



# INDIAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## Letter from the President

04-12-2024

Dear Colleagues,

Warm greetings to all. It has been some time since I wrote to you and therefore, please bear with a slightly longer letter than usual. Just about a year ago, I had shared a vision document that I was committed to, were I to become the President of the Indian Sociological Society (ISS). There were two basic points that I had flagged of at that time. It is time that to revisit them. *One* was a widely felt the need to have academic workshops for basic sociological skills to be upgraded. The *other* was to build the ISS website not just as an efficient gateway to the ISS but also as an e learning resource.

*Academic workshops* help develop multiple skills that are essential for contemporary research as well as for the work world. Such workshops apart from sites of training also facilitates greater interaction between generations of scholars, across regions and thereby create a space for dialogic learning. As the year ends, we can assert with some confidence that it has been a year marked by a range of such academic workshops led by the ISS. This would not have been possible without the leadership of the Research Committees taking initiatives to hold not just workshops but also mid-term conferences apart from the new initiative to have regular online lectures by subject experts.

Most of the online lectures have been recorded and uploaded on the ISS website. These are early beginnings to develop the *ISS website as an e-learning resource* for high quality sociological content that is also easily accessible. It will one hopes helps bridge the gap between research and teaching. And opens possibilities of continuous learning. We hope that over the next year, this process gets consolidated. Till now the following lectures are available on our YouTube Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/@indiansociologicalsocietyi1866>

Ad Hoc Group 03:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScoNN7SwCpc&t=6s>

Ad Hoc Group 05:

1. <https://youtu.be/nR4FxKqlAYM?si=DjDgCnaeySjTdJ0v>
2. [https://youtu.be/yh\\_1GJ4L2tY?si=gAtoARIm2-bss5fe](https://youtu.be/yh_1GJ4L2tY?si=gAtoARIm2-bss5fe)

3. [https://youtu.be/yh\\_1GJ4L2tY?si=Bv5D5ViZferAtgRX](https://youtu.be/yh_1GJ4L2tY?si=Bv5D5ViZferAtgRX)
4. <https://youtu.be/3RZZ3HCrOxc?si=96HN-3Mf7ObdUoPX>

RC-03

1. <https://youtu.be/odeMoSOTmig?si=sYvc5X4ISRPL1zfc>
2. <https://youtu.be/ScoNN7SwCpc?si=vEKOEjVSpbyKoAHP>
3. <https://youtu.be/isDRPzWcrtM?si=MMC5jmqb754N-JhB>

RC-05:

1. <https://youtu.be/MBCfbilUphs?si=E5JWM6oCCLi9IHfT>
2. <https://youtu.be/QX-YxuatkU8?si=AOR2JhwfabUGBV-6>
3. <https://youtu.be/YCJ7ejjfxQk?si=DHP79ii1QQB0e7E1>
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3RZZ3HCrOxc>

RC-06

<https://youtu.be/XQjVRumivP4?si=ptEPn7WuTvJ8hQaH>

RC-15

1. <https://youtu.be/fVC8brTIqxE?si=M-5bHDyyak4qM-7L>
2. <https://youtu.be/kMOc4BrKZ0I?si=Fc42YVCDRlikI9E1>

RC-19

<https://youtu.be/9CZouiTqlC0?si=XS8Wov5CWeRW7-Z1>

RC-27

<https://youtu.be/6Ki0bLtMKKA?si=QnlXOHlHDp6Jpx4Y>

RC-28

<https://youtu.be/ph1HumGC570?si=AIIs-hcQkhsUSTiwX>

Research Committee:

RC-29 :

[https://youtu.be/j8IBTt7Lo4o?si=sZyVZNhtiB\\_MQFk](https://youtu.be/j8IBTt7Lo4o?si=sZyVZNhtiB_MQFk)

To update our data base of life members we have sent an email to crosscheck whether the emails are working. The office staff has worked very hard to compile all the emails that have bounced back. We need your support to find out the correct emails. This is a task that must be completed early so that a list of life members who will be participating in the next elections are correct to the greatest extent possible. Please check:

<https://insoso.org/sites/default/files/content-files/Life%20Members%20Bounced%20Email.pdf>

A *new website developer* has been chosen by the ISS after scrutiny of seven Tender applications. This took time, but hopefully it should be ready and functioning before the contract with the old website Glue up expires in March 2025. The basic distinction between the website we have now (Template Base- where new features cannot be added) and what we will have now is that it will be dynamic and therefore responsive to our requirements as a professional body of academics. This becomes more important given that the ISS hopes to make best of new technology that makes online learning a real possibility. However, a word of caution is required at a time when a lot of content

available on the internet is not trustworthy. This is a challenge but one that can and needs to be addressed.

One way of addressing this is to return to basic theoretical and methodological foundations of knowledge. Academic workshops, lectures by experts should be able to train new generation of scholars to realize fully the import of not taking anything for granted as a premise of sociological knowledge. In my earlier letters one has already mentioned that the ISS encourages Young Scholars Workshops at different institutions at different times of the year. Each one so far has a thematic focus, careful mentoring, and therefore distinct possibilities of publications. This also furthers the reach of ISS to a new generation.

We live in a fast-changing world. The issues that engaged sociology have thus changed over the decades reflecting as they do broader societal changes. The ISS has always responded to these and many of the Research Committees (RCs) bear witness to the emergence of new substantive, theoretical and methodological interventions. We have some new Research Committees that have been formed keeping the intent of ISS to reflect new developments in the field.

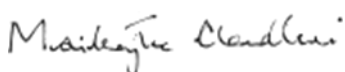
At a time when we witness major changes in our educational system and a certain skepticism towards the social sciences in general and sociology in specific, it is the responsibility of the ISS to claim sociology's distinct space and role in society. It is with that intent that one thought of the theme, Sociology, Development and Democracy for the 49<sup>th</sup> AISC that is to be hosted at BML Munjal University, Gurgaon. The theme at one level takes us back to the disciplinary origins of sociology, its intellectual assumptions, and plural legacies. The theme also allows fresh discussions in the light of new empirical findings that questions given assumptions of democracy, development, and sociological knowledge.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the 49<sup>th</sup> Conference. For those who may not be able to come this year, I am happy to share the schedule with you.

[https://insoso.org/sites/default/files/content-files/Schedule\\_49th%20ALL%20INDIA%20SOCIOLOGICAL%20CONFERENCE\\_A4.pdf](https://insoso.org/sites/default/files/content-files/Schedule_49th%20ALL%20INDIA%20SOCIOLOGICAL%20CONFERENCE_A4.pdf)

Thanking you for your support and patience. Looking forward to being in touch.

Warm regards



Maitrayee Chaudhuri