

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

Emerging Geographies of Youth in Post-Liberalisation India: Education, Work, and Everyday Life

DAY 1: Thursday, March 12, 2026 | Room 113, School of Arts and Sciences, Ahmedabad University

9:30 - 9:45 AM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:45 - 11:15 AM

Panel 1: Youth, Unemployment, and Precarity

Manisha Priyam (NIEPA, New Delhi and Monash University)

Between Hope and Stigma: Youth "scapes" of Unemployment in North India

Avishek Jha (Independent Scholar)

In the meanwhile: Youth unemployment, temporal fixes, and 'preparation' as protracted liability in India

Suchismita Chattopadhyay (BML Munjal University)

Future as an Artefact: Lessons from Time Management and Youth Precarity

Chair: Shruti Tambe, Savitribai Phule Pune University

11:15 - 11:30 AM

Tea Break

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Panel 2: Youth, Community, and Social Mobility

Savitha Suresh Babu (Samvada)

Demanding care carefully: unpacking the politics of young women on the social margins

Mona G. Mehta (Ahmedabad University)

Competitive Solidarities: Youth, Urban Caste Networks and Aspirations in post-liberalisation India

Dyotana Banerjee (Krea University)

Statues, stickers and social media: Rebranding of caste-history and neighbourhood by Bihola youth in peri-urban Gujarat

Chair: Leya Mathew (Ahmedabad University)

1:00 - 2:00 PM

Lunch

Location: The Gulmohar, University Centre, Ahmedabad University

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2:00 - 3:30 PM

Panel 3: Youth, Education, and Work

Aashti Salman (Azim Premji University)

Barriers and Pathways: Exploring Social Mobility of Muslim Youth in Delhi

Leya Mathew (Ahmedabad University)

Factories and labs: The feminisation of graduate pharma employment at a premier college in western India

Lynrah Balawansuk (University of Tokyo)

'Graduation is the most important thing because people will ask me how much you studied': Young people's desires and the political economy of being

Chair: Navdeep Mathur (IIM Ahmedabad)

3:30 - 3:45 PM

Tea Break

4:00 - 5:30 PM

Roundtable Discussion: Future of Research on Youth and Neoliberalism in India

Navdeep Mathur (IIM Ahmedabad)

Shruti Tambe (Savitribai Phule University)

Manisha Priyam (NIEPA, New Delhi)

Neelanjan Sircar (Ahmedabad University)

Sudeep Chakravarti (Ahmedabad University)

Chair: Manisha Priyam (NIEPA, New Delhi)

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Dinner

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9:45 - 11:15 AM

Panel 4: Fluid Geographies of Education

Avinash Ediga (Krea University)

'Sacred' Education and 'Profane' Money: Demarcated Masculinities among Young Men in an Indian College Town

Isabel Salovaara (Stanford University)

The Charisma of Coaching: "Big Men" and Exam Preparation in Bihar

Renu Singh (Independent Researcher)

Gendered Temporalities and the Everyday Lives of College Women Students

Chair: Manisha Priyam (NIEPA, New Delhi and Monash University, Australia)

11:15 - 11:30 AM

Tea Break

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Panel 5: Subaltern Youth and Everyday Agency

Rashmi Kumari (Mahindra University)

Shuttling between school, home and work: Geographies of Recognition, Reproduction, and Refusal

Nilanjana Sen (Independent Scholar)

Bodies, Belonging, and Experimental Ethical Selfhood: Voluntary Blood Donation Among Young Men in Shimla

Chair: Mona G. Mehta (Ahmedabad University)

1:00 - 2:00 PM

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2:00 - 3:30 PM

Panel 6: Youth Cultures and Neoliberal Spaces

Pratyay Malakar and Riju Banerjee (Ambedkar University and Independent Researcher)
Navigating Queer Youthhood, Identity and Politics of Space in Delhi NCR

Ridhima Garg (Ambedkar University)
'Sone se pehle phone chalati hun': everyday digital life of rural youth

Sarojini Sapru (University College London)
Youth World Making and Delhi's Hip hop scenes

Chair: MaryAnn Chacko (Ahmedabad University)

3:30 - 3:45 PM

Tea Break

3:45 - 4:45 PM

Youth voices on the future of work and education in India

Chair: Yamini Aggarwal (Max Weber Foundation)

4:45 - 5:00 PM

Closing Remarks