



## Doing Academic Writing Differently

**Department of Sociology  
University of Mumbai**  
In collaboration with  
**Department of Sociology  
HSNC University, Mumbai**

Organizes a Two Day Workshop  
Sponsored by  
Indian Sociological Society  
& RC 06, RC 11 and Adhoc RC 01  
on

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025**  
**Venue: Room no 204 HSNC University, Worli**  
**Time: 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.**

Dr. Manisha Rao  
Department of Sociology  
University of Mumbai

Dr. Joseph M.T.  
Department of Sociology  
University of Mumbai

Dr. Leena Pujari  
Department of Sociology  
HSNC University, Mumbai

## CONCEPT NOTE

Questions on how to 'do' research and how to write research in academia have plagued us as researchers and pedagogues. In our informal conversations we have come to realise that to understand ourselves and others we need to understand our own histories and the importance of locating ourselves in that history. The journey of writing involves a reflexive process alongside the analysis of data. The requirements of academic writing that emphasise that it be written in a certain 'regular' form with separate sections on methods, methodology, data collection, analysis and conclusions may be constraining but are a requirement to meet assessment criteria and 'quality' standards and star ratings. However, one needs to pay attention to certain key features- that research be accountable, be aware of the power relations and take into account the 'micro-politics of research encounter' and be aware of difference [Bhavnani,K. 1993 ] and to bring these aspects and reflect on our own areas of research. It encourages writing where no single voice is predominant and where the research stories are layered. It foregrounds the messy practices of first of all finding a topic of research, writing first drafts and multiple drafts along with the comments that shape the final, polished academic writing piece. It is this process that we hope to engage with through this academic writing workshop.

Taking all this into consideration, it is important to train students in the art of academic writing in the social sciences. This workshop focuses on the different ways and approaches to academic writing. It attempts to explore the latest methods and methodology in writing in the social sciences, especially incorporating the latest theoretical perspectives.

The workshop is intended for students engaged in research writing whether it be for their undergraduate research papers or the Masters level working on research projects or PhD scholars at different stages of their research journey.

## DAY 1 [27th November, Thursday] - CRITICAL THINKING & READING



**Dr. INDRA MUNSHI**  
Formerly University of Mumbai

9.30am - 11 am

### **Inaugural Session:**

#### **Academic Writing: A Sociological Journey**

Academic writing is a genre, different from other genres of writing, with its own specific demands. Although not fixed or unchanging, every discipline does provide guidelines, criteria, even rules, which must be adhered to by the practitioners. What makes this difficult journey of research and writing fascinating is the manner in which the scholar arrives at the problem/subject, perspective, methodology, data, types and sources, available literature on the subject and weaves it together into a whole in the form of a PhD thesis, article, book.

Academic writing need not and should not be drab, abstruse, or just a mechanical assemblage of all the above as chapters, sections, parts and so on. It is certainly not 'an information dump'. Writing involves both science and art, including imagination, creativity, objectivity, honesty, reflexivity, empathy, of course analysis and insight. This is a challenge for even the most experienced academic writers. Everyone agrees that writing means rewriting and rewriting. Some scholars liken it to chiselling the rough edges, other suggest that every sentence, paragraph, section, chapter, must be like a note in a symphony. An arduous task but deeply fulfilling.

11.15 am - 12.45 am

### **Selecting Literature: Reading The Absences**

Academic reading and writing are not just individual skills, but a social practice produced through historical and material forces. A range of factors work here, from the hegemonic academic standards of the disciplinary fields that govern our reading and writing, to the access to education and cultural capital that shape the literacy trajectories of people. Selection of literature to read and cite is therefore political act imbued with inclusion and exclusion. What is the link between academic reading and writing? Where do we discuss and cite secondary literature while writing? What do we read, what do we discuss, and what do we cite? How and why? This presentation will discuss the politics of citation and knowledge production to address some of these questions.



**Dr. ANAGHA TAMBE**  
SP Pune University

**Dr. SHARMILA SREEKUMAR**  
IIT Bombay

1.30 pm - 3.00 pm

### **Staying with the Problem: On Re-framing and Re-formulating Research**

This session will examine the idea of the "research problem". Anchoring itself on methodological moves and using specific examples, it will explore: What research questions can we ask and how can we ask them? How do we re-work habits of thinking and knowledge-making? How can we build new approaches to old problems, fashion new objects of enquiry, reinvigorate existing lines of thought?

3.00 pm - 4.30 pm

### **Self and the Politics of Knowledge Production: Feminist Autoethnographies as Social Science**

This session builds the discourse on how to, as Sandra Harding says, 'place the researcher and the researched on the same critical plane'. What does this mean in principle and in practice? And how does it transform our ways of doing Social Science? Through close readings of classic feminist literature, the session hopes to generate conversations on the self and the politics of knowledge production.



**Dr. GITA CHADHA**  
Azim Premji University, Bangalore

## DAY 2 [28th November, Friday] - WRITING



**Dr. RITUPARNA PATAGIRI**  
IIT Guwahati

9.30am - 11 am

### **Reading & Writing in the Digital Age**

In this session, I would like to explore the contours of academic writing in the digital age. In an era in which writers have access to citation software, artificial intelligence, and multimodal technologies, how do we think about writing? Should it be reduced to a template that everyone follows? I want to stress on specific features of academic writing that make it genuine, credible and accessible without compromising on academic rigour. I wish to foreground reflexivity, creativity, and the 'messy' process of doing academic writing in an era of technological presence.

11.15 am - 12.45 am

### **Writing Embodied Labour: Reflections From Research And Activism**

Using examples from feminist activist research with the struggles of women bar dancers' right to work, to charting the struggles of women wrestlers' violation of sporting bodies, this presentation will focus on how feminist thinking shapes writing women's lives that spans a range of embodiment: performance to labour.



**Dr. MEENA GOPAL**  
Pondicherry University



**Dr. VAISHALI DIWAKAR**  
[Formerly, St. Mira's College, Pune]

1.30 pm - 3.00 pm

### **Reframing Academic Writing: Knowledge, Reflexivity and Practice in the Global South**

Academic writing in the Global South is not a neutral or technical act—it is deeply political, historical, and creative. Scholars in postcolonial, multilingual, and unequal contexts must first locate themselves within their histories and social realities. Writing from this position means acknowledging that academic norms—structures, methods, and languages—often reflect Western epistemologies that privilege certain ways of knowing.

Writing from the Global South becomes both resistance and recovery—resisting dominant theories that marginalize southern experiences, and recovering indigenous languages, idioms, and ways of seeing as legitimate knowledge sources. It is also a process—iterative, relational, and ethically accountable.

Ultimately, doing academic writing in the Global South is about reclaiming authorship and contributing to global knowledge on our own terms. It calls for plural, reflexive, and contextually grounded scholarship that transforms writing into a practice of solidarity and renewal, not just conformity to global academic standards.

3.00 pm - 4.30 pm

### **Citing from the margins: The politics of citation and referencing in academic research**

This workshop examines how academic citation practices reproduce hierarchies of caste, ability, gender, and geography in the production of knowledge. Drawing on Feminist and Critical Disability Studies scholarship from the Global South, it rethinks citation as an ethical and political act — one that reflects who is recognized as a theorist, whose voices remain invisible, and how embodied and caste-marked experiences are rendered marginal in academic discourse. Through interactive exercises and reflective discussions, participants will engage with the intersections of gender, caste and ableism as epistemic systems that shape who gets cited, heard, and remembered. The workshop invites students to build inclusive, reflexive, and decolonial forms of citation that acknowledge knowledge as relational, situated, and embodied.



**Dr. P. BINDULAKSHMI**  
Independent Scholar

# Location and directions to Venue

## Address

HSNC University, Mumbai D.M.  
Harish Building,47, Dr. R. G. Thadani  
Marg, Worli, Mumbai – 400 018.

The closest metro station is Worli  
Acharya Atre chowk  
(Metro line 3 Aqua Line)



Alternatively, you can also use mumbai local to reach HSNC University

- Prabhadevi/Lower Parel/Mahalaxmi Station on Western Line
- Parel Station on Central Line

Please note all the above stops are approximately 3 to 5 kms from the university  
The closest landmark is Venus Apartment, Worli Sea face, RG Thadani Marg