O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL INSTITUTION OF EMINENCE DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY
A Private University Promoting Public Service

DATA INSIGHTS @IDEAS

I.D.E.A.S. OFFICE of INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Winter School 2026

on the theme:

"Making Sense of Public Data: Analytical Foundations for Computational Social Science"

07TH TO 11TH DEC 2026 | MODE: ONLINE

Eligibility

Open to all students and researchers with interest in quantitative analysis and data

Program Fees

Indian Students: 10,000 INR
LMIC: 200 USD
International Fees (Non LMIC): 300 USD
Early Bird Discount: 10%
Total Number of Seats 50

Five-Day Online Certifcate Course
Certificates will be issued to attendees with 75% attendance

Scan the QR Code to Register

Course Description

This winter school introduces participants to the landscape of public data in India and to the computational tools increasingly used to interpret it. Moving from an understanding of how data systems are built and contested, to hands-on exposure to statistics, primary data collection, coding, spatial analysis, and machine learning/NLP, the course is designed to equip participants with a foundational, critical, and applied toolkit for working with data in social science research. This is an indicative outline meant to give prospective participants a sense of scope and flow — the full course will offer greater depth, hands-on datasets, and guided exercises within each block.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this winter school, participants will be able to:

- Identify and navigate key public data systems in India, including census, survey, electoral, and public finance/macroeconomic data.
- Critically evaluate how data is produced, categorized, and shaped by political and institutional processes.
- Apply basic statistical concepts and a quantitative research design framework to a social science research question.
- Understand the fundamentals of primary survey design and data collection, alongside analysis of spatial data.
- Recognize the potential and limits of spatial analysis, machine learning, and NLP methods for computational social science research.

Daily structure

Two 2-hour teaching sessions (except the first day) + 2 hours of self-directed learning (readings, datasets, or short exercises tied to the day's theme); Totals to 6 hours

Day One, Session 1: 90 Minutes (11 AM-12:30 PM)
Data in configuring India's Development



Dr. Niranjan Rajadhyaksha

Executive Director at Artha Global

Dr. Niranjan Rajadhyaksha is Executive Director at Artha Global, where he leads research on macroeconomics, political economy and economic history. Previously, he was Research Director and Senior Fellow at the IDFC Institute and Executive Editor of Mint, where he oversaw the opinion section and wrote the award-winning Café Economics column.

A recipient of several journalism and economics awards, including the Ramnath Goenka Award and B.R. Shenoy Award, Niranjan serves on the academic advisory board of the Meghnad Desai Academy of Economics and the board of trustees of the Centre for Civil Society. He holds a PhD in Economics from the Mumbai School of Economics and Public Policy, along with BA and MA degrees in Economics from Mumbai University.

Day One, Session 2: 90 Minutes (2 PM-3:30 PM)
Introduction to Public Data Systems



Ms. Rukmini S

Senior Data Communicator and Founder, Data for India

Rukmini S. is an independent data communicator based in Chennai, India, and a CASI Affiliated Fellow. She is the Founder & Director of Data For India, a public platform that seeks to expand access to Indian data for everyone, and deepen the understanding of the country that can come from this data. Her work focuses on inequality, gender, caste, and politics. Rukmini was previously National Data Editor of The Hindu and now writes independently for Indian and international publications. She also hosted a pandemic podcast, The Moving Curve, which won an Emergent Ventures COVID-19 India Prize in 2020.

Rukmini's work on the true toll of COVID in India won the global data journalism awards (the Sigma Awards 2022). Her work also won a Jury's Special Mention for Investigative Reporting at the ACJ Awards 2022. Rukmini's bestselling book, Whole Numbers & Half Truths: What Data Can and Cannot Tell Us About Modern India, was published by Westland in December 2021 and It has won the Tata Lit Live for best new non-fiction.

Day Two, Session 1: 120 Minutes (11 AM-1 PM)
The Political Economy of India's Government Statistics



Dr. Vikas Kumar

Professor of Economics at Azim Premji University

Vikas Kumar is Professor of Economics at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru. He holds a BTech from IIT Kanpur and a PhD from IGIDR, Mumbai. Before joining the university, he worked at BHEL and the National Law School of India University. He is a recipient of the Elizabeth Adiseshiah Award for Distinguished Contributions to Development Studies (2024).

He is the author of Numbers as Political Allies: The Census in Jammu and Kashmir and Waiting for a Christmas Gift, and co-author of Numbers in India's Periphery. His forthcoming book is Living with Illegibility: State-making in Nagaland. He has also curated and co-curated several exhibitions on census, caste, Ambedkar, and Adivasi histories across India.

Day Two, Session 2: 120 Minutes (2 PM-4 PM)
Basic Statistics & Quantitative Research Design



Dr. Rajat Goyal

Assistant Professor, UPES Dehradun

Dr. Rajat Goyal is an Assistant Professor at UPES, Dehradun, and holds a PhD in Industrial Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi). His teaching and research expertise spans Operations Research, Quantitative Research Methods, Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis, Decision Support Systems, and Data-Driven Decision-Making. His research focuses on the application of quantitative and analytical methods to public administration, infrastructure governance, sustainability, energy transition, and emerging technologies. He has published research in peer-reviewed journals and is committed to advancing evidence-based research and analytical problem-solving through teaching and interdisciplinary research.

Day Three, Session 1: 120 Minutes (11 AM-1 PM)
Basics of Primary Survey Design



Dr. Manikant Roy

Assistant Professor in Jaipuria Institute of Management, Noida

Dr. Manikant Roy has completed his Ph.D. in Information Systems from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, where his research focused on the applications of data science in digital healthcare. He has over five years of teaching experience as an Assistant Professor in Computer Science, Business Analytics, and Data Science, and has been recognized by Google and Microsoft for his contributions to technology education. His research and teaching interests include Social Computing, Human-Computer Interaction, and Information Systems. He also serves as a Regional Mentor of Change for the Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, Government of India. His expert views on management education in the AI era have been featured by BBC Hindi

Day Three, Session 2: 120 Minutes (2 PM-4 PM)
Analysis of Political data and Electoral Surveys



Ashish Ranjan

Co-founder, Data Action Lab for Emerging Societies

Ashish is a co-founder of Data Action Lab for Emerging Societies (DALES), a non-partisan collective of academics, social scientists and practitioners studying public opinion, state capacity, elections, urban change, migration and social change in India through field surveys, administrative data and publicly accessible research resources. He is a seasoned scholar who's working with electoral data and election surveys for long and was previously associated with CSDS Lokniti, Centre for Policy Research, Delhi Vidhan Sabha, India Today and NDTV.

Day Four, Session 1: 120 Minutes (11 AM-1 PM)
Making Sense of Economic and Administrative Data



Avani Kapur

Founder, ResGov and Visiting Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research

Avani Kapur is the Founder and Director of ResGov and also a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research. She is a public finance expert with nearly 2 decades of experience in studying India's welfare architecture including budget tracking, fund flows, data and governance systems and state capacity constraints as well as state-citizen engagements. Prior to this she was leading the Accountability Initiative at the Centre for Policy Research.

She has authored several articles, reports, and opinion pieces on state finances, India's welfare architecture, and governance, and has conducted workshops and trainings with Indian Administrative Service officers, Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assemblies, Indian Economic Service Officers and Officers of the National Audit and Accounts Academy. In 2020, during the COVID 19 pandemic, she co-conceptualised the PULSE4Development platform seeking to bring the development community together to learn, share, and communicate better with each other. The platform hosts more than 112 organisations and over 200 individual members.

Day Four, Session 2: 120 Minutes (2 PM-4 PM)
Spatial Data Analysis and Mapping



Dr. Shamindra Nath Roy

Assistant Director & Assistant Professor, IDEAS, JGU

Shamindra Nath Roy is an Assistant Professor in the IDEAS Program in JGU. He works at the interface of urbanization and public policy. He is a mixed-methods researcher research covers rural-urban transformations, urban local governance, internal migration in India, labor and employment issues, and socio-spatial inequalities in basic services in Delhi. His work is published in Economic and Political Weekly, Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers, and in a number of book chapters, policy briefs and opinion pieces.

Prior to JGU, Shamindra worked as a development professional in the World Resources Institute and Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi. He has also been a visiting researcher at CESSMA, Université de Paris, and has undertaken research consultancies with the Asian Development Bank, International Labour Organization, and the World Bank. He has also taught as an Adjunct faculty at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, Delhi.

Shamindra holds an M.Phil and Ph.D in Regional Development with a specialization in geography from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Day Five, Session 1: 120 Minutes (11 AM-1 PM)

Foundations of Machine Learning for Social Science Research



Dr. Ashish Kumar Kaushal

Associate Professor, Jindal Global Business School, JGU

Dr. Ashish Kumar Kaushal is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at IIM Ahmedabad in Production and Quantitative Methods. He holds a PhD from IIT Delhi, where his research focused on mathematical modelling in humanitarian supply chains. He has contributed to disaster relief efforts during the Uttarakhand and Chennai floods and Cyclone Fani.

His research has appeared in leading international journals, including International Journal of Production Research and Transportation Research Part E. He has received awards and research grants from organisations including MHRD, MoUD, DST, POMS, INFORMS, and DSI. His research interests include Operations Management, Supply Chain Management, Humanitarian Logistics, and Healthcare Analytics

Day Five, Session 2: 120 Minutes (2 PM-4 PM)

Foundations of Natural Language Processing for Text Analysis



Dr. Pooja Sarin

Assistant Director & Assistant Professor, IDEAS, JGU

Dr. Pooja Sarin is an Assistant Professor at the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS), O.P. Jindal Global University. She holds a Ph.D. in Information Systems and Analytics from IIT Delhi. Her research interests include computational social science, social media analytics, digital platforms, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and text mining. Her doctoral research explored the darker dimensions of social media use through big data analytics, focusing on digital behaviour, user engagement, and social media addiction. Her work brings together interdisciplinary perspectives from information systems, data science, and social sciences to derive meaningful insights from large-scale digital data. She has experience in teaching artificial intelligence, machine learning, big data analytics, and related subjects, alongside research presentations and publications in international academic forums.

About the Organisers

I.D.E.A.S. - Office of Interdisciplinary Studies, O.P. Jindal Global University

The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS) O.P. Jindal Global University fosters collaborative research, learning and problem-solving across disciplines. It provides platforms for researchers and students to engage with global academic debates and practical challenges through innovative, cross-cutting programs.

Contact: ideas@jgu.edu.in

Data Insights at IDEAS is envisaged as a research centre with a mission to inculcate aculture of data-centric research, teaching and learning at the IDEAS office. The Centre'saffiliates will contribute to writing data-driven outputs, design and develop courses ondata structures, methods, analysis and data-based research and communication, andmentor students for thesis and capstone projects, and collaborate with other facultiesand researchers in IDEAS for development of publications and data-driven proposals. Asit evolves, it will build a repository of diverse datasets accessible to students and faculty,and will provide guidance on usage. In addition to this, it will build an abridged list ofvarious data sources and metadata that is essential to study discourses of socio-economic development in India and beyond.

Organisers Team



Dr. Shamindra Nath Roy

Assistant Director &
Assistant Professor, IDEAS, JGU



Dr. Pooja Sarin

Assistant Director &
Assistant Professor, IDEAS, JGU

I.D.E.A.S. *at a* GLANCE

IDEAS OFFICE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

100+ Ideas Advisory Council

80+ Research and Publications

31+ Research Fellow

10+ Collaborative Projects

10+ Core Faculty

10+ Institutional Partnership

6+ Initiatives

6+ Member Associates

6+ Research Constellations

ABOUT US

The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS) at O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) serves as a university-wide platform for fostering interdisciplinary teaching, research, and community engagement across the social sciences. It brings together scholars, students, and practitioners to co-create knowledge and develop innovative responses to complex real-world challenges.

At its core, IDEAS operates as an intellectual incubator, supporting collaborative scholarship, experimental pedagogy, and research that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries. Through its initiatives and field-based programmes, it promotes critical inquiry, applied learning, and engagement with pressing development concerns.

With a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary dialogue, global academic exchange, and community-linked research, IDEAS aims to cultivate a dynamic academic environment that connects theory with practice and advances socially relevant scholarship



O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTION OF EMINENCE DEEMED TO BE

UNIVERSITY

A Private University Promoting Public Service

INDIA'S GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

NUMBER 1 RANKED PRIVATE UNIVERSITY

O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) is a non-profit, multi-disciplinary and research oriented university founded in 2009. JGU was established as a philanthropic initiative of its Founding Chancellor, Mr. Naveen Jindal in memory of his father, Mr. O.P. Jindal.

JGU has 16,000+ students, 1100+ full-time faculty members, and 2900+ administrative staff in its fully residential campus. JGU's twelve schools focus on Law, Business & Management, International Affairs, Public Policy, Liberal Arts & Humanities, Journalism, Design & Architecture, Banking & Finance, Environment & Sustainability, Psychology & Counselling, Languages & Literature and Public Health & Human Development. Over the last decade, JGU has grown into an institution that brings full-time faculty from 50+ countries in the world, students from 160+ countries and has collaborated with 600+ leading institutions in 80+ countries which makes the learning experience truly international.

JGU is ranked Number 1 in the world with the highest overall score amongst all universities and awarded 'Gold' by the Times Higher Education (THE) Online Learning Rankings 2024. JGU has been ranked as India's Number 1 Private University for three years in a row by the prestigious QS World University Rankings 2023. JGU has been recognised among the Top 150 universities globally under the age of 50 years by the QS Young University Rankings. JGU has also been recognised in the Top 500 Universities as per the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2022.

The Jindal Global Law School has retained its No. 1 rank in India for seven consecutive years and is ranked Top 35 globally for Law by the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026. Furthermore, JGU holds the distinction of being India's top university for Politics & International Studies and is ranked Top 90 in the world. JGU also holds the position as India's top private university for Business & Management Studies (among Top 200 in the world), Social Sciences & Management (Ranked Top 232 in the world), Arts & Humanities (Ranked Top 323 in the world), Economics & Econometrics (among Top 500 in the world) as per the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026. JGU is ranked No.1 University for Law and No.2 University for Psychology in India by the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings by Subject 2026. In 2025, Jindal Global Business School (JGBS) was awarded the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International Accreditation — an accreditation earned by only 6% of business schools worldwide. In 2020, JGU was recognised as an 'Institution of Eminence' by the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

JGU at a GLANCE

16000+ Students

1100+ Faculty

4000+ Faculty & Administrative Staff from **54** countries

22400+ Alumni Network World-Wide

12 SCHOOLS

50+ Programmes

- **30+** Undergraduate Programmes
- **20+** Postgraduate Programmes
- Doctoral Programme

- Jindal Global Law School — India's First Global Law School
- Jindal Global Business School — India's First Multi-Disciplinary Global Business School
- Jindal School of International Affairs — India's First Global Policy School
- Jindal School of Government and Public Policy — India's First Public Policy School
- Jindal School of Liberal Arts & Humanities — India's First Transnational Humanities School
- Jindal School of Journalism & Communication — India's First Global Media School
- Jindal School of Design & Architecture — India's Global Design and Architecture School
- Jindal School of Banking & Finance — India's First Global Finance School
- Jindal School of Environment & Sustainability — India's First Interdisciplinary Environment & Sustainability School
- Jindal School of Psychology & Counselling — India's First Transdisciplinary Psychology School
- Jindal School of Languages & Literature — India's Global School of Language & Literature Studies
- Jindal School of Public Health & Human Development — India's First Interdisciplinary School for Public Health & Development

RESEARCH

10730+ Publications

65+ Interdisciplinary research centres

7 Research & capacity building institutes

- Jindal Institute of Leadership Development & Executive Education
- Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences
- International Institute for Higher Education Research & Capacity Building
- Jindal India Institute
- Jindal Institute of Haryana Studies
- Motwani Jadeja Institute for American Studies
- Jindal Institute for Continuing Education and Professional Development

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

620+ Collaborations with International Universities & Higher Education Institutions

10 Forms of Global Partnerships

80+ Countries & Regions

300+ Faculty & Student Exchange Collaborations

160+ Countries represented by Students

RANKINGS & RECOGNITIONS

- RANKED **35** for LAW
- RANKED **90** for POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
- TOP **200** for BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT STUDIES
- RANKED **232** for SOCIAL SCIENCES & MANAGEMENT
- RANKED **323** for ARTS & HUMANITIES
- TOP **500** for ECONOMICS & ECONOMETRICS

INDIA'S NO. 1 RANKED UNIVERSITY

PUBLIC & PRIVATE		PRIVATE			
LAW	POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES	BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT STUDIES	SOCIAL SCIENCES & MANAGEMENT	ARTS & HUMANITIES	ECONOMICS & ECONOMETRICS

IN THE WORLD

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS BY SUBJECT 2026

- RANKED NO.1 IN INDIA FOR LAW — TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION SUBJECT RANKINGS 2026
- RANKED NO.2 IN INDIA FOR PSYCHOLOGY — TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION SUBJECT RANKINGS 2026

THE Times Higher Education

- AMONG 6% B-SCHOOLS GLOBALLY WITH AACSB ACCREDITATION
- AACSB ACCREDITED

CONFERRED THE STATUS OF AN **Institution of Eminence** BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Sonipat-131001, (NCR of Delhi)

www.jgu.edu.in

JGU - An Initiative of Jindal Foundation