

**Fifth International Conference on the Unfinished Legacy of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
Dalits in Global Context: Rethinking Gender and Religion
October 24 - 26, 2019**

India China Institute, The New School in partnership with the Global Collaborators:

Brandeis University, Barnard College, Columbia University, UMass Amherst, The Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, Samata Foundation, University of Cincinnati, The International Ambedkar Mission, the Boston Study Group, Julien Studley Graduate Programs in International Affairs and Global Studies, The New School

DAY 1: Thursday, October 24 – Theresa Lang Auditorium, 55 West 13th Street, 2nd floor

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Check-in and Registration

5:00pm – 7:30pm: **Opening Session**

- ❖ **Welcome Remarks from Conference Collaborators** (30 minutes)
 - Ashok Gurung – *Senior Director, India China Institute, The New School*
 - M. Bryna Sanger – *Deputy Provost, Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, New School (TBC)*
 - Laurence Simon – *Professor, Brandeis University*
 - Sukhadeo Thorat – *Professor Emeritus, Economics/Political Economy, JNU; Chairman, Indian Institute of Dalit Studies*
 - Anupama Rao – *Associate Professor, History and MESAAS, Columbia University*
 - Shailaja Paik – *Associate Professor, History, University of Cincinnati*
 - Pradip Pariyar – *Executive Chairperson, Samata Foundation*
 - Toby Volkman - *Director of Policy Initiatives, Secretary, Henry Luce Foundation*

- ❖ **“Caste in America”** – Ken Cooper, *Senior Editor, Pulitzer Prize winner, WGBH News (Boston’s Nation Public Radio station)* (30 minutes)

- ❖ **“Synthesis from the Caste Survey in America”** Thenmozhi Soundararajan, *Equality Labs* (10 minutes)

- ❖ **A Town-Hall Conversation: Dalits in Global Context** (60 minutes)

- ❖ 6:30 pm onwards: Reception & Dinner

DAY 2: Friday, October 25

8:30 am – 9:30 am: Registration – Starr Foundation Hall, UL102, 63 Fifth Ave.

9:30 am – 11:00 am: **Plenary Session: Democracy & Social Justice: John Dewey & B. R. Ambedkar** –
Starr Foundation Hall, UL102, 63 Fifth Ave.

Chair:

Gauri Viswanathan – *Class of 1933 Professor in the Humanities; Director, South Asia Institute, Columbia University*

Panelists:

- Suraj Yengde – *Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard University*
Unepistemological entrée: Ambedkar's philosophism in Deweyan turn of Emerson
- Sukhadeo Thorat – *Professor Emeritus, Economics/Political Economy, JNU; Chairman, Indian Institute of Dalit Studies*
Society, Democracy, and Nation: Enrichment of Ideas by John Dewey and B.R. Ambedkar
- Anupama Rao – *Associate Professor, History and MESAAS, Columbia University*
Ambedkar in America: the interwar as a problem for thought
- Scott R. Stroud – *Associate Professor, Communication Studies, University of Texas at Austin*
Bhimrao Ambedkar, John Dewey, and the Story of Pragmatism in India

11:00 am – 11:15 am: Coffee/Tea Break

11:15 am – 1:15 pm: **Parallel Panel Sessions (1)**

(1a) Religions, Conversions, Gender – Starr Foundation Hall, UL102, 63 Fifth Ave.

Chair: Kancha Ilaiah Shepherd – *Professor, Director of Center for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, Maulana Azad National Urdu University*

Panelists:

- Laura Dudley Jenkins – *Professor, Political Science, University of Cincinnati*
Leaps of Faith: Ambedkarite Buddhist Accounts of Conversion and Freedom
- Narender Kumar – *Professor, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University*
Intersection of Caste and Religion: An Inquiry into Sikhism and Christianity
- Hira Singh & M.A. Kalam – *Professors at York University and Krea University*
Caste and Hinduism: The Twin Myths
- Thomas Crowley – *PhD candidate, Geography, Rutgers University*
Pilgrimage, Festival, Revolution: Neo-Buddhist Productions of Space Religion & Gender

Discussants:

- Sunaina Arya – *PhD Candidate, Jawaharlal Nehru University*
- Deepak Kumar – *Professor, Sociology, Punjabi University*
- Balmurli Natrajan – *Professor, Anthropology, William Patterson University*

(1b) **Dalit Women: Caste and Gender Panel 1** – Klein Room (A510), 66 W 12th Street

Chair: Anupama Rao – *Associate Professor, History and MESAAS, Columbia University*

Panelists:

- Swati Kamble – *PhD candidate, Socioeconomics, University of Geneva*
Dalit women's activism and influence on the policy process in Maharashtra
- Anurag Bhaskar – *Lawyer, LLM graduate, Harvard Law School*
Two Segregations of Caste and Gender: Examining the Social Justice Agenda for Dalit Women in Contemporary Perspective
- Minal Sangole – *PhD candidate, Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences*
Understanding Masculinities and Femininities among the Dalits : Experiences of Dalit Women from the Siddhartha college of Arts, Science and Commerce, Mumbai.
- Komal Rajak – *PhD candidate, Political Science, University of Delhi*
Researching Intersectionality in India: Examining Hindu Code Bill as a mechanism of Annihilating Caste

Discussants:

- Jyoti Diwakar – *PhD candidate, Political Science, Delhi University*
- Amresh Dubey – *Professor, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, JNU*
- Mohammed A. Kalam, *Professor, Krea University*

(1c) **Feminism and Caste Questions** – Wollman Hall (B500), 65 W 11th Street

Chair: Manjari Mahajan – *Associate Professor, International Affairs; Co-Director, India China Institute, The New School*

Panelists:

- Roopali Rokade – *PhD candidate, Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, York University*
Dalit Feminist Standpoint Theory and the (Im)possibilities of Feminist Coalitions in India
- Prashant Ingole – *PhD candidate, Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology*
Intersecting Dalit and Cultural Studies: De-Brahmanizing the Theoretical Space
- Kalyani K – *PhD candidate, Centre for Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University*
Tathagata Buddha songs: Buddhism as religion and cultural-resistance among Dalit women singers of Uttar Pradesh
- Aparna Vyas – *PhD Candidate, Psychology, Jawaharlal Nehru University*
Theorizing Dalit Resistance: Dalit Writing as a Cultural-Historical Activity

Discussants:

- Palashi Vaghela, PhD Candidate, Cornell University
- Thenmozhi Soundararajan, *Founding Director, Equality Labs*
- Amit Thorat – *Assistant Professor, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, JNU*

(1d) Dalit Women: Caste and Gender Panel 2 – Wolff Conference Room (D1103), 6 E 16th Street

Chair: Lucinda Ramberg – *Associate Professor, Anthropology and Feminist, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, Cornell University.*

Panelists:

- Maya K S – PhD candidate, *Social Science, University of Calicut*
Making social space: Exploring the contributions of Dalit feminist stream in Kerala
- Kalpana B K – *Legal Officer; LLM graduate, Tribhuvan University*
Everyday Lives of Dalit Women and Girls: In pursuit of social justice by fighting against multiple discrimination
- Amritha Mohankumar – *M.Phil., Women's Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences*
Caste, Race, and Gender: The Narratives of Black and Dalit Women Experiences Against Subjugation (via SKYPE)
- Tanvi Yadav – *PhD candidate, Public Policy, Law and Governance, Central University of Rajasthan*
Witch Hunting: A Form of Violence against Dalit Women in India

Discussants:

- *Jeremy Rinker – Assistant Professor, Peace and Conflict Studies, UNC Greensboro*
- *Sarita Pariyar – Writer & Activist, Samata Foundation*
- *Rupali Bansode – PhD candidate, Sociology, Indian Institute of Technology*

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm: Lunch/Free time

2:30 pm – 4:30 pm: **Parallel Panel Sessions (2)**

(2a) Legacies of Ambedkar – Starr Foundation Hall (UL102), 63 Fifth Ave.

Chair: Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak – *University Professor in the Humanities, Columbia University*

Panelists:

- Poonam Singh – *Assistant Professor, English, Satyawati College, University of Delhi*
The Pragmatic Vision of Ambedkar: Re-configuring the Caste and Gender in the Early Twentieth Century India
- Sunaina Arya – *PhD candidate, Philosophy, Jawaharlal Nehru University*
Indian Feminism vs Dalit Feminism
- Ujjwal Prasai – *Assistant Professor, Institute for Advanced Communication, Education and Research*
Absent Ambedkar: A Review of Nepal's Early Modern Political Discourse Led by Hindu Male Elites
- Jeremy A. Rinker – *Assistant Professor, Peace and Conflict Studies, University of North Carolina, Greensboro*
Making Discursive Change Platforms from the Periphery: Ambedkar Social Movements and the Role of Narrative in Resistance to Injustice

Discussants:

- Aparna Vyas – *PhD candidate, Psychology, Jawaharlal Nehru University*
- Purna Bahadur Nepali – *Associate Professor, Public Policy and Governance, Kathmandu University*
- Maari Zwick-Maitreyi. *Research Director, Equality Labs and co-founder of Bahujanpedia*
- Sukhadeo Thorat – *Professor Emeritus, Economics/Political Economy, JNU; Chairman, Indian Institute of Dalit Studies*

(2b) Politics of Caste and Intimacy - Wolff Conference Room (D1103), 6 E 16th Street

Chair: Mark Frazier – *Professor, Politics; Co-Director, India China Institute, The New School*

Panelists:

- Aruna Daya – *PhD candidate, Hindi, Jamia Millia Islamia*
Dalit Women Have Often Spoken Out: Intimacy and Biopolitics of Caste and Sub-caste narratives
- Amar B K – *PhD candidate, Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh*
"I Can Now Speak": Gender, Religion, and the Construction of Dalit Women's Voice
- Mustafa Khan – *PhD candidate, Social Anthropology, University of London*
We are Dalit, but we are Pakistani too: The Dalit Sujhaaj Tehrik and the Politics of Dalit Mobilization in Pakistan
- Svati P. Shah – *Associate Professor, Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies, UMass Amherst*
Caste Capitalism, Sexuality Politics and Stigma in India: Producing Inequality Through Public Space

Discussants:

- Swati Kamble – *PhD candidate, Socioeconomics, University of Geneva*
- Luna Ranjit – *Writer, former Founding Director of Adhikaar*
- Vinod K. Mishra – *Assistant Professor, Population Studies, Indian Institute of Dalit Studies*

(2c) Caste, Religions, Gender - Wollman Hall (B500), 65 W 11th Street

Chair: Laura Dudley Jenkins – *Professor, Political Science, University of Cincinnati (tbc)*

Panelists:

- Kristina Garalytė – *Assistant Professor, South Asia Anthropology, Vilnius University*
Ambedkarite Conversions on Indian University Campuses
- Bharathi Prabhu – *PhD Candidate, Buddhism, Madras Christian College*
Buddhism & Hinduism: Contrasting Ideologies
- Deepak Kumar – *Professor, Sociology, Punjabi University*
Unraveling the Caste-Gender-Religion Conundrum in Contemporary Punjab: Revisiting
- Tushar Ghadage – *PhD candidate, Caste, Religion and Conversion, University of Hyderabad*
Ambedkar Ambedkarites in Making: The Process of Awakening and Conversion to Buddhism among Non-Mahar Communities in Maharashtra

Discussants:

- Prashant Ingole – *PhD candidate, Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology*
- Hira Singh – *Professor, Sociology, York University*

- Vivek Narayan – *PhD candidate, Theatre and Performance Studies, Stanford University*

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm: **Honoring Emerging Scholars & Celebrating New Works** – Starr Foundation Hall, UL102, 63 Fifth Avenue

- Bluestone Rising Scholar Prize, Brandeis University & Boston Study Group
- Meet & Celebrate authors published in 2019 working on caste issues

7:00 pm: Conference Dinner (sponsored by The Boston Study Group)

DAY 3: Saturday October 26

9:30 am – 11:00 am: **Plenary Session #2: Gender & Religion: Dalits in Global Context** - Starr Foundation Hall (UL102), 63 Fifth Ave.

Chair:

Dina Siddiqi – *Clinical Associate Professor, Liberal Studies, New York University*

Panelists:

- Sarita Pariyar – *Writer and Activist, Nepal*
Caste: Unimaginable Polluting Force
- Lucinda Ramberg – *Associate Professor, Anthropology and Feminist, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, Cornell University.*
Goddesses Talk Back: Ancestral Religion as Caste Critique
- Shailaja Paik – *Associate Professor, History, University of Cincinnati*
Ambedkar and the ‘Prostitute’
- Kancha Ilaiah Shepherd – *Professor, Director of Center for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, Maulana Azad National Urdu University*
Denying Gender Justice in the Spiritual Domain

11:00 am – 11:15 am: Coffee/Tea Break

11:15 am - 1:15 pm: **Parallel Panel Sessions**

(3a) **Divergent Assertions: Dalit Futures** - Starr Foundation Hall (UL102), 63 Fifth Ave.

Chair: Balmurli Natrajan – *Professor, Anthropology, William Patterson University*

Panelists:

- Jyoti Diwakar – *PhD candidate, Political Science, Delhi University*
Engaging with Gender Biased Violence against Dalit Women: A Quotidian Phenomena
- Akhil Kang – *PhD candidate, Sociocultural Anthropology, Cornell University*
Azad’s Mooch, Mewani’s Scarf & Mayawati’s Purse: Limits of Dalit Heteronormativity
- Suman Damera – *PhD candidate, Political Science, University of Hyderabad*
Dalit Assertion and Victimization: Changing Dynamics of Caste Violence in

Andhra Pradesh, South India

- Mohan Kumar - *PhD Candidate Tata Institute of Social Sciences (via Skype)*
Caste-based discrimination practices on displaced Dalit and *Adivasi* women: "gendered" discussions from the case study in Rayagada district, Odisha
- Maari Zwick-Maitreyi. *Research Director, Equality Labs and co-founder of Bahujanpedia*
New Direction in Dismantling Brahminical Epistemic Violence in South Asian Historiography

Discussants:

- Kalyani K – *PhD candidate, Centre for Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University*
- Bharathi Prabhu – *PhD Candidate, Buddhism, Madras Christian College*
- Narender Kumar – *Professor, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University*
- Biju Mathew – *Associate Professor, Information Systems, Analytics and Supply Chain Management, Rider University*

(3b) **Caste, Education, Social Change** - D1103, Wolff Room, 6 East 16th Street

Chair: Sangeeta Kamat – *Professor, Comparative Education and Development, UMass Amherst*

Panelists:

- Vijay Shivram Khare – *Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Savitribai Phule Pune University*
 - Internationalization of Higher Education: Gender & Caste Discrimination and Religious Hegemony in the Context of India
- Vinod K Mishra – *Assistant Professor, Population Studies, Indian Institute of Dalit Studies*
 - Caste, Religion and Ethnicity: Role of Social Determinants in Accessing Rental housing, IIDS, Delhi
- R. Limbadri – *Professor, Public Administration, Osmania University*
 - Analyzing Gender Equity in Higher Education with a Focus on Dalits
- Chandra Sekhar, *PhD Candidate, The English & Foreign Languages University (via Skype)*
Dalits Conversion Movements: Spiritual Awakening or Social Improvement

Discussants:

- Poonam Singh – *Assistant Professor, English, Satyawati College, University of Delhi*
- Kalpana B K – *Legal Officer; LLM graduate, Tribhuvan University*
- Christina Dhanaraj – *Consultant and Advisor for Smashboard*

(3c) **Caste Violence** – Kellen Auditorium, 66 Fifth Ave.

Chair: Shailaja Paik – *Associate Professor, History, University of Cincinnati*

Panelists:

- Palashi Vaghela, *PhD Candidate, Cornell University*
Supanakha Studying Up, Across and Sideways
- Gautam Kamble – *Associate Professor, Economics, Dr. Ambedkar College, Nagpur*
Analytical Study of the converted Buddhist Women's progress in the Nagpur City with Special Reference to Gender Equality"

- Gaurav Pathania – *Adjunct Professor, Sociology, George Washington University*
Saraswati vs. Savitribai: Dehistoricizing Gender, Caste and Religious Intersectionalities in Indian Academia
- Raya Steir, *Legal Director, Equality Labs*
#MeTooIndia and #LOSHA: Dalit Bahujan Feminist Narratives

Discussants:

- Aruna Daya – *PhD candidate, Hindi, Jamia Millia Islamia*
- Amar B K – *PhD candidate, Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh*
- Yashica Dutt – *Author, New York City*

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm: Lunch

Parallel Panel Sessions (2:30 – 4:30):

(4a) **Belonging, Trauma, and Transformation** - Starr Foundation Hall (UL102), 63 Fifth Ave.

Chair: Scott R. Stroud – *Associate Professor, Communication Studies, University of Texas at Austin*

Panelists:

- Christina Dhanaraj – *Consultant and Advisor for Smashboard*
Dalit Women and the Fullness of Life
- K M Kamble – *Professor, Radiation & Oncology, Government Medical College, Nagpur*
Conversion to Buddhism: Path of Social Transformation
- Sakya Mohan – *Clinical Psychologist, Cognitive Behavioral Services, Philadelphia*
Uncovering the trauma of casteism in India
- Dadasaheb Tandale – *PhD candidate, Global Exclusion and Social Development, UMass Boston*
De-Casteing Manual Scavenging through Social Innovation

Discussants:

- Roopali Rokade – *PhD candidate, Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, York University*
- Suraj Yengde – *Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard University*
- Minal Sangole – *PhD candidate, Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences*

(4b) **Slavery, Conversion, Genealogy** – D1103, Wolff Room, 6 East 16th Street

Chair: Laurence Simon – *Professor, International Development; Director, Center for Global Development and Sustainability, Brandeis University*

Panelists:

- Vivek Narayan – *PhD candidate, Theatre and Performance Studies, Stanford University*
Performative egalitarianisms and genealogy of the human in mid-nineteenth century Travancore, South India
- Niraj Ganesh Bodhi – *Honorary Director, Dr. Ambedkar Chair, Rashtrashant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University*
Religion Conversion: Persistence of Caste

- Richard Frasca – *Professor, South Asian Studies; Founder, Tamil Language Program, Harvard University*
Subversive Theatre and Dispersive Funding: Translating Pre-modern Tamil Dalit Literature in Modern Academia
- Amaresh Dubey – *Professor, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, JNU*
Poverty: Gender and Religious Inter-Sectionality

Discussants:

- Akhil Kang – *PhD candidate, Sociocultural Anthropology, Cornell University*
- Kristina Garalytė – *Assistant Professor, South Asia Anthropology, Vilnius University*
- Ujjwal Prasai – *Assistant Professor, Institute for Advanced Communication, Education and Research*

(4c) **Caste and Gender Discrimination** – N101, Kellen Auditorium, 66 Fifth Avenue

Chair: Vamsicharan Vakulabharnam – *Associate Professor, Economics, UMass Amherst*

Panelists:

- Rupali Bansode – *PhD candidate, Sociology, Indian Institute of Technology*
Dalits as Witnesses of Atrocity Case: Their locations and Vulnerabilities
- Purna Bahadur Nepali – *Associate Professor, Public Policy and Governance, Kathmandu University*
Transdisciplinary and Comparative Analysis of Caste-Race: Expanding Thoughts of Bhim Rao (B.R.) Ambedkar and William Edward Burghardt (W.E.B.) DuBois for Regional Solidarity
- Amit Thorat – *Assistant Professor, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, JNU*
Prejudice: Intersecting Gender, Caste and Religious beliefs
- Jaspreet Mahal – *Program Administrator, Brandeis University*
Devadasi system: Strategic Plan for Social Change Process

Discussants:

- Maya K S – *PhD candidate, Social Science, University of Calicut*
- Anurag Bhaskar – *Lawyer, LLM graduate, Harvard Law School*
- Tanvi Yadav – *PhD candidate, Central University of Rajasthan*

4:30 pm – 4:50 pm: Coffee/Tea

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm: **Closing Town Hall: Imagination, Knowledge & Caste Questions** – Starr Foundation Hall (UL102), 63 Fifth Ave.

Moderator: Ashok Gurung – *Senior Director, India China Institute, The New School*

- Sukhadeo Thorat – *Professor Emeritus, Economics/Political Economy, JNU; Chairman, Indian Institute of Dalit Studies*
- Anupama Rao – *Associate Professor, History and MESAAS, Columbia University*
- Shailaja Paik – *Associate Professor, History, University of Cincinnati*
- Laurence Simon - *Professor, International Development; Director, Center for Global Development and Sustainability, Brandeis University*
- Pradip Pariyar – *Executive Chairperson, Samata Foundation*
- Maari Zwick-Maitreyi. *Research Director, Equality Labs and co-founder of Bahujanpedia*

6:30 pm – 7:00 pm: **Closing Remarks: Reflections and Looking Ahead – Dalits in Global Context** - Starr Foundation Hall (UL102), 63 Fifth Ave.

- Ashok Gurung & Laurence Simon

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm – Dinner at the University Center Event Café (downstairs), 63rd Fifth Ave – sponsored by the **International Ambedkar Mission**