



O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL
INSTITUTION OF EMINENCE DEEMED TO BE
UNIVERSITY
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I.D.E.A.S.
OFFICE of
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Moulding Methods

I.D.E.A.S Initiative

Newsletter Spring 2025
(March-May)

Objectives of Moulding Methods

The Spring 2025 semester at Moulding Methods opened a unique space to reflect on the critical question of how research methods can shape social and political enquiries. We invited scholars who offered an in-depth exploration of the messy 'behind the scenes' of their methodological journeys before the making and emergence of their research work. We conceptualized our events along two lines:

1. The Ethnographic Method Series tried to foreground "ethnography as an embodied practice" (O'reilly Karen 2011) wherein we critically and reflexively center the anxieties of the self in the ethnographic method during fieldwork. The speakers shared their stories, struggles and the heartaches of doing ethnography. These dialogues allowed us to examine social life as it unfolds in diverse social and political settings such as memory ethnography in sites of political violence, ethnography of care and pain in cancer hospitals and abortion clinics, and ethnography of the senses in urban geographies.
2. Online Webinar Series offers us the platform for more innovative and interdisciplinary methodological conversations. It seeks to transform how methods are used in academic and practical research, fostering a global community of scholars, and practitioners to develop ground-breaking methodologies for addressing social issues and improving knowledge production processes.

Dialogue 1:

“Memory and Ethnography: Is there a method to this madness?”



The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (I.D.E.A.S.) at O.P. Jindal Global University launched its new initiative The Ethnographic Method Series – A **Moulding Methods Initiative** with an engaging first dialogue on 21st March 2025. Titled “**Memory and Ethnography: Is There a Method to This Madness?**”, the session featured **Sadaf Wani**, Author and Senior Communication Professional, and **Haripriya Soibam**, Assistant Professor at IIIT Delhi. Both speakers reflected on their work, exploring how memory functions as an ethnographic tool to interrogate power, identity, and resistance across varied social-spatial contexts. Their narratives offered valuable insights into how personal and collective memories shape ethnographic inquiry. The session was moderated by **Dr. Bhavneet Kaur**, Assistant Professor at the Jindal Global Law School, and drew a diverse audience of students and faculty interested in qualitative research methods. This initiative promises to create a reflective and interdisciplinary space for methodological dialogue across the social sciences and humanities.

Dialogue 2:

“Methodologies of Care: Researching Cancer and Abortion in South Asia”



The second dialogue of **Moulding Methods Ethnographic Method Series** was a thought-provoking webinar titled "**Methodologies of Care: Researching Cancer and Abortion in South Asia**". This session featured **Dr. Shagufta Bhangu** and **Dr. Rishita Nandagiri**, both lecturers in Global Health & Social Medicine at King's College London, who shared their insights on ethnographic approaches to care, illness, and reproductive health. **Dr. Priya Ranjan**, Associate Professor at the Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities, was the discussant. The session posed a critical question that many anthropologists have grappled with: how do we research and write about pain? It highlighted the central role of methods when researching precarious lives. Key highlights include in-depth discussions on the ethics and methods of researching sensitive health issues, contextual challenges in South Asia, and interdisciplinary approaches to understanding care in medical and social contexts.

Dialogue 3:

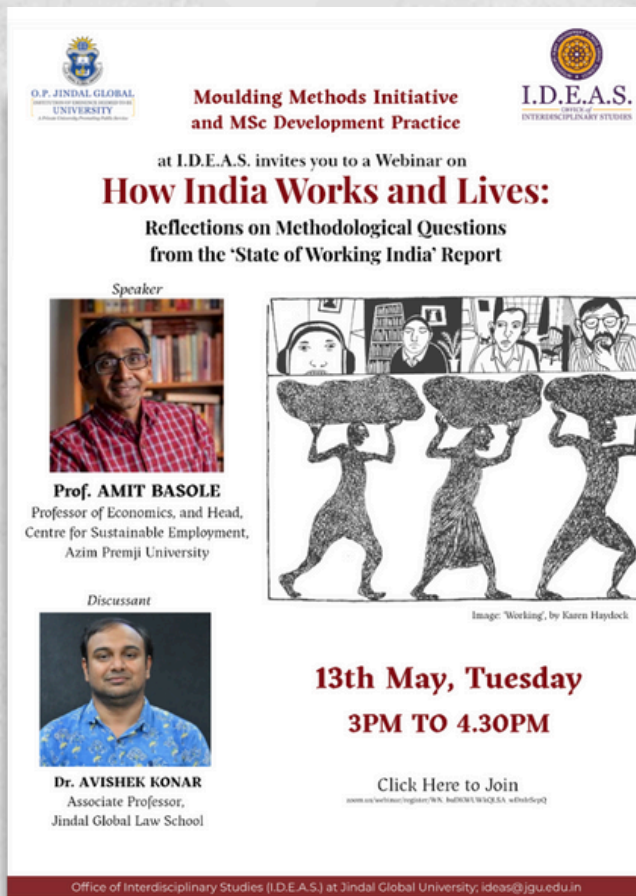
“Dialogue on Affect and Sensory Methodologies: A Journey of Food and Architecture”



On 28th April 2025, the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (I.D.E.A.S.) at O.P. Jindal Global University hosted a captivating session as part of its **Moulding Methods: Ethnographic Method Series**, titled “Dialogue on Affect and Sensory Methodologies: A Journey of Food and Architecture.” The discussion featured **Dr. Ishita Dey** (South Asian University) and **Sarover Zaidi** (Jindal School of Art and Architecture) in a rich interdisciplinary conversation on the intersections of food, space, memory, and sensory experience. Moderated by **Dr. Bhavneet Kaur**, the dialogue explored how affect and sensory ethnography can offer new insights into lived experiences —particularly through the everyday acts of eating and dwelling. The speakers reflected on their fieldwork and academic practice, shedding light on the methodological innovations required for engaging with sensory and emotional landscapes. Held at the Big Bang Conference Room, the event drew a vibrant audience and deepened critical engagement with alternative research approaches.

Online Webinar :

“How India Works: Reflections on Methodological Questions” from the ‘State of Working India’ Report’



The poster is for a webinar titled "How India Works: Reflections on Methodological Questions from the 'State of Working India' Report". It is organized by the Moulding Methods Initiative and MSc Development Practice at I.D.E.A.S. (Office of Interdisciplinary Studies) at Jindal Global University. The speaker is Prof. Amit Basole, Professor of Economics and Head of the Centre for Sustainable Employment at Azim Premji University. The discussant is Dr. Avishek Konar, Associate Professor at Jindal Global Law School. The webinar is scheduled for 13th May, Tuesday, from 3PM to 4.30PM. A link to join is provided: <https://www.azimpremjilaw.com/2021/05/13/ideas-webinar-how-india-works/>. The poster also features a cartoon illustration of three people carrying heavy loads on their heads, with the caption "Image: 'Working', by Karen Haydock".

**Moulding Methods Initiative
and MSc Development Practice**

at I.D.E.A.S. invites you to a Webinar on
How India Works and Lives:
Reflections on Methodological Questions
from the 'State of Working India' Report

Speaker

Prof. AMIT BASOLE
Professor of Economics, and Head,
Centre for Sustainable Employment,
Azim Premji University

Discussant

Dr. AVISHEK KONAR
Associate Professor,
Jindal Global Law School

**13th May, Tuesday
3PM TO 4.30PM**

Click Here to Join
<https://www.azimpremjilaw.com/2021/05/13/ideas-webinar-how-india-works/>

Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (I.D.E.A.S.) at Jindal Global University; ideas@jgu.edu.in

On 13th May, **Moulding Methods** Initiative of IDEAS in collaboration with MSc Development Practice program at IDEAS, hosted an online webinar on “**How India Works**”. **Prof Amit Basole** from Azim Premji University presented the findings of his **State of Working India (SWI)** report and **Dr Avishek Konar** from Jindal Global Law School was the discussant. The SWI is a regular publication of Azim Premji University since 2018 that has aimed to provide the public with an evidence-based overview of the quality and quantity of employment in the Indian economy. The report uses data from primary surveys, official data sources, and working papers from experts across disciplines. It addresses the complex challenges of the Indian story of economic growth and structural transformation. The talk takes the making of this report as one of the vantage points to address some methodological challenges of understanding conditions of labouring lives, and political economy of development in India.

Researching the Contemporary A Methods-Lab for Early Career Scholars

13-14 October 2025

O.P Jindal Global University, Sonipat

This two-day workshop in the form of a 'Methods Lab' invites PhD students, independent researchers, and young faculty for an exchange to reflect on their methodological journeys and dilemmas and centers attention on the process of research—the field, the literary text, the encounter, the archive, the method, the memory and the uncertain. We aim to create a peer-learning space where researchers share not just 'what they found', but also 'how they found it', and what transitions occur during the same, reflecting back on their research findings. It will feature thematic panels, peer feedback discussions, plenaries with senior researchers reflecting on methodological questions.

Who can apply?

We invite abstracts from a range of social sciences/humanities disciplines – including but not limited to, anthropology, sociology, psychology, political science, economics, literary studies, and history – which reflect on their methodological challenges. We especially encourage submissions from scholars from marginalized backgrounds.

Themes

- **Understanding Climate and the Sustainable Development Goals**
- **Labour, Migration, Care and Social Reproduction**
- **Social Exclusion and Vulnerability: Knowledge at the Margins**

Submission Guidelines

*We invite **Abstracts of 300–350 words**, that align with the three thematics, focusing on:

- **A methodological question, challenge or innovation encountered in your research**
- **The context of the research (discipline, theme, site, object)**
- **A brief reflection on how it shaped your knowledge practices and impinged on your object of research**

***Submissions should include:** Title of the presentation, 5 keywords; Full name, institutional affiliation (if any), and email address.

*Please send your abstract in .doc/.docx or PDF format with the subject line:

'**Abstract Submission** – Moulding Methods Workshop', to the faculty coordinators:

Dr Bhavneet Kaur, Assistant Professor, Jindal Global Law School: bkaure@jgu.edu.in

Dr Nayanjyoti, Lecturer, IDEAS, O.P Jindal Global University: nayanjyoti@jgu.edu.in

Apply By:

Extended deadline for submission of abstracts:

15 July 2025.

Selected participants will be informed by

20 July 2025.

Date of submission of full papers

20 September, 2025.

****No registration fees will be charged.***

Participants from outside Delhi will have to arrange their own travel.

Team Members



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Dr. Nayanjyoti

Assistant Director &
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