

## **ISDS 2018: Inter-Disciplinary Student Workshop in Development Studies**

**Organised by**

**Centre for New Economics Studies (CNES)**

**OP Jindal Global University**

### **Concept Note for the Workshop & Call for Papers**

The Student Workshop Organizing Committee at OP Jindal Global University welcomes abstract contributions from a broad spectrum of student researchers specializing across different social science disciplines (from undergraduate to doctoral level) and present their research in the form of working papers at the workshop. Working Papers invoking critical questions on theorizing under the identified themes of the workshop or offering empirical insights on contemporary social, economic issues and/or addressing methodological approaches used in mainstream discourse are especially encouraged. Each researcher, selected to present at the workshop will receive a detailed written feedback on the working paper by the discussants. Please review the themes of the workshop (discussed below) given along with the submission guidelines and logistical information for your reference.

#### **Theme I: Technology and Society:**

The nature and scale of technological changes and their impact on a country's macro-economic outlook (say, in terms of the labour market structure, source of capital flows, rate of growth of employment opportunities etc.) have always been an intense subject of debate amongst economists and other social scientists, invoking divergent views. At an aggregate, most empirical research done on the subject reflects how technological impact change is recognized as a major driver in a country's overall growth and productivity levels.

Considered as an inevitable dynamic process while measuring for growth, technological changes involve: a) A gradual rate of job destruction and creation across sectors; while b) Transforming the task content of existing jobs and the nature of work. Both of these gradual processes not only have significant economic implications for workers and employers but also affect them socially and psychologically. The recent wave of technological change within the digital paradigm referred to as "the Fourth Industrial Revolution" (Schwab, 2015) and its impact on society is once more garnering wide-spread attention as a field to explore.

From the digital revolution to bio informatics, national security to renewable energy, technology advancements not only add to a country's growth capacities but plays a critical role in shaping our lives. One is often exposed to applied science and engineering concepts that span disciplines and examine broadly how technology shapes society and vice versa. It is technology that is leading to the homogenization of all forms of social interaction and communication, irrespective of their historical and cultural provenance.

Technological innovations not only have a transformational impact on society, but are also caused and even necessitated by that same society. Just as socio-historical organizational principles and

forms of communication leave their stamp on technical artefacts, the same can be said of advancement in computer science and artificial intelligence. The late 1970s saw the emergence of computer architectures that marked a qualitative departure from the sequential von Neumann architecture, with its hierarchical control structure. Alan Turing derived his machine concept from an analysis of human cognition, using as a model the partially mechanized human, as had been generated by the process of formal rationalization.

This theme offers students to write and engage closely with the field of technology and society by picking any one of the sub-themes (given below) as an area of investigation and present their work during the workshop. The list of sub-themes is merely indicative in nature and any abstracts addressing the theme of technology and society (outside the sub-themes or at inter-section of one another) are welcome.

**Sub-Themes include:**

- 1. Social Dimension of Technology Transitions**
- 2. Social Media and Political Behaviour**
- 3. Digital Media and Political Communication**
- 4. Automation and its Impact on Labour displacement**
- 5. Role of Ethics in Artificial Intelligence**
- 6. Technology and Access to Education**
- 7. Technology and Access to Healthcare**

**Theme II: Role of Agency of Women in Path to Development**

Gender development has often evolved as a fundamental area of focus in development studies as some of the most important aspects of people's lives, such as the talents they cultivate, the conceptions they hold of themselves and others, the socio structural opportunities and constraints they encounter, and the social life and occupational paths they pursue are heavily prescribed by a society or culture's gendered notions of identities. Gender studies and development studies are subjects that remain inter-twined while touching upon issues as diverse as work & family life; health & population; labor & international economic change.

It is now widely recognized that pervasive pre-existing gender inequalities affect development processes in countries affecting women and men differently. Early feminist critiques emphasized the "marginal" position of women in development and advocated their "integration". More recently, critiques have argued that women's "marginality" reflects the systematic gender bias in official statistics and development planning in general, and that women are already affected by and involved in development in locally variable and class specific ways.

“Women are half the world's population, yet they do two thirds of the world's work, earn one-tenth of the income, and own less than one-hundredth of the world's property.” (United Nations, 1985). Women are mostly undermined when it comes to places of work or physical labor. They are often considered as the weaker sex. It is very important to understand that while sex is biological, gender is a social construct. Gender refers to the socially determined ideas and practice as to what it means to be female or male. In different societies, there are different sets of rules, norms, customs and practices by which differences between males and females are translated into socially constructed differences between women and men, boys and girls. These culturally determined gender identities define rights and responsibilities and what is ‘appropriate’ behavior for women and for men. This often results in the two genders being valued differently, often reinforcing the idea that women are inferior and subordinate to men. The perception of femininity has evolved through years but very often women are considered to be emotional and sensitive and due to this reason sometimes unfit for certain kinds of chores.

Tackling a deep, socially embedded problem like gender inequality or discrimination against women requires coordinated social policy and long-term measures by any developing state. This theme, this offers students to write and engage on classical, neo-classical or third-world feminist discourses across a wide range of sub-themes (given below) that are vital for the process of development across nations.

Research presentations addressing this theme seek to offer a dialogical process to fathom issues affecting the agency of women that are often inter-twined yet distinct from addressing their current level of well-being.

The Sub-themes include:

- 1. Mobile Phones and Women Empowerment**
- 2. Gender Inequality and its Impact on Economic Growth**
- 3. Role of Women in Politics**
- 4. Violence against Women**
- 5. Women and Poverty**
- 6. Women and Health**
- 7. Women and Armed Conflict**

### **Submission of Abstracts and Working Papers**

The Conference Organizing Team welcomes Abstracts between 300-500 words. The working papers must be between 4000-5000 words and must follow a coherent citation style i.e. either a Harvard Style or Chicago Style of referencing. In addition, contributors are requested to include their institutional affiliation in the document.

The Abstract should try to address the following points of information:

- Author Name and Institutional Affiliation
- Title of Presentation
- Introduction to Study
- Methodology Used in the Study
- Key Analytical Findings (if any)
- Short Bibliography

The Abstracts will be examined by a Screening Committee and acceptances will be communicated to potential participants within a week from the deadline of abstract submission. Selected researchers will be then required to submit a working paper in a month's time and prepare a 20-minute presentation for the workshop. Abstracts will be published in the Workshop Proceedings and selected working papers will be published by CNES after the workshop.

**Abstracts for Presentation can be sent electronically to the following e-mail addresses:**  
[cnes@jgu.edu.in](mailto:cnes@jgu.edu.in)

#### Key Deadlines

<b>Last Date of Submission of Abstracts</b>	<b>December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017</b>
<b>Notification on Acceptance of Abstracts</b>	<b>December 29<sup>th</sup> 2017</b>
<b>Last Date of Submission of Working Papers</b>	<b>January 28<sup>th</sup> 2018</b>

#### **Conference Logistics**

O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) will provide Local Travel Support (in the National Capital Region i.e. pick up and drop facility) for all workshop delegates. **Please note that there is no registration fee for the conference.**

#### About The Workshop Venue and Organizers

##### **O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU)**

OP Jindal Global University (JGU) is a non-profit global university established by the Haryana Private Universities (Second Amendment) Act, 2009. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has accorded its recognition to JGU. The vision of JGU is to promote global courses, global programmes, global curriculum, global research, global collaborations, and global interaction through a global faculty. JGU has a state-of-the-art residential campus in the National Capital Region of Delhi. JGU is one of the few universities in Asia that maintains a 1:15 faculty-student ratio and appoints faculty members from different parts of the world with outstanding academic qualifications and experience. JGU has established five schools: Jindal Global Law School, Jindal

Global Business School, Jindal School of International Affairs, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy and Jindal School of Liberal Arts & Humanities. JGU has recently been awarded the highest accreditation rating of “A Grade” by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), becoming the first State private university in the State of Haryana to achieve this milestone.

### **Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA)**

The Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA) represents a paradigmatic shift in the study of International Relations in the context of India. As an aspiring world class school of international relations, the founding vision of the institution argues that: “India's rising economic and military might must be complemented with a world class international affairs social science base that will generate and test theories.” Moreover, “JSIA has become the locus of such an ambitious vision by situating India as a vibrant ground for social science ideas and debates and giving India a leadership role on the world stage.” Furthermore, “JSIA aims to place India on the global map as a provider of knowledge that is internationally relevant and of the highest standards.” The two programmes offered by JSIA are the Masters of Arts in Diplomacy, Law and Business (MADLB) and the Bachelors of Arts in Global Affairs (BAGA) programme.

### **Centre on New Economic Studies (CNES)**

As a research Centre focusing primarily on international economic studies, the main rationale for CNES is to provide deeper insights into the functioning of the global economic system and growth of emerging market economies. Espousing the philosophy of how contemporary economic theories look at problems in a variety of ways, the Centre focuses more on the diversity of the subject of economics. It explores methods while solving economic problems beyond the conventional economic theory based thinking; offering thus, a broad training platform to young researchers and academics.

Key aspects of international economics being researched include evolving patterns in trade, commerce, business and aid across major economies. CNES' research projects and systematized activities especially focus on the development, growth of emerging regional powers of the world including those responsible for the power shift from the West to the East. The Centre is innately interdisciplinary in nature and draw on contemporary debates emanating from economic history, international economics, development economics, behavioural economics and political economy. In addition to the activities organized by CNES, the Centre also offers short courses on subjects related to economic crises explanation, game theory, economic and business history of India. **For More Information on the Workshop contact any member of the organizing committee.**

### **Organizing Committee:**

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