



IMS UNISON
UNIVERSITY

Nurturing Knowledge. Empowering Minds.

**The School of Liberal Arts
of**

IMS Unison University invites papers for a

National Conference

on

**Social Sciences in the 21st Century: A Dialogic
Mode of Understanding Human Experiences**

MARCH 22, 2025

Organized by

School of Liberal Arts

IMS Unison University, Dehradun

ABOUT IMS UNISON UNIVERSITY

IMS Unison University (IUU), an institute of eminence, was established in 1996. With a legacy spanning over 25 years, we are a premier institute in Dehradun that houses six leading schools. Together, the schools contribute to teaching and research training activities along with numerous specializations and interdisciplinary research programs. The University is proud to deliver undergraduate, postgraduate and Ph.D. programs that are recognized globally. The flexible curriculum offers a wide array of learning opportunities in a proper learning environment, and this is a hallmark of the University. IMS Unison University located in the valley of picturesque, beautiful mountains in Dehradun, the capital city of the State of Uttarakhand in India, offers an environment fostering learning and creativity. Established under the visionary leadership of the Unison group in the year 1996 as Institute of Management Studies, the growing excellence in management education led to the evolution of the Institute into a leading private university in the year 2013. The University presently offers Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Doctorate in several programs under the following schools

- School of Mass Communication
- School of Management
- School of Law
- School of Hospitality Management
- School of Liberal Arts
- School of Computer Applications



The School of Liberal Arts

The School of Liberal Arts (SoLA) was started in the year 2018. It offers programs in English, Psychology, Economics, History, Political Science and Sociology. Our expert faculty provides a conducive environment for the students to grow to the best of their capability. Thanks to broad-based education pedagogy, students graduating from the Liberal Arts programs at IUU will have a variety of career options not typically available to their counterparts at more traditional Indian universities. Our aim is to excel in teaching, research, and service. We strive to engage students with an array of subjects, both within global and Indian contexts. Our teaching mission is to motivate students toward a thorough and informed critical study of humanities and social sciences. We focus on fostering connections between reading and writing practices.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Prof. Mary E. John

Former Professor and Director, Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi

PLENARY SPEAKERS



Prof. Ajay Dandekar

Director, School of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Shiv Nadar University



Prof. Rajneesh Arora

Director, The English and Foreign
Languages University, Regional Campus, Lucknow



Prof. Pampa Mukherjee

Lala Lajpat Rai Chair Professor and
Chairperson, Department of Political
Science, Panjab University



Dr. Manish Kumar Asthana

Associate Professor, Humanities & Social Sciences
IIT, Roorkee

Concept note

Meaning making is a dynamic, participatory, and inherently creative process that forms the core of human experience. It transcends the passive reception of information and emerges from active interactions within the world and with others. Drawing inspiration from Erving Goffman's concept of "interaction rituals," this conference explores how shared meanings are continually negotiated, norms are established, and social bonds are reinforced through structured, often subconscious engagements.

Despite its foundational role in human life, meaning-making has increasingly been constrained by rigid disciplinary boundaries, positivist traditions, and monopolization by economic or academic elites. These constraints, described by Michel Foucault as discursive constraints, regulate and limit our freedom to think, act, and imagine beyond established norms. As a result, social realities, rather than being co-created, are often imposed, alienating those excluded from these processes.

This conference seeks to interrogate these constraints and advocate for a renewal of the lost sensibilities of meaning-making traditions, particularly as envisioned in the liberal arts. Rooted in the classical trivium of grammar (sense-making), logic (sequencing), and rhetoric (presentation), and the quadrivium of arithmetic, geometry, music, and cosmology, the liberal arts represent a holistic framework for nurturing intellect, creativity, and subjectivity. By reclaiming this ethos, we can challenge entrenched disciplinary rigidity and foster inclusive, collaborative, and dialogical approaches to understanding.

Objectives

- To examine meaning-making as an active, participatory, and creative process shaped by interaction rituals and shared experiences.
- To explore the role of liberal arts traditions in fostering intellectual agility, creativity, and critical engagement.
- To critique the discursive constraints that limit interdisciplinary dialogue and perpetuate inequities in the production of knowledge.
- To propose frameworks for reviving inclusive and dynamic approaches to meaning-making across disciplines and social contexts.
- To strengthen research from Liberal Arts perspective of Social Sciences and Humanities

Themes

We invite scholarly papers and creative contributions addressing (but not limited to) the following themes:

- Interaction Rituals and Meaning-Making: Exploring Goffman's theories in contemporary contexts
- Discursive Constraints and Subjectivity: Critiques of Foucault's ideas in relation to knowledge production
- The Liberal Arts and the Art of Life: Historical and contemporary perspectives on the trivium and quadrivium
- Positivism and Its Discontents: Examining the impact of positivist traditions on social sciences, humanities, and knowledge production
- Democratizing Knowledge: Approaches to inclusive and participatory sense-making processes
- Beyond Disciplinary Silos: Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary frameworks for intellectual inquiry
- Rhetoric, Power, and Freedom: The relationship between rhetoric, governance, and the promise of liberty
- Reclaiming Creative Freedom: Strategies for dismantling rigid academic and policy frameworks

Discipline-wise Themes

We also invite scholarly papers and creative contributions addressing (but not limited to) the following themes pertaining to disciplinary interests:

Beyond Narratives –Critical Imagination

- Reimagining literary studies as a tool for exploring identity, subjectivity, and cultural transformation
- Humanist and post-humanist perspectives in contemporary literary theory
- The role of dialogical engagement in fostering interpretive pluralism and creativity in literature
- Digital Humanities and AI-assisted textual analysis

New Paradigm of Economic Inclusion

- Challenging economic determinism through critical education
- The impact of dialogical education on alternative models of economic development
- Heterodox economics

Politics as a Force for Democratic Renewal

- Reimagining politics for critical citizenship and democratic engagement
- Negotiated grassroots politics
- Fostering deliberative democracy and global citizenship
- Precarious spaces and vulnerable people

Social Transformation

- Discussions on methodological innovations towards disrupting historical constraints and systemic inequalities
- Dialogical understanding on the sociology of marginality
- Social mobility in the age of artificial intelligence
- Exploring the foundation of the Indian Knowledge System toward swatantrata

Rethinking Histories Through Transformative Education

- Deconstructing historical narratives and power structures
- Civilizational dialectics: reimagining history through dialogical and inclusive learning
- Post-humanist approaches to understanding historical momentum and future potential
- Genealogical approach to history

Cognitive and Emotional Liberation

- Fostering autonomy and dialogical subjectivity
- Psychological dimensions of transcending conditioning through transformative learning
- Integrating cultural and individual psychologies for societal progress
- Ecopsychology for sustainable communities

Call for Papers

This National Conference on *Social Sciences in the 21st Century: A Dialogic Mode of Understanding Human Experiences* keeping to the ethos of Liberal Arts aims to foster discussions that rise above the categories of epistemological specialties and proclivities. It will posit liberal arts beyond the pale of individual social sciences, confirming real possibilities of interdisciplinarity, and invite solutions to both long-standing as well as present-day issues from researchers, academicians, practitioners and students. Plenary speakers from distinguished academic and research backgrounds shall grace the occasion.

Abstract Submission Guidelines

- The following points may be noted for abstract submissions:
- Abstracts of not more than 300 words relevant to the broader theme as described should be sent to the organizing committee on the following email: **conferencesola@iuu.ac**
- The abstract must include the title of the paper being presented and a very short bio (one or two lines) consisting of the name and affiliations of the sender. The bio will not be included in the abstract word count.
- The deadline for sending abstracts is 21st February, 2025.
- Paper presenters shall be duly notified about the acceptance of their abstracts with the link for registration by the organizers.

Registration for the Conference

All participants and paper presenters must register for the conference. Please note that the acceptance of the abstract is tentative, and only those who have registered and paid the conference registration fee will be allowed to present.

Please refer to the following details:

Registration Fees:

Research Scholars/ Postgraduate Students	₹1000
Faculty	₹1500

*Inclusive of lunch and conference kit

Publication

Selected papers will be published in an edited book by a reputed publisher with ISBN Number. If selected, full papers must reach the conference organizers on the given email address by 5th March, 2025. Only papers received by the deadline will be considered for publication.

Important Dates

- Last date of Abstract Submission: 21st February, 2025
- Last date of Full Paper Submission: 5th March, 2025
- Last date of Payment: 10th March, 2025
- Date of the Conference: 22nd March, 2025

Bank Account details of the university for registration fee payment :

Account Name	:	IMS Unison University
Account No.	:	02251450000456
Bank Name	:	HDFC Bank Ltd.
IFS Code	:	HDFC0000225
Branch	:	Rajpur Road, Dehradun

Some Important Points:

- ◆ The conference schedule, including the list of session chairs and the keynote speaker, will be shared with participants following the completion of registration.
- ◆ The payment method will only be shared with people whose abstract has been accepted.
- ◆ Please note that this conference will be conducted both in online mode as well as in person.
- ◆ As it is a one-day conference, accommodation will not be provided during your conference visit to IUU. A complimentary lunch will be arranged for all participants.
- ◆ The best paper at the conference, as determined by the recommendations of the session chairs and experts will be rewarded. In case the paper is co-authored, the award will be equally divided between the authors.

PATRONS



Shri Amit Agarwal
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Faculty
School of Liberal Arts



Ms. Treenasri Ghosh
Faculty
School of Liberal Arts

For Further Queries:

+91-9910124117, +91-7633013303, +91-8585945562

conferencesola@iuu.ac