

**Annual National Workshops, Baroda**  
FORUM ON CONTEMPORARY THEORY

	<b>Year</b>	<b>Theme (S) and brief description</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>Resource Person(s)</b>
1	November 1-5, 1996	<b>Gender Perspectives in the 90s</b> The workshop reviewed the idea of gender: it's conceptual and experiential transformation in various parts of the world. The need to generate culture sensitive perspectives on gender, while acknowledging the importance of the movements aspiring for gender justice and equality was emphasized. The workshop hence looked critically at the universality and specificity of concerns surrounding gender.	44	Rajeswari Sunder Rajan, Reader in English, Sri Venkateswara College, Delhi, feminist Scholar and author of <i>The Lie of the Land: English Literary Studies in India</i> (1992)
2	2-6 June, 1997	<b>Cultural Studies: Interdisciplinary Perspectives</b> Interdisciplinarity is not yet another trendy concept, but a much needed practice that would facilitate an ongoing dialogue between disciplines that would enrich the understanding and interpretation of culture. How to do cultural studies with an open minded inclusive approach to the methods and ideas of various disciplines is what the workshop tried to illustrate.	52	Suvir Kaul, Department of English, University of Pennsylvania and Ania Loomba, University of Pennsylvania
3	8-11 October, 1998	<b>Nationalism and Narrative Discourse</b> The workshop looked into the narrativization of nation and nationalism against the colonial and	50	Kumkum Sangari, Indraprastha College, Delhi; Sudhir Chandra, Centre for Social Studies, Surat; Suguna Ramanathan, St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad and G.N Devy, M.S. University, Baroda

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		post-independence contexts, inquiring how the discourses of nationalism gets entangled with such social divisions and hierarchies as caste, class, region, language and gender. While nationalism engenders conditions for inclusion, it paradoxically pushes beyond the limits a part of the populace. The workshop also explored the peripheral zones created by nationalism that resonates with stories of injustice, non-belonging and painful exclusion.		
4	1-4 November, 1999	<b>Historicism and Cultural Politics</b> The poststructuralist/postmodernist debate across disciplines, the changing interpretation of literature, history, politics and culture and the upsurge of New Historicism formed the backdrop of this workshop. The workshop contemplated on the complex workings of power and knowledge in interpreting and recording history that facilitates highlighting certain narratives while silencing many others. Taking the participants through the experiential domains of dalits, women and tribals, the workshop emphasized the need for salvaging the voices of those who are banished from history.	40	J. Birjepatil, Marlboro College in Vermont, United States; Rajeswari Sunder Rajan, The Centre for Humanities, the City University of New York; Suguna Ramanathan, St. Xavier's College Ahmedabad; G.N Devy, M.S. University, Baroda; Vivek Dharieswar, Centre for the Study of Culture and Society Bangalore; Shormishtha Panja, Delhi University; Dilip Das, Berhampur University and Robert Young, New York University
5	19-21 October,	<b>The Politics of Representation:</b>	50	Susie Tharu, , Central Institute for English and

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	2000	<b>Visual and Verbal</b> The Workshop investigated the complex historical processes by which representation expanded from an epistemological, artistic, or a philosophical idea to an increasingly political phenomenon. Charting out the connections between the visual and the verbal, the workshop called for a disciplinary rethinking and reconceptualization in dealing with representation(s).		Foreign Languages, Hyderabad; Madhav Prasad, Central Institute for English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad; Tapati Guha Thakurta, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta; Ghulam Sheikh, M.S. University, Baroda
6	8-11 November 2001	<b>India: A Discursive Terrain</b> The workshop attempted to map the ever-changing discursive terrain of India by engaging with narratives, histories, life worlds, representations in films, art and the like to affirm the fluid unfinalizability and inconclusiveness of the phenomena that is India.	55	Anil Dharker, Columnist and Writer, Bombay; S V Srinivas, Centre for the Study of Culture and Society (CSCS) Bangalore, Suresh Sharma, University of Delhi and E V Ramakrishnan, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat

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7	29-31 October 2002	<p><b>Philosophical Foundations of Discourses of Science</b></p> <p>In keeping with the interdisciplinary emphasis of the Forum, the workshop revolved around the associations between discourses of science and philosophical conceptions of the world and explored the possibilities of complementarity. The workshop traced the history of mutual filiations and contestations of science and philosophy during the Enlightenment and centuries that followed.</p>	45	V.V Modi, M.S. University, Baroda; V.D Pathak, M.S. University, Baroda; Johannes Manjrekar, M.S. University, Baroda; Ranjan Sengupta, M.S. University, Baroda; V. Potbhare, M.S. University, Baroda; Shiv Viswanathan, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi; Sreekanth Kulkarni, University of Hyderabad; Sunder Sarukkai, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore; Neelima Talwar, IIT Bombay
8	20-23 October 2003	<p><b>Law and Social Justice</b></p> <p>The workshop reflected on the limitations of law in making justice possible and the disjunction between law and justice. Exploring the connections between justice, fairness, ethics and morality, the workshop inquired why justice as an idea and practice cannot be understood or ensured by the normative legal system.</p>	50	Nivedita Menon, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Thomas Pantham, M.S. University, Baroda; G.N. Devy, M.S. University, Baroda; Martin Macwan, Writer and Activist, Ahmedabad; Dilip Mohite, M.S. University, Baroda and Nandini Manjrekar, M.S. University, Baroda

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9	6-9 November 2004	<p><b>Human Sciences in the Age of Technology</b>  The Workshop emphasized the value of humanistic knowledge for a world increasingly dominated by technology, which can be dehumanizing at times.  Revolutionizing the production and distribution of knowledge in human sciences, and introducing new methods of pedagogy, besides willingness to open-mindedly engage with the internal critique emerging across humanistic disciplines would prove useful in restoring the past glory of human sciences.</p>	40	Pravin J. Patel, M.S. University, Baroda; Shiv Viswanathan, Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology (DA-IICT) , Gandhinagar; Ganesh Devy, M.S. University, Baroda; E.V. Ramakrishnan, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat; Biswaroop Das, Centre for Social Studies Surat
10	24-27 October, 2005	<p><b>The Body and the Limits of Corporeal Figuration</b>  The workshop discussed the politics, ethics and aesthetics of embodiment. The sessions revolved around the corporeality of identities, sexuality and representation and looked at these issues through the lenses of history and everyday life.</p>	37	Uday Kumar, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta Calcutta; Vicky Kirby, School of Social Sciences and International Studies at the University of New South Wales, Sydney and Sanjay Srivastava, CSDS, Delhi
11	14-17 October 2006	<p><b>The Minority Question: Constructions and Contestation</b>  Keeping in mind how the minority question occupies a key role in the theoretical discourses and social practices, the workshop ventured into the related domains of freedom, justice, equality and</p>	46	Rajeev Bhargava, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Zoya Hasan, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

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		rights. While analyzing the 'minority' as a conceptual category, the workshop acknowledged its myriad representations, contestations and limits.		
12	3-5 November 2007	<b>Cognitive Language Skills for the 21st Century</b> The workshop introduced General Semantics, a linguistic-scientific-philosophical system developed by Alfred J. Korzybski that calls for a methodological revision of our thought-language-action habits to live a saner, informed and involved life.	62	Steve E. Stockdale and Andrea J. Johnson, Institute of General Semantics, USA; Pramod K. Pandey, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
13	2-5 February, 2009	<b>Perspectives on Caste and Gender in Early India</b> The workshop took the participants through the texts and contexts of early India to arrive at possible interpretations and interconnections between caste and gender. The workshop challenged the stereotypes, questioned the linear understanding of history and acknowledged that the region that we call India today did not have a monolithic understanding of caste and gender.	42	Kumkum Roy, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Jaya Tyagi, Sri Venkateswara College, Delhi
14	5-7 March 2010	<b>Globalization and the Place of Literature</b> The workshop explored the ways in which we conceive of literature in an unequal, polarized, globalized	45	Alan G. Johnson, Idaho State University, USA and D. Venkat Rao, University of Hyderabad

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		world under the sway of consumerism and many such forces. Various possibilities of literature - as a product, a saleable commodity, as art, as a link or rupture between cultures, a site for contestation and negotiation, a means of resistance, and part of the teaching machine - were brought to analysis against the context of globalization.		
15	2-5 March 2011	<b>Critical Theory and History</b> The workshop focused on the critical turn in history and explained the disciplinary exchanges history had with humanities, other social sciences and methods of natural sciences. The sessions provided insight into how Hayden White, Michel Foucault, Jacques Ranciere and Michel de Certeau contributed richly to history as knowledge and practice of knowing.	50	Neeladri Bhattacharya, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi