The Centre for Contemporary Studies, a relatively new experiment at the Institute, endeavours to bring to the campus some of the best practitioners of different disciplines in the human sciences, such as philosophy, sociology, economics, law, literature, poetry, art, music, cinema etc. These scholars, drawn from all over the world, visit and lecture at the Institute and some are in residence for periods ranging from a few days to several months. The students, faculty and staff of the Institute, as well as a number of people from other institutes in Bangalore, attend these lectures. The aim of this experiment is to forge a useful and meaningful interaction between the natural sciences and human sciences with a special focus on understanding the diverse research methodologies of different disciplines and creating opportunities to rethink the foundations of our own disciplines. Often, the opportunity to criticise the methodological foundation of another discipline leads to a re-examination of the foundation of one's own discipline. In addition to such one-off lectures, the Centre offers (presently, once in two years), a one-semester course entitled "The Production of Knowledge - A comparison of Natural and Social Sciences". The Centre is housed in the erstwhile TIFR-Mathematics building. The next edition of this course will be offered during Aug - Dec 2010.

This brochure provides a select sample of our visitors, lectures and other activities
Knowledge Production in the Clinic

by

Prof. Ian Parker
Professor of Psychology and Co-Director, Discourse Unit, Manchester Metropolitan University.

Monday, 9th March 2009, 4.00 p.m, CCS Seminar Hall, IISc.

This talk tried to explore the concept of transference as self-knowledge and as knowledge of others in psychoanalysis - a branch of the mental health sciences, and examines the conditions under which transference is produced in the setting of the mental health clinic.

Democracy's Next Step: Building a Dignitarian Society

by

Prof. Robert W. Fuller
Former President, Oberlin College, USA

Monday, 16th February 2009, CCS Seminar Hall, IISc

The old slogan “Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité” has run its course. Governance that gives primacy to Liberty (USA), Equality (USSR), or Fraternity (Nazi Germany) have either failed to deliver on justice or led to utter catastrophe. In the 21st century, governance that elevates Dignity to primacy can deliver on peace and prosperity. Why? Because Dignity is a stepping stone to justice and without justice there will be no peace and only spotty prosperity. In ‘All Rise’, Fuller traces indignity to rankism—abuse of the power signified by rank—and argues that it damages relationships and institutions. In this talk he showed how we can build dignitarian societies in which office-holders are held accountable, rankism is shunned, and dignity is broadly protected.
Ballet: a Universal Language

by

Prof. Claire Sheridan
Founder and Director of the LEAP Program
Saint Mary's College of California

Wednesday, 11th February 2009, 4.00 p.m, CCS Seminar Hall, IISc.

Claire Sheridan is the founder and core faculty of the LEAP Program at Saint Mary's College. She created and chaired the dance program at Saint Mary's (1977-97) and produced more than 150 dance concerts and musical productions for university and professional theatre. Ms. Sheridan also has extensive international experience as a teacher and choreographer at The St. Petersburg Conservatory and The Academy of Culture (St. Petersburg, Russia), Cambridge University (England), Charles University (Prague), The National Institute of Advanced Studies (India) and at academies and colleges in Japan, Germany, Switzerland, Palestine, Bosnia, and the Ukraine.

How To Link Social and Natural Sciences

by

Prof. Bruno Latour
Professor at Sciences Po, Vice-President for Research, Centre de sociologie des organisations (CSO), Paris.

Friday, 2nd January 2009, 4.00 p.m, CCS Seminar Hall, IISc

Bruno Latour, born in 1947 in Beaune, Burgundy, from a wine grower family, was trained first as a philosopher and then an anthropologist. From 1982 to 2006, he has been professor at the Centre de sociologie de l'Innovation at the Ecole nationale supérieure des mines in Paris and, for various periods, visiting professeur at UCSD, at the London School of Economics and in the history of science department of Harvard University.
Is knowledge production by natural scientists influenced by their political leanings and their world-view?

by

Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar
Professor and JC Bose National Fellow, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science & Chairman, Centre for Contemporary Studies, IISc, Bangalore

Saturday, 20th December, 2008, 2:00 p.m., CCS Seminar Hall, IISc.

In this lecture Prof. Gadagkar took the example of biologists’ attempts to measure and understand genetic differences between different human groups, populations and races. This is a scientific problem that is especially prone to being influenced by the social and political leanings of the scientists involved. The lecture showed how scientists have sometimes been biased in their interpretation of data and this bias has sometimes led to politically incorrect conclusions. But at other times, scientists appear to have been biased in order to arrive at politically correct conclusions.

Table manners in greek vase painting: What is wrong with a hero behaving like a cannibal?

by

Prof. Dr. Luca Giuliani
Rector, Institute for Advanced Study, Berlin, Germany

Tuesday, 4th November 2008, 4.00 p.m, CCS Seminar Hall, IISc.

Luca Giuliani studied Greek and Roman archaeology, social anthropology and Italian literature in Basel and Munich. He received his PhD in Basel in 1975. From 1982 to 1992 he was a curator at the Berliner Antikensammlung. Between 1992 and 1998 he was Professor of Greek and Roman archaeology at the University of Freiburg and from 1998 to 2007 at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitaet Munich. Since April 2007 he has been the Director of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (Institute for Advanced Study) and Professor at the Humboldt-University in Berlin.
Indian hermeneutics

by

Dr. C. Rajendran
Professor, Department of Sanskrit, Calicut University, Kerala

Friday, 24th October 2008, 4.00 p.m, CCS Seminar Hall, IISc.

Hermeneutics as the science of interpretation of texts, is also the logic and semantics of meta-questions about the kinds of text, their constitutive purposes, modes of interpretation connoting the life beyond the text and issues of complex communications, in the Indian tradition. Knowledge systems themselves become an object of scholarly enquiry within Indian hermeneutics. The lecture highlighted the significance of Sanskritic paradigms for understanding meaning across cultures.

Crisis in Theatre

by

Prof. Samik Bandyopadhyay
Editor, Thema, Kolkata
Vice-Chairman, National School of Drama, New Delhi

Thursday, 22 May 2008, 4:00 p.m. CCS Seminar Hall, IISc.

Vice Chairman of National School of Drama and editor of Thema, a publishing house in Calcutta, Samik Bandyopadhyay is well known for his rich contribution to the arena of literature and the performing arts. An MA in English Literature, from Calcutta University, he started his career as lecturer at the departments of English Literature and Drama, Rabindra Bharati University, Calcutta, in 1966. He joined the Oxford University Press, Calcutta, in 1973 and served as Regional Editor, from 1973-1982. He was also Research Professor, at the Asiatic Society in Calcutta. Samik Bandyopadhyay’s association with the world of performing arts has been long and significant. He was nominated Member of the General Council, Sangeet Natak Akademi for two consecutive terms, and Central Board of Film Certification for two terms.
**Cinema: The Logic of the Prosthetic**

by

**Prof. V. Sanil**
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

Friday, 11 April 2008, 11 a.m., Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Jayanagar, Bangalore


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**Speaking with Suffering: The Science / Art of Healing Minds**

by

**Dr. Anup Kumar Dhar**
Centre for Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore

Friday, 5 October 2007, 4:00 p.m. CCS Seminar Hall, IISc.

Taking off from a counter-history of the given understanding of Western Psychiatry, this talk suggested an understanding of Mental Health Science in 'Indian' spaces in terms of 'paradigms' (and not in terms of an 'increasing formalization of knowledge') marked by conflicting, at times, incommensurable philosophies of mind-suffering-care-healing.
The Differences Between Natural and Social Science: 
Implications of Fallibility

by

Mr. George Soros

Friday, 5th January 2007, 4:00 p.m., Faculty Hall, IISc.

George Soros is Chairman of Soros Fund Management, LLC and founder of The Open Society Institute. Mr. Soros is the author of ten books, including 'The Age of Fallibility: Consequences of The War on Terror and most recently 'The Crash of 2008 and What it Means'. In this talk Mr. Soros will explained his disagreement with Karl Popper's doctrine of the unity of method.

A Film: "Diya"

produced by Ms. Judith MacDougall (duration 56 min)

Centre for Cross-Cultural Research
Australian National University
Canberra, Australia

Thursday, 13 July 2006, 6:00 p.m., Department of Physics, Lecture Hall, IISc.

The lives of families who make, sell, and use diyas-small terracotta oil lamps used in Hindu ceremonies-are explored through following the "life history" of the diyas themselves. The film follows a diya through its creation on the potters' wheel and observes the lively social life of an extended family of potters, to the bazaar where it is sold as a commodity, then to a mother and her children performing the Diwali rituals. Finally it is discarded and returned to the earth. This film represents an experimental approach to material culture.

by

Prof. David Shulman
Faculty of Humanities,
Institute of Asian & African Studies
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Tuesday, 4 July, 2006, 4:00 p.m. CCS Seminar Hall, IISc.

David Dean Shulman is an Indologist and is regarded as one of the world’s foremost authorities on the languages of India. His research embraces many fields, including the history of religion in South India, Indian poetics, Tamil Islam, Dravidian linguistics, and Carnatic music. He is also a published poet in Hebrew, a literary critic, a cultural anthropologist, and a peace activist. He was formerly Professor of Indian Studies and Comparative Religion at The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and professor in the Department of Indian, Iranian and Armenian Studies, and now holds an appointment as Renee Lang Professor of Humanistic Studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He has authored or co-authored more than 20 books on various subjects ranging from temple myths and temple poems to essays that cover the wide spectrum of the cultural history of South India.

Human Dignity in Times of Emergency

by

Prof. Dr. Dieter Grimm
Rector, Institute for Advanced Study, Berlin, Germany
Member, Global Law Faculty, New York University
Former Judge, German Constitutional Court

Monday 17th April, 2006, 4:00 p.m., Faculty Hall, IISc.

The constitutional order of postwar Germany is based on the principle of human dignity. Many recent constitutions all over the world followed this example. Different from fundamental rights, which can be limited by law, human dignity is regarded as an absolute principle. In the current situation of terrorism and emergency some authors and state authorities in various countries began to question the absolute protection of human dignity. The lecture explained the meaning of dignity and comment on some of the doubts raised, e.g.: Are there situations in which torture may be permitted? Is it compatible with the principle of dignity to kill a number of people (for instance passengers in a plane captured by terrorists) in order to save an even greater number from being killed?
**How the Brain Generates Consciousness**

by

**Baroness Susan Greenfield**  
Director, The Royal Institution of Great Britain, United Kingdom

Monday, 9th January 2006, 2:30 p.m., Material Research Centre, Auditorium, IISc.

Susan Greenfield's research is focused on brain physiology, particularly the etiology of Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, but she is best known as a populariser of science. Greenfield has written several popular-science books about the brain and consciousness, and regularly gives public lectures, and appears on radio and television.

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**The History of the History of Science**

by

**Prof. Dhruv Raina**  
Zakir Husain, Centre for Educational Studies  
School of Social Sciences  
Jawaharlal Nehru University  
New Delhi

Wednesday, 6 July, 2005, 4:00 p.m., CCS Seminar Hall, IISc.

Dhruv Raina is with the School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His area of research includes the politics of scientific knowledge with special reference to the South Asian region. In particular his research focusses upon the institutionalisation of science in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well contemporary concerns of science and social movements.
**Big Bang**

*by*

**Dr. Simon Singh**

Author, Journalist and TV Producer

*Thursday, 8th December, 2005, 4:00 p.m., Faculty Hall, IISc.*

Simon Singh is a British Indian author who has specialised in writing about mathematical and scientific topics in an accessible manner. His written works include ‘Fermat's Last Theorem’ (in the United States titled Fermat's Enigma: The Epic Quest to Solve the World's Greatest Mathematical Problem), The Code Book (about cryptography and its history), ‘Big Bang’ (about the Big Bang theory and the origins of the universe).

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**Instructions to the Unconverted : Marie Stopes, Indian Women and the making of a pamphlet on Birth Control (1920-1955)**

*by*

**Dr. Indira Chowdhury**

Consultant Archivist

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research

Mumbai

*Friday, 12 August, 2005, 4:00 p.m. CCS Seminar Hall, IISc.*

A paleobotanist by training, Marie Stopes became a birth control clinic in 1920. Her book Married Love (1918) remained popular in its time in the face of severe opposition from the church authorities. Although banned in America until 1931, the book was immensely popular in India. While answering the numerous queries of her Indian readers, Stopes also wrote a special pamphlet for Indian women about birth control. This talk looked at the ways in which the pamphlet was written, revised and readied for publication and reflect on the larger implications it held for the Family Planning movement and the population policy.
Science and Reason in the Age of Unreason

by

Prof. Pervez Amirali Hoodbhoy
Professor of Physics
Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad
Pakistan
Tuesday, 25 January, 2005, , 4:00 p.m., CCS Seminar Hall, IISc.

Dr. Prof. Pervez Amirali Hoodbhoy is a well-known Pakistani nuclear physicist and political-defence analyst. He is the Professor of High Energy Physics, and the head of the Physics Department at Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan. He graduated and also received PhD from MIT and continues to do research in Particle physics. He received the Baker Award for Electronics in 1968, and the Abdus Salam Prize for Mathematics in 1984. He was the winner of the UNESCO Kalinga Prize in 2003. He has authored various scientific research papers in peer-reviewed journals.

The Changing Nature of Public Science

by

Prof. Dr. Helga Nowotny
Chair, European Research Advisory Board (EURAB)
Director, Society in Science: The Branco Weiss Fellowship,
Member, European Research Council Expert Group (ERCEG), Zürich, Switzerland

Wednesday, 29 December 2004, 4:00 p.m., CCS Seminar Hall, IISc.

Helga Nowotny is Vice President of the European Research Council ERC and Professor emeritus of Social Studies of Science, ETH Zurich. She has been founding director of the post-graduate fellowship programme based at ETH “Society in science: the Branco Weiss Fellowship” until 2004, when she returned to her native Vienna. In 1981-1982 and 2003-2004 she was a Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin and from 1992-1999 and Permanent Fellow at Collegium Budapest/Institute of Advanced Study. Before moving to ETH Zurich, she has been Professor and Head of the newly founded Institute for Theory and Social Studies of Science of the University of Vienna.
English in an Uneven World

by

Prof. Meenakshi Mukherjee
Formerly, Professor of English
Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi
International Chairperson
Association of Commonwealth Literature and
Language Studies

Thursday, 23 September 2004, 4:00 p.m., CCS Seminar Hall

The attempt was to look at the effects of globalization in the fields of language and literature in India and initiate a discussion on the changing relationship between English and other languages.

The Bush Administration and the American Politics Of Science

by

Prof. Sheila Jasanoff

Pforzheimer Professor of Science and Technology Studies,
John F. Kennedy School of Government
Harvard University, USA

Monday, 16 August 2004, 3:30 p.m., CCS Seminar Hall, IISc.

Sheila Jasanoff has held academic positions at Cornell, Yale, Oxford, and Kyoto. At Cornell, she founded and chaired the Department of Science and Technology Studies. She has also been a Leverhulme Visiting Professor at Cambridge, Fellow at the Berlin Institute for Advanced Study, and Resident Scholar at the Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio study center. Her research concerns the role of science and technology in the law, politics, and public policy of modern democracies, with a particular focus on the challenges of globalization. Her books include Controlling Chemicals (1985), The Fifth Branch (1990), Science at the Bar (1995), and Designs on Nature (2005).
Sundararajan Visiting Chair

In addition to inviting scholars for a day or two, the centre also invites scholars in residence for longer periods of time ranging from a few weeks to several months. This is done through the Professor Sundararajan Visiting Chair.

The Visiting Chair has been created through an endowment by E.S Purnandara Das, a financial expert of Indian origin from New York, to promote and recognise scholarship in the field of Arts, Humanities and Indian Culture. The Chair was awarded to scholars of eminence in any field of knowledge related to Arts, Humanities and Indian Culture. These include history, arts, architecture, linguistics, religion, political science, Indian studies, economics, social philosophy etc. The distinguished scholars holding the chair are expected to interact with the students and faculty in any manner they would choose. They may give a number of lectures or a brief course, which may be of general interest to the community at the Institute.

The following distinguished scholars have held the chair so far.

Prof. Meenakshi Mukherjee
Formerly, Professor of English
Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi
International Chairperson
Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies

September 2004 to October 2004

Prof. U. R. Ananthamurthy
Jnanpith Awardee, Author

October 2006 to April 2007

Dr. Ashok Desai
Consultant Editor
The Telegraph
New Delhi

September 2005 to September 2005

Prof. P. M. Rajan Gurukkal
Vice Chancellor
Mahatma Gandhi University
Kottayam, Kerala

July 2008 to December 2008
Course offered by the Centre

The centre offers a course entitled: “Production of Knowledge in the Natural and Social Sciences”. The first edition of the course was in August 2006. It will be offered every other year. The second edition of the course was conducted in 2008. The next course will be conducted in 2010. The course will consist of 16 modules and will be held every Saturday from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Centre for Contemporary Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. The course will be conducted in an interactive, seminar format. While we welcome individuals to sign up for the whole course, we would also welcome individuals who might wish to attend any particular modules of their interest. The full program of the course will be made available soon and the program for each week will also be announced separately.

Individuals desiring to sign up for the whole course are encouraged to e-mail Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar (ragh@ces.iisc.ernet.in) with cc to Dr. Asha Achuthan (asha.achuthan@gmail.com) and Prof. Rajan Gurukkal (rgurukkal@gmail.com).

Brief Description of the Course:

The Course seeks to provide an overview of the socio-historical and intellectual background of knowledge production in natural and material sciences as well as social sciences. In the two major domains the course aims at exploring, through a series of lectures, select themes such as what does knowledge mean, how does it work, what is its nature, what is its science, what are its means, modes and relations of production and what are its social processes and structures of control, its strategies of legitimisation and authentication, its methods of circulation, its techniques of bringing truth effect and its built-in ways and means of gaining acceptance. There is nothing like absolute knowledge with permanent truth effect. It is neither science nor the logic of it that sustains knowledge, but it is the socio-economic and politico-cultural forces that make and unmake it. Knowledge is both time and space, for its textures are different from period to period and place to place. In sciences as well as social sciences knowledge is rendered plausible through the working of social power relations. Therefore, lectures will start with the preliminaries of social theory that helps us understand the constitution of knowledge not only in time and space but also in different domains such as sciences, humanities and social sciences.

The science of knowledge, technically called epistemology that examines the cognitive structure, composition and logic of knowledge also forms a part of the preliminaries. The lectures then go on into various schools of thought explaining production of knowledge and the interesting debates among their proponents who matter in the field. They will cover the major frameworks and perspectives such as the Marxist, Modernist, Constructivist, Critical Realist and Postmodernist/Feminist strands that explain the procedures of knowledge production. The core component of the course shall be a critical appraisal of the divergence and convergence of meanings, measures, parameters and rules that scientists and social scientists follow in their respective disciplines in knowledge production.
Centre for Contemporary Studies
In collaboration with the
Center for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore
is pleased to announce a course entitled

Production of Knowledge in the
Natural & Social Sciences

Total 16 modules
Classes on Saturdays, between 2 to 5 pm
Venue: CCS Seminar Hall, IISc, Bangalore
First meeting: Saturday, 12th August, 2006

Brief Description of the Course: The natural sciences, we say, engages with nature by constructing theories and experiments, discovering laws, inventing new objects. The social sciences, we think, concerns itself with something called the social by interpreting the agencies, processes and institutions that compose the social, by conceptualizing the interests, desires and powers that underlie the social. Traditionally, "nature" and "the social" did not speak to each other, which is to say that the natural sciences and the social sciences were thought of as radically different pursuits, the former was hard and dealt with explanations and the later was supposed to be soft and pursued interpretation. In the last couple of decades, this scenario has changed somewhat and the traditional ways of understanding these pursuits have been scrambled quite a bit. This course seeks to plot these new developments through some central debates in the philosophy and the social studies of science and in what can be broadly termed interdisciplinary cultural theory.

Note: The course will be conducted in an interactive, seminar format. While we welcome individuals to sign up for the whole course, we would also welcome individuals who might wish to attend any particular modules of their interest. The full program of the course will be made available soon and the program for each week will also be announced separately.

To sign up for the course, please send an e-mail to:
Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar (ragh@ces.iisc.ernet.in) and
Dr. Asha Achuthan (asha.achuthan@gmail.com)
12 August - 2 December, 2006

Centre for Contemporary Studies, in collaboration with the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society (CSCS), Bangalore, introduced in 2006 an experimental course titled “Production of Knowledge in the Natural and Social Sciences” as part of an attempt to chart the debates around questions raised within the social and natural sciences, and around conventional understandings of natural science work (explanation) and social science work (interpretation).

In its first edition, this course was held between August 12 and December 2, 2006. As a 16-week course meant for PhD students but open to all, it introduced the debate between the arts and the sciences, and examined the debates around the criteria of scientificity in various social sciences – literature, history, anthropology, sociology, film theory, and natural sciences – ecology, computer science, the artificial intelligence projects among them. The course was jointly inaugurated by U.R. Ananthamurthy, eminent writer and Jnanpith Award winner, Prof. Roddam Narasimha, Padma Bhushan recipient and Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, who initiated a stimulating conversation on science in India and the questions raised by the non-sciences. In her lecture titled "Two cultures and Two traditions: Old debates and new perspectives", Prof. Tejaswini Niranjana introduced the two-cultures debate between C.P. Snow and F.R. Leavis – between literary interpretation and scientific knowledge; the difference is, in its more polemicized versions, be rendered as the battle between the “excesses” of the literary culture and the exclusions of the scientific culture. The polemic was presented most eloquently by Prof. Gadagkar in his lecture titled "Two cultures - How the mind of a natural scientist works, for better and worse". The inaugural session concluded with trying to look at some implications of this polemic – whether to ratify the 2 cultures thesis, or to think more carefully of the history of its emergence, in order to come to an understanding of the many critical knowledges occupying the space between and below these cultures, and whether disciplinary knowledges could begin to address this in some way.

The question was picked up in the later sessions addressing the debates within and between disciplines.
Course Reading material:


16. Excerpts from the UN documents on Science and Technology for Development.


Inauguration of the Second Edition of the Course on
Production of Knowledge in the Natural
and Social Sciences

Co-hosted by
Centre for Contemporary Studies (CCS), IISc, Bangalore
& Centre for the Study of Culture and Society (CSCS), Bangalore

Saturday, 9th August, 2 pm
New CCS Seminar Hall, IISc
(Formerly TIFR Mathematics building)

PROGRAMME
Introduction and Welcome Prof. Raghavendra Sadagkar
Dr. Tejaswini Kiranjana
Address and Inauguration Prof. U. R. Ananthamurthy
Prof. Obaid Siddiqi
Vote of Thanks Dr. Aska Achuthan

Tea/Coffee and Snacks at about 3 pm
Followed by the first lecture of the course

Knowledge Production - Historical Antecedants

By Prof. Rajan Gurukkal
Sundararajan Visiting Professor, CCS
All are cordially invited

URL: http://ces.iisc.ernet.in/hpg/ragh/ccs/Course02/announcement.html
9th August – 29 November 2008

The second edition of the course, in collaboration with Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore, India, began on August 9, 2008. It was jointly inaugurated by eminent writer U.R. Ananthamurthy and Prof. Obaid Siddiqi, the eminent neurogeneticist, with an introduction and welcome by Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar of CCS and Dr. Tejaswini Niranjana of CSCS.

The course was primarily anchored by Prof. Rajan Gurukkal, formerly Director, School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala, and its present Vice Chancellor. It sought to provide an overview of the socio-historical and intellectual background of knowledge production in natural and material sciences as well as social sciences. The course attempted to explore themes such as - what does knowledge mean, how does it work, what is its nature, what is its science, what are its means, modes and relations of production and what are its social processes and structures of control, its strategies of legitimisation and authentication, its methods of circulation, its techniques of bringing truth effects and its built-in ways and means of gaining acceptance. In natural and social sciences knowledge is rendered plausible through the working of social power relations. Therefore, lectures began with the preliminaries of social theory that help understand the constitution of knowledge not only in time and space but also in different domains such as sciences, humanities and social sciences. The science of knowledge, technically called epistemology, that examines the cognitive structure, composition and logic of knowledge was also looked at. The lectures then went into various schools of thought explaining production of knowledge, covering major frameworks such as Marxist, Modernist, Constructivist, Critical Realist and Postmodernist/Feminist.
Course Reading material:

1. Feyerabend P.K. "Knowledge and the Role of Theories", in Philosophy of the social sciences, 1988, vol. 18, no 2, pp. 157-78.
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