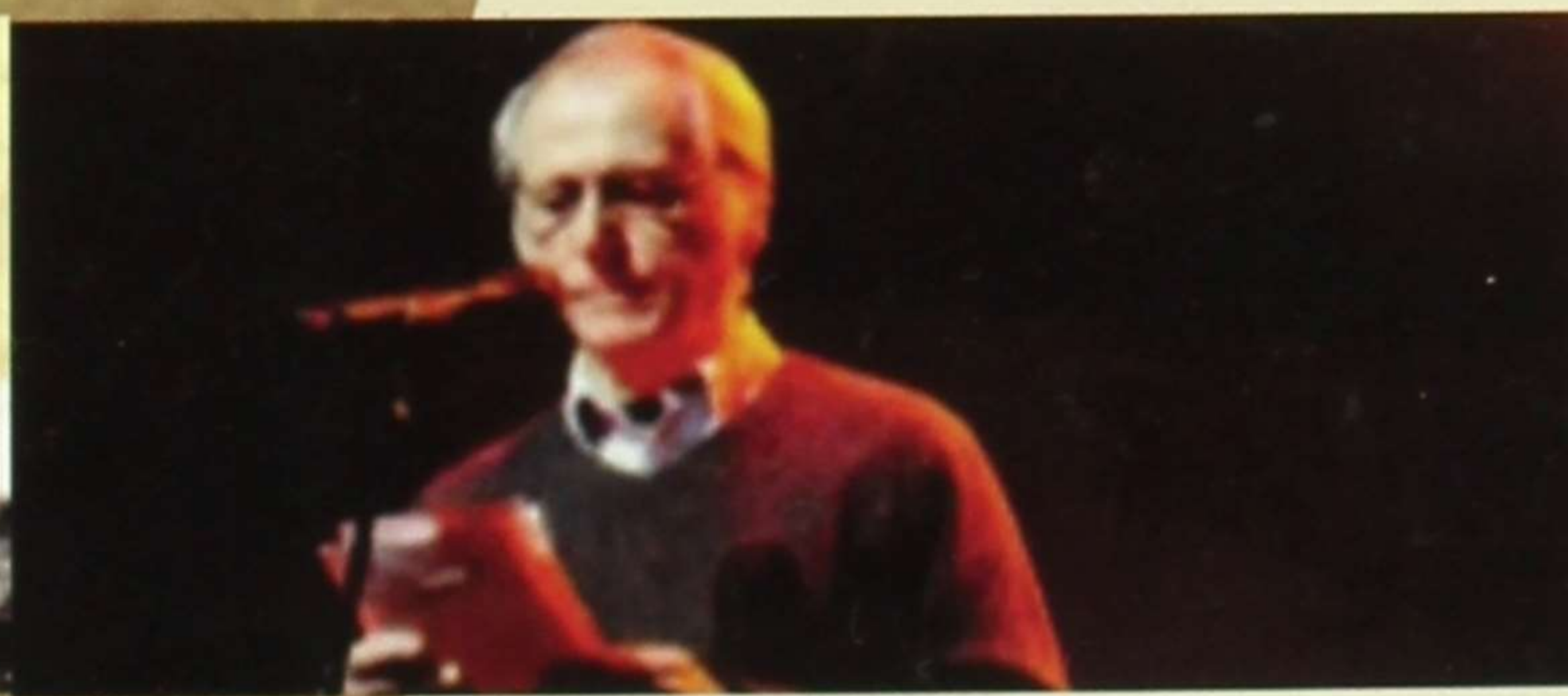
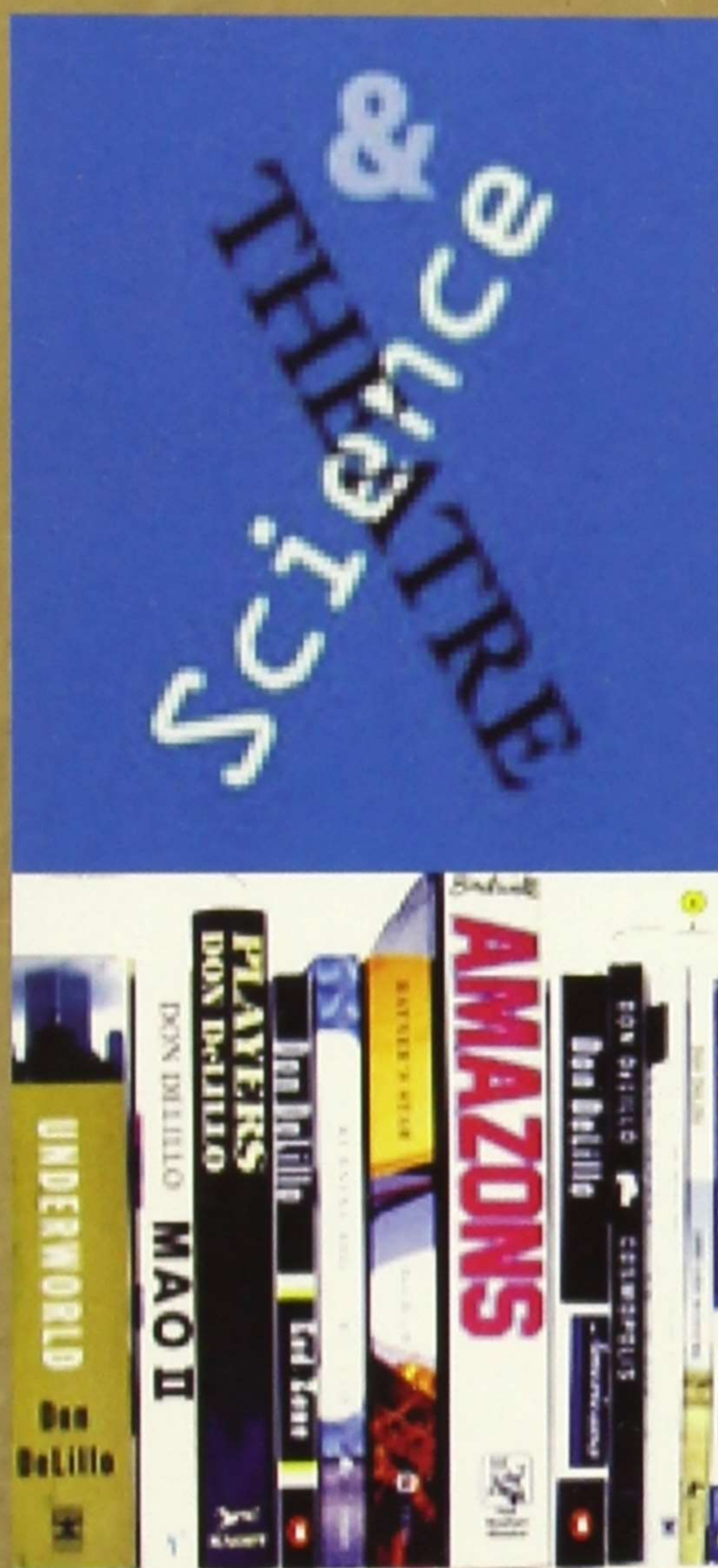
D'cruz, Adrene F. (2012), 'An Inconvenient Truth: The Quandary of Dystopian Earth in Douglas Trumbull's *Silent Running* and Richard Fleischer's *Soylent Green*', *The Icfa University Journal of American Literature* 5.1: 7-15.

D'cruz, Adrene F. (2011), 'A Copy Without Original: Philip K. Dick's *The Simulacra* and Baudrillard's *Simulacrum*', *Creative Forum: Journal of Literary and Critical Writings: (Special Issue on Cyberpunk Literature)*, 24. 1-2: 75-83.

Ravichandran T., Adrene F. D'cruz. (2011), 'Rupturing Homogeneity: The Differential Nature of 'Fury' in Salman Rushdie's *Fury*', *Native Visions and Alien Voices: Essays on Commonwealth Literature*. Ed. G. Baskaran. Sivakasi: Sangam Printers, 1-10.

D'cruz, Adrene F. and T. Ravichandran. (2009), 'More Real Than the Real: Technocapitalism in Salman Rushdie's *Fury*', *Meridian Critic*, 16.2: 41-55.

D'cruz, Adrene F. (2010), 'Scriptorium as a Zone of Signifiers: Paul Auster's *Travels in the Scriptorium*', *The Icfa University Journal of American Literature* 1 & 2: 57- 67.

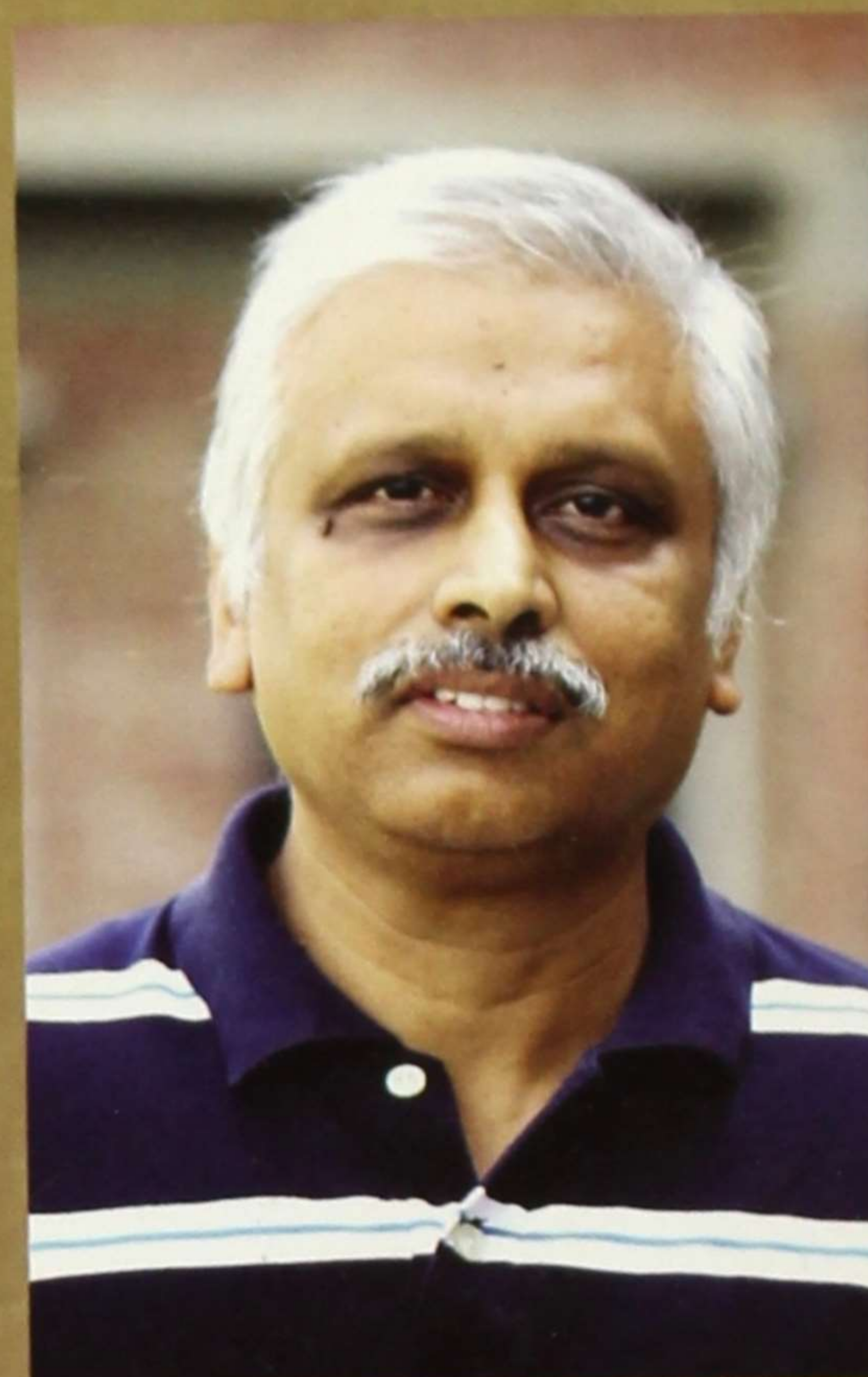




In the area of philosophy of science I am interested in the philosophical accounts of scientific theories. The issues that I am specifically concerned are whether in the context of science the philosophical positions like realism and empiricism need reorientation, the philosophical importance of scientific concepts as part of theory building in science. Here my interests are more towards the foundational concepts in the special sciences and towards the emerging area of philosophy of chemistry. The philosophical understanding of scientific concepts is closely tied to the idea of explanations and theories and I attempt to synthesize these notions.

In Indian Philosophy I am interested in the metaphysical and epistemological issues with regard to Avidya in the different systems. Here I draw upon my background in analytic philosophy. Apart from this I am also interested in the comparative study of a) essentialism in the western tradition in different forms (Aristotelian, Lockean and modern) and Sankhya and b) the nature of laws and Vyapti as explicated in different systems in general and Nyaya in particular.

I'm the paper coordinator for the MHRD project E-pathshala for the paper on 'Philosophy of Science'.



S.K. Arun Murthi

Philosophy of Science, Analytic Philosophy and Indian Philosophy from analytic perspective.

PhD (Philosophy of Science), National Institute of Advanced Studies, 2010.

MA (Philosophy) Bangalore University, 2001.

MBA, Calcutta University, 1986.

BE (Metallurgy), Calcutta University, 1982.



### **Representative Publications**

Murthi, A. (2014), 'The Property Status of Dispositions: Is the Position Defensible?', *Jadavpur Journal of Philosophy*, 25

Murthi, A. (2009), 'Mulavidya Controversy in Advaita Vedanta: Was Sankara Himself Responsible?', *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, 37: 149-177.

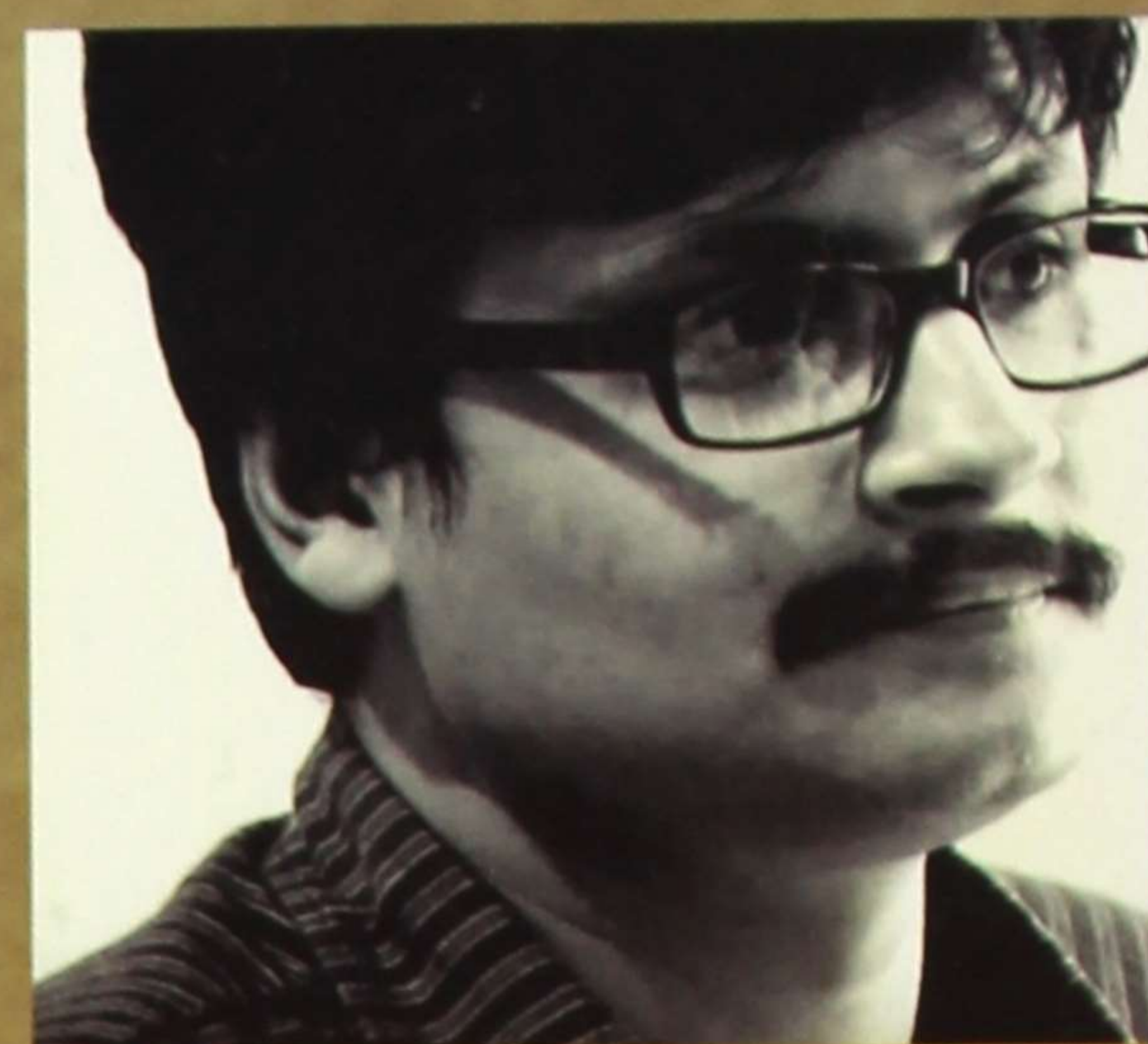
Murthi, A. and Sundar Sarukkai. (2009), 'Multisemiosis and Incommensurability', *International Studies in Philosophy of Science*, Vol. 23 (3), 297-311.

Murthi, A. and Muthusamy Murugan. (2011), 'Ethical Dimensions in Global Climate Change Exploring a Philosophical Perspective: An Analytical Approach', *Recent Research in Science and Technology*, 3 (2), 16-23.



I am a student of History, Historical Anthropology, Political Economy and History and Philosophy of Science. My earlier and ongoing research projects explore themes in informality, infrastructure technologies, urban history and governmentality studies in late-colonial and postcolonial India. I have taught courses on urban history, infrastructure studies and social policy during my prior academic assignments. I am looking forward to develop courses on the epistemic relationship between basic sciences and human sciences in the modern world. I wish to work and supervise research projects on the trajectories of capitalist accumulation, social policy, rent and tenancy relations in South Asian cities and mass political formation under neoliberalism. I divide my time between academia and activism, and try to work at their critical interface, making use of one context to ask questions of another.

Recently, I have started a project on a history of data at the time of "big data". I am planning to follow certain anticipations of the big data phenomenon in three inter-connected developments of the mid-twentieth century, i.e., the emergence of algorithm as the science of computation, the birth of the idea of an integrated "national economy" as a central "object" of postcolonial governmentality, and the triggering of the Cold War "Big Science" initiatives that required data management at a cosmic scale. The project identifies the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Calcutta, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics in Pune and the Planning Commission in Delhi in the 1950s as sites where these three developments interfaced in 1950s. Taking the year 1951 as a key moment in the history of data in India, the project further shows how the ISI emerged as a significant player in the science of government.



Ritajyoti Bandyopadhyay

History and Political Economy

PhD in History (Jadavpur University / Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, and UC Berkeley), Degree awarding Institute: Jadavpur University.

MA in History (Jadavpur University), 2005

BA in History (Jadavpur University), 2003



### **Representative Publications**

2017: Obstruction: Counter-pedestrianism and the Trajectories of an Infrastructure Public, *Decision*, 44 (2), 121-132

2017: (With Ranabir Samaddar), Caste and the Frontiers of Postcolonial Accumulation, in Iman Mitra, Ranabir Samaddar and Samita Sen (eds), *Accumulation in Postcolonial Capitalism*, Springer.

2016: Institutionalizing Informality: The Hawkers' Question in Postcolonial Calcutta, *Modern Asian Studies*, 50, (2), 675-717

2012: (With Curt Gambetta), "The Problem Statement" of the Seminar Issue, "Streetscapes", Volume 636, August.

2011: "Politics of Archiving: Hawkers and Pavement Dwellers in Calcutta," *Dialectical Anthropology*, 35 (3), 295-316

2010: "Negociaciones del Archivo: El Caso de Los Vendedores Ambulantes en Calcutta," *Estudios de Asia y Africa*, Vol. 45 (1), January – April, 41-68



I am a spatial social scientist and my research investigates how spaces, scales and identities are mutually produced and used. Within this interface of studies on identity (from a humanistic perspective) and space/place/scale (from a geographic perspective) there are three specific projects that I am working on:

Constructing the Nation: An ethnographic account of migrant road builders at the Indo-Tibetan Border Roads  
Funding: Indian Council of Social Science Research (October 2013-March 2015). Amount sanctioned: Rs. 700000.00

What do the construction of national identity as a cultural process; uneven development as an economic and social process; and migration as a spatial process have in common? My current work is an attempt to understand the above processes as they come together in the lives of seasonal/circular migrants who travel every summer to participate in the task of constructing, maintaining and rebuilding the roads for the Border Roads Organization.

A feminist reading of the city of Chandigarh  
I explore the mutual construction of identity and place in Chandigarh with particular emphasis on gender and class. I investigate both planned and unplanned spaces in the city. Each of these spaces has stories to tell – stories that inform us about the production, reproduction and negotiation of gendered national identities in modern urban space.

SEWA in relief: Gendered Geographies of Disaster Relief in Gujarat, India (Doctoral work)  
Funding: Society of Women Geographers National (US) fellowship, Association of American Geographers Dissertation Research Award (2005), College of Liberal Arts Dissertation Research Award (Penn State, 2005), Institute of the Arts and Humanistic Studies Summer Residency Fellowship

The discourse of seva – selfless service - works within the spaces of the family, community and the nation in India to produce gendered subjects that are particular to their geographic and historic location. This ethnographic account is a geographic analysis of the discourse of seva as it materializes in the context of disaster relief work in the economically liberalizing and religiously fragmented state of Gujarat in India.



Anu Sabhlok

Geography, Women's studies, Urban studies

Fulbright Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowship 2017-2018

PhD (Geography and Women's studies) Pennsylvania State University, 2007.

MS (Architecture) Pennsylvania State University, 2001.

B.Arch (Architecture), School of Planning & Architecture, Delhi, 1995.



## Representative Publications



Sabhlok, A. 2017. *Main Bhi to Hindostaan Hoon: Gender and the Nation-State in India's Border Roads Organization*. Gender, Place and Culture. Forthcoming.

Sabhlok, A.; Hoiwan C.; Mishra, Y. 2015. Narratives of health and well-being in the lives of migrant labour working in the upper Himalayas. *Economic and Political Weekly* 50(51): 71-78

Sabhlok, A. (2015), 'Main Bhi Toh Hindustaan Hoon: Gender and Nation in India's Border Roads Organization in Datta, A (ed.) *Re-orienting Gender: Geographies of Gender, Resistance, Agency, Violence and Desire in Asia*. Delhi: R. K. Publications.



Sabhlok, A. and Gill, C (in press), 'Sleeping with the Enemy: Inhabiting the Realm of Humanities in a Science Institute', In Gorden, L. (ed.) *Transcending Disciplinary Decadence*. Routledge.

Brydon-Miller, M; Kral, M; Maguire, P; Noffke, S and Sabhlok, A. (2011). 'Jazz and the Banyan tree: Roots and Riffs in Participatory Action Research in Denzin', (ed.) *Handbook of Qualitative Research*, Sage publications.

Sabhlok, A. (2010), 'National Identity', in *Relief Geoforum*. 41:5(743-751).

Marshall, G and Sabhlok, A. (2009), 'Not for the sake of work: ultra-religious women's spatial negotiations in Turkey and India', *Women Studies International Forum*, 32(6).

Sabhlok, A. (2008), 'Integrated Disaster Management: an incentive for interstate cooperation amongst states in India', *Man and Development: journal of the Center for Research in Rural and Industrial Development*, 30(4).



283 Collective. (2008), 'What's Just: Afterthoughts on the Summer Institute for the Geographies of Justice', *Antipode* 40(5).



## Doctoral students in HSS

Dalia Bhattacharjee

For my PhD project, I am engaged in an ethnographic inquiry into the lives of the surrogate mothers in India. My research, rooted in feminist geography, aims at analysing the experiences of the surrogate mothers to understand the ways in which surrogate mothers perform their subjectivities, despite the fact that they fall at the lowest strata of the power hierarchy. I argue for the re-positioning of the surrogate mothers in the commercial surrogacy industry, not as docile bodies, but as active agents, or, reproductive laborers. Areas of interest: Feminist Geography, Emotional Geographies, Reproductive technologies and surrogacy.

Email id: daliabhattacharjee@iisermohali.ac.in



Preetika Sharma

Currently in my fourth year of PhD, I am a UGC-SRF at IISER Mohali. My research work focuses on understanding the relationship between Sexuality and Urban spaces, focusing primarily on experiences of queer population in the planned city of Chandigarh. I pursued Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Panjab University and Master's degree in Anthropology from University of Delhi. Broadly my research interests include Socio-cultural Anthropology, Sexuality, Queer studies, History of Gender and Sexuality and Feminist theory.

Email id: preetikasharma@iisermohali.ac.in



Nupur Tiwari

I am a fourth year PhD student at the department of HSS, carrying out research in prehistoric archaeology. My research focuses on understanding the microlithic technology and landscape movements in a selected area in central Narmada basin, Madhya Pradesh. My areas of interest are prehistory, microlithic technology, symbolic behaviour, behavioural archaeology, cultural heritage, museums and temple architecture.

Email id: nupurtiwari@iisermohali.ac.in





### Shilpa Dahake

After initial training in architecture from SPA, Delhi (2007-2012), I pursued MA in Anthropology (University of Pune). I joined IISER Mohali as a doctoral candidate in December 2014. Previously, I was working with GIPE, Pune under a project funded by UNICEF and GoM. During which I was stationed in Nandurbar District of Maharashtra as a Field Research officer. My current research explores the interaction of socio-political, cultural and ecological dimensions of the Godavari River in Nashik city. Broadly, investigating the contestations deriving from multiple imaginings of a natural resource. Areas of Interest: Urban Political Ecology of Waterscapes, Religion and Ecology, Religion and Cities  
email-id: shilpadahake@iisermohali.ac.in



### Manleen Kaur

My project here at IISER Mohali looks at history through the lens of political economy. I am working on the historiography of late colonial India, with emphasis on the Great Economic Depression of 1929 and how economic thought transformed in the policy making process of India during the inter-war period. Before joining IISER, I pursued a Five Year Integrated Course in Economics Honours from Panjab University, Chandigarh after which I worked as a Research Assistant in Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh and participated in four projects. Areas of Interest: Economic History of India, Development Economics, International Trade, Financial Economics  
Email id: manleenkaur@iisermohali.ac.in



### Manisha Kushwaha

I have completed my Masters in Geography from Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University in 2014. I joined IISER Mohali in August 2016 as a PhD research scholar. For my doctoral research, I aim to understand the urbanisation of 'Caste Question'. I am interested in understanding the dynamics of politics of space-making and Dalit experience in the city of Lucknow, through radical and feminist geography traditions, and following the transformative politics of the state, since 1991. Areas of Interest: Dalit identity, experiences, micro-geographies of Caste Question, neoliberalism, politics of space-making, right to the city.

Email Id: manikush@iisermohali.ac.in





### Ankur Parashar

I joined IISER, Mohali as a PhD scholar in August, 2016. I have completed my masters in Habitat Policy and Practice from TISS Mumbai. Previously, I have worked at IIM Ahmadabad as an academic associate. I am looking at the dynamics of urban governance and urban renewal in my PhD research.

Area of interest: Urban Governance, Anthropology of State, STS studies

Email id: [ankurparashar@iisermohali.ac.in](mailto:ankurparashar@iisermohali.ac.in)

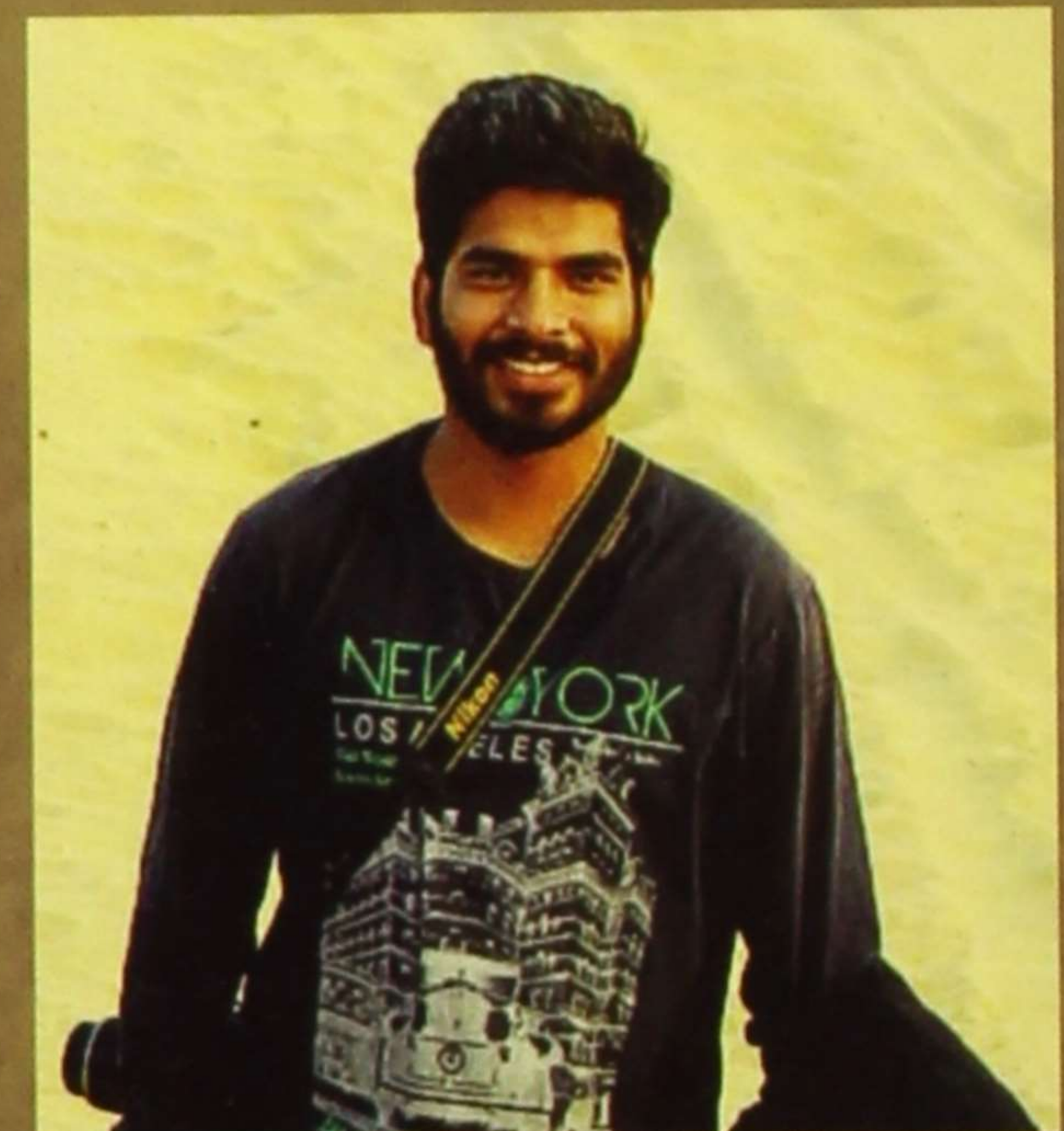


### Vivek Singh

I joined IISER Mohali in January 2016 and I did my graduation and Masters in Anthropology from University of Delhi. Currently, I am working on behavioral and chronological aspect of the Acheulean of Central India under the project: 'The First Global Culture: Lower Paleolithic Acheulean Adaptations at the Two Ends of Asia'.

Areas of interest: Prehistoric archaeology, experimental archaeology, human evolution, palaeoanthropology, palaeopathology.

Email id: [vivekghlwt@gmail.com](mailto:vivekghlwt@gmail.com)



### Ravindra Devra

I joined IISER Mohali in January 2016 as a PhD candidate at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. My subject is Archaeology and theme of my doctoral research is prehistoric human colonisation in the Thar Desert. Before Joining IISERM, I have completed Masters in Archaeology and Ancient History in the year 2015 from The MS University of Baroda, Gujarat. Previously I have done MA in Geography from BHU Varanasi in the year 2012.

Area of Interest: Prehistoric Archaeology, Geoinformatics, Landscape Archaeology, Palaeogeography, Quaternary Geology, Ethno-Experimental Archaeology, and Human Geography

E-mail id: [ravidevra@iisermohali.ac.in](mailto:ravidevra@iisermohali.ac.in)





Basil Alias

I completed my Masters in Social Work from Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady in 2012 and cleared UGC-JRF in Social Work in December, 2014. I joined IISER, Mohali in August 2016 as a Doctoral student. My research focuses on Panchayat Raj Institutions and tribal governance in non-Scheduled Areas.

Areas of Interest: Local Self Governance, Tribal Studies, Community Social Work, Women Empowerment

Email id: basilaliaspk@iisermohali.ac.in



Aditya

I am a second year UGC junior research fellow in the department and possess a masters in Sociology from Panjab University. I am currently framing my research problem using the mobilities paradigm within the larger sphere of time-space geography. Special focus is on critically analyzing the grid plan of Chandigarh and the relational politics of speed and body in consonance with the objects of traversing space. This then, possibly provides an opportunity, to look at the re-negotiation of master plans with counter-performances.

Areas of Interest: time-space geography, mobility studies, body studies, architectural history and culture. Further, avid interests in quizzing, languages and cinema.

Email id: abpandit@iisermohali.ac.in



Ajith. P

After completing M.A in Political Science from Calicut University and M.Phil at the University of Hyderabad I joined for PhD Programme in IISER Mohali in January 2017. I am pursuing doctoral research on environmental consciousness and peasant movements in early twentieth century Malabar, Kerala.

Areas of interest: Environmental movements, modernity, social movements in South Asia and history of progressive literary movement in Malayalam.

Email id: ajithp@iisermohali.ac.in





### Shashi Mehra

I have completed my M.Sc and M.Phil in Anthropology from University of Delhi. I joined IISER Mohali in August 2016. My research deals with understanding the arrival of early modern humans and their ecological and technological adaptations in Western and Central India focussing on Son Valley, Uttar Pradesh, with special reference to palaeoenvironments younger than 100 ka.

Areas of Interest – Prehistory, Palaeoenvironmental reconstruction, Experimental Archaeology.

Email id: shashimehra@iisermohali.ac.in



### Akash Srinivas

I joined IISER Mohali in January 2017 after my MA in AIHC and Archaeology from Deccan College PGRI, Pune, and an International Masters in Quaternary and Prehistory from a European Consortium of International Institutions. My research interests lie in the field of prehistoric archaeology and Palaeolithic studies, with reference to lithic techno-complexes of the Lower Palaeolithic. My current research focuses on the characterisation of the Lower Palaeolithic of the Indian subcontinent by understanding trends and variability in the archaeological record, and generating probable models for the same through lithic analysis, and paradigms rooted in theoretical, experimental and cognitive archaeology.

Email: akashsrinivas@iisermohali.ac.in; akashs91@yahoo.co.in



### Jayashree Mazumder

I am an anthropologist who have joined IISER Mohali in January 2017. I have completed my MA and MPhil in Anthropology from University of Delhi. I have worked as an intern and research fellow at NHRC India, WWF India, SAI and at CDRI. My past works are related to social anthropology, molecular anthropology, conservation biology, sports anthropometry, pharmacology and primatology. My present research aim is to provide a new perspective and help in comparing evolutionary concepts by the exploration of the technological behaviors found among the members of the non-human primate groups.

Areas of interest: Primatology, primate archaeology

Email id: jayashreemazumder@iisermohali.ac.in

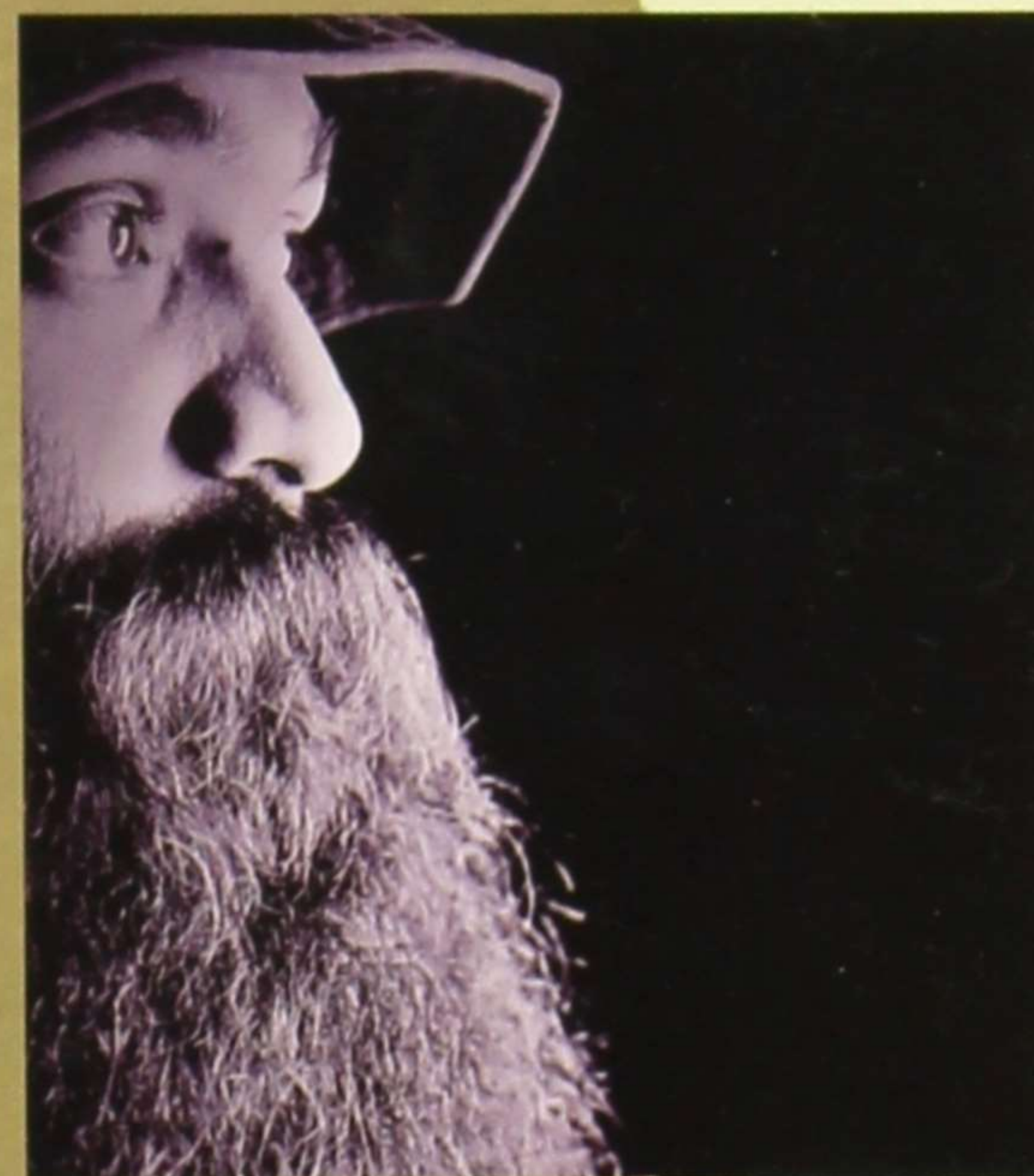




### Gopal Singh

I have completed my masters in 2012 and my MPhil in 2014 from Department of English and Cultural Studies, Punjab University. My MPhil dissertation is titled Mediation and Mutation in the Photographic Self Image: Analysis of Artist, Instrument, and Apparatus. Research areas of my interest are visual studies and cultural studies.

Email id: gopalsingh@iisermohali.ac.in



### Yezad Pardiwalla

Starting August 2017, I'm pursuing a Ph.D. in Prehistory at IISERM. I have completed my M.Sc. in Anthropology at Panjab University specialising in Physical Anthropology and Human Evolution. Within South Asian Prehistory I'm inclined towards studying in greater detail the Middle Palaeolithic, one of the least understood periods of our past. With genetic and anatomical evidences placing the genesis of our species within the Middle Palaeolithic and Europe, Africa and West Asia yielding well defined cultural phases and hominin fossils, South Asia remains an elusive piece of the puzzle.

Interests: Prehistory, Anthropology, Evolutionary genetics, Ecological adaptations, Mental and cultural processes.



### Bharti Jangra

I completed MA in Ancient Indian History Culture and Archaeology from Deccan College Postgraduate and Research Institute in 2017. After that I joined IISER as a project assistant in the ISF-UGC funded project 'The First Global Culture: Lower Paleolithic Acheulean Adaptations at the Two Ends of Asia'. As a part of my MA degree I did a dissertation on 'Geoarchaeology of an Acheulian site at Bori, District Pune'. I have also been participated in excavations and explorations at various sites.

Area of Interest: Prehistoric archaeology, Geoarchaeology, Scientific methods use in archaeology

Email: bhartijangra52@gmail.com





## Resources for HSS @ IISER Mohali

### Archaeology & Paleoanthropology Lab

The purpose of the archaeology and paleoanthropology lab is to house archaeological, paleontological and experimental specimens as well as carry out multidisciplinary research in archaeology and paleoanthropology including experimental archaeology. The current growing collection of materials includes original stone tools from ongoing Paleolithic projects, North American stone materials and associated experimental specimens, projectile replicas made by the traditional stoneworkers of Khambhat, and casts of specimens from outside India. The experimental archaeology section enables students and visiting researchers to carry out problem-oriented research and also obtain hands-on experience in both the replication and utilization of artifacts made on stone and other materials. Another ongoing aim is to gradually establish a vertebrate and invertebrate fossil repository through systematic collections from sediments spanning from the Miocene to the Pleistocene in the nearby Siwalik Hills as well as elsewhere in India. Coupled with associated field and laboratory equipment (e.g. GPS, total station, softwares for GIS and remote sensing), such a multidisciplinary lab will facilitate both research and teaching at multiple levels in understanding the origins of human adaptations and associated ancient technologies.





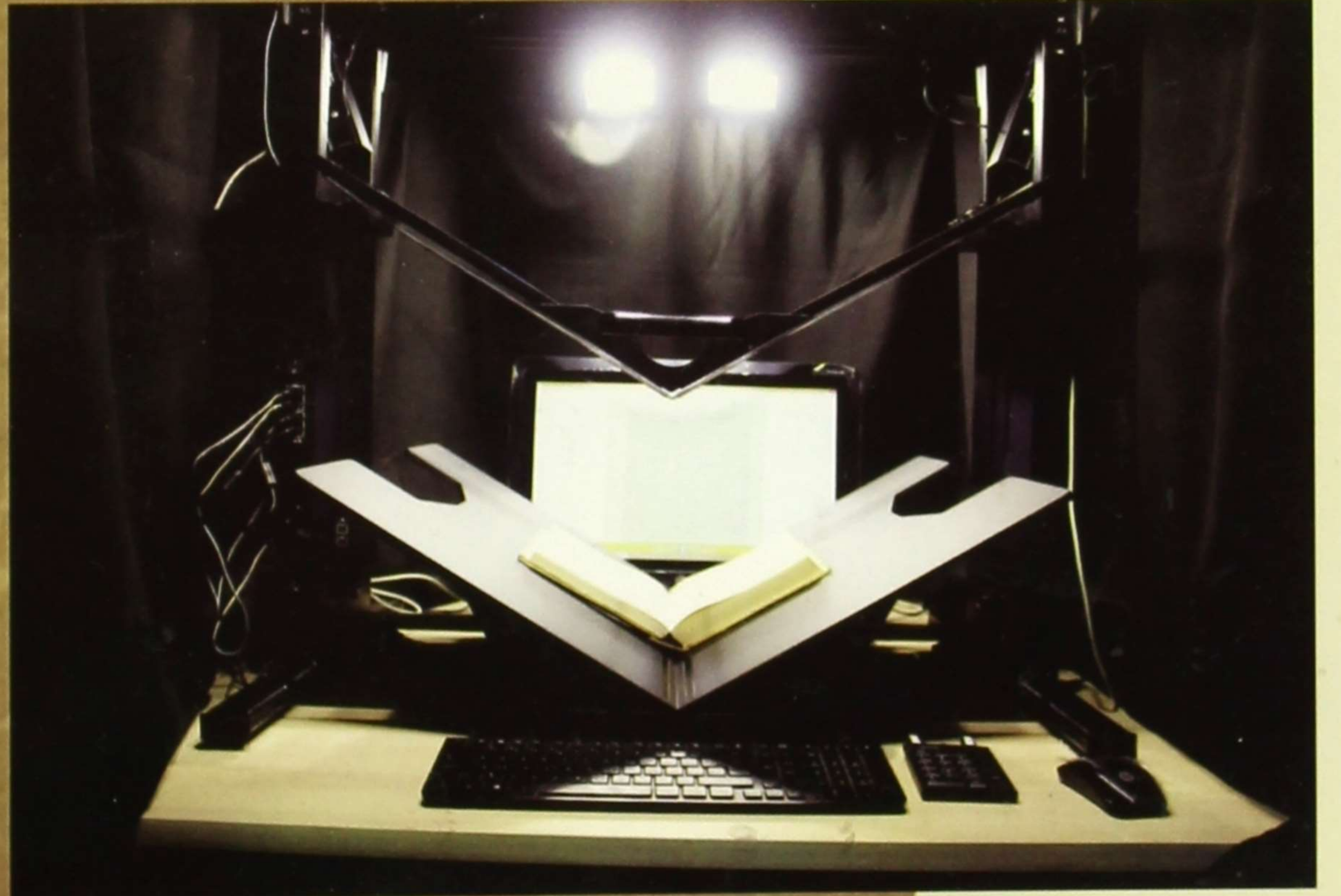
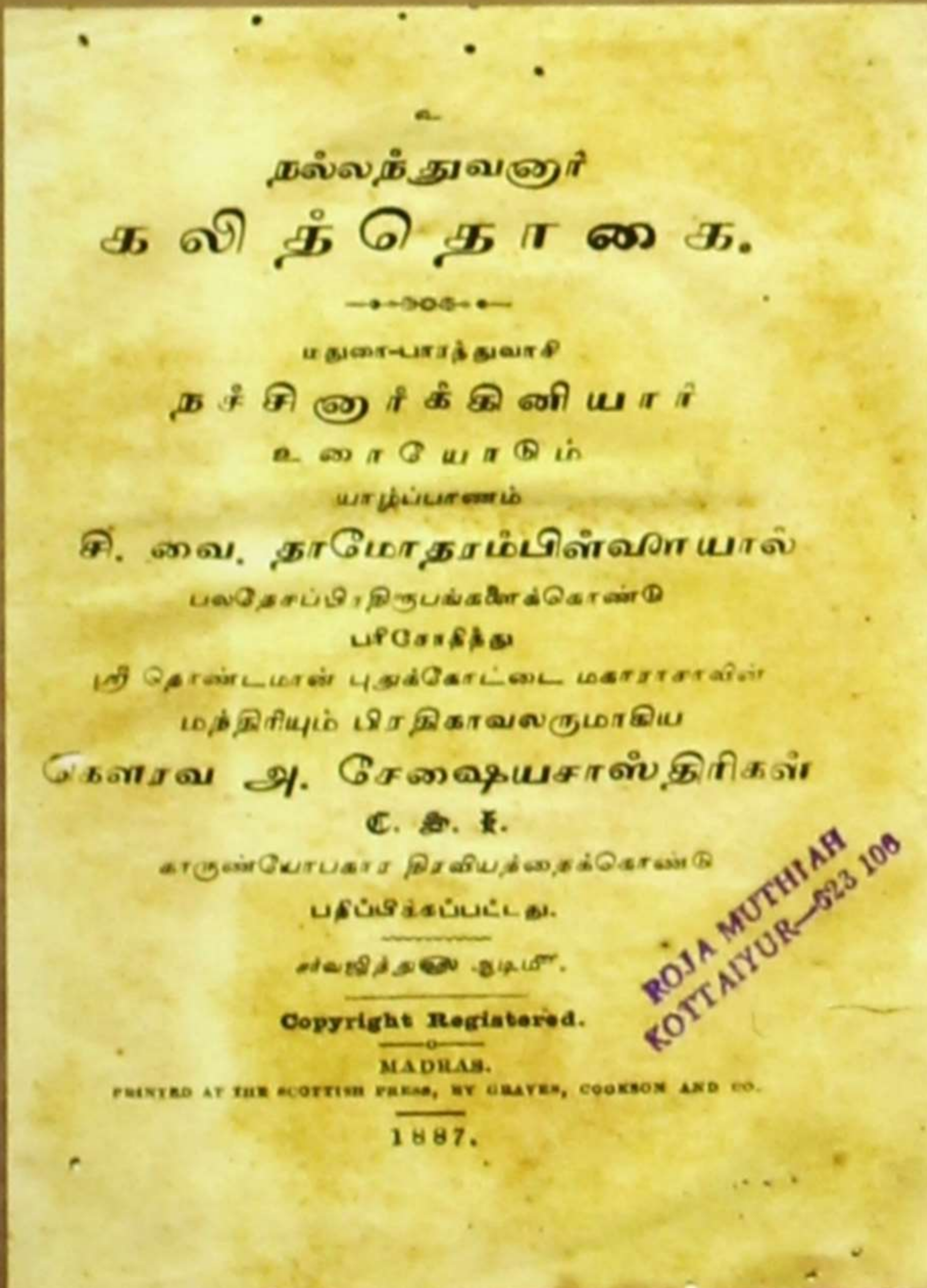
## Digital Archive / Resource Centre for Historical Studies

In order to facilitate research on the history of science and literature in India we aim to build a digital archive / resource centre at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. The digital archive will house rare repository of documents related to the history of science in the modern period of Indian history. Collection of primary documents related to the history of progressive writers association in south India is underway and we have fairly good digital collection of documents to the states of Tamilnadu and Kerala. We aim to extend the collection from the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Resources concerning the progressive literary movement in Punjab will also form part of our collection. Audio collections include oral interviews of select literary personalities from Tamilnadu.

Kalittokai (1887) (BELOW LEFT)

Title page of the first edition of Kalithogai published in 1887. Beginning with this edition most of the classical Tamil literature was published before 1920. Original copy is available at Roja Muthiah Research Library (RMRL), Chennai.

Below: The machine that photographs documents and book pages at high speed.





## Art Studio: exploring spaces between art and science

The art studio is a space for the students to explore various materials and processes involved in art making – both 2D, 3D and multimedia. These could include drawing and sketching, working with clay and plaster, glass slumping and fusing, collages, printmaking, murals, paper and metal/bamboo sculptures and installation art. We have experimented with glass molding, chemical dying, and bronze casting using the lost-wax process. Through art they experiment with the light, sound, colors, space, form and texture.



"Worm Hole" by Kuldeep Tomar







"Portrait of Allen Turing" by Mayank Mishra



"Chirality" by Indu Verma



"Fibonacci Numbers" by Meenakshi Bagadia



## Language Lab

The software based English Language Lab at IISER Mohali has as its objective the refinement of the student's language skills necessary for effective communication. Currently housed in the Informatics Centre, our Language Lab can accommodate 60 students and has a master console for the instructor. Language Labs are primarily teacher-controlled system connected to a number of student booths equipped with headsets with microphones. Our English Language Lab offers a platform to students to help improve their reading skills, writing techniques, spoken language and listening comprehension.





### **Courses offered by the Department of HSS**

HSS101A: Language skills A  
HSS101B: Language skills B  
HSS102: History of Science  
HSS202: Philosophy of Science  
HSS301: Construction of identity and knowledge  
HSS302: Concepts of space and time in the humanities a  
HSS304: Visual art: Studio practice and theory  
HSS402: Introduction to linguistics  
HSS601: Identity, power and place  
HSS602: Social theory: Concepts and debates  
HSS603: Advanced qualitative research design and methods  
HSS611: Literary appreciation  
HSS612: The idea of evolution: Before and after Darwin  
HSS613: The social history of science in modern India, 1780-1950  
HSS614: Women's history of science  
HSS615: Introduction to archeology with special reference to  
the Indian subcontinent  
HSS616: Bones, stones & chromosomes: The story of our evolution  
HSS617: From Plassey to partition: A history of modern India  
HSS618: India from prehistory to early history  
HSS619: Ancient Greek Theatre: Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides  
HSS620: Imagining India: An intellectual history of orientalism  
HSS621: Intellectual and cultural sources of modernity  
HSS622: Cities: Urban theory and laboratory  
HSS623: Bodily encounters: Mobility, migrancy and movement  
HSS624: Understanding Cultures: Past and present using fieldwork,  
laboratory and archives  
HSS625: The Archaeology of Ancient Technologies  
HSS626: Economic History of Modern India  
HSS627: The idea of India: Intellectual Imaginary of Nation  
HSS631: Epistemology and logic  
HSS632: Philosophy of rationality  
HSS635: Political Philosophy



