

Themes 4: Women, Economy and Labour Force Participation

The theme aims at examining the impact of economic liberalization and the current economic policies on women's lives.

SNDT Women's University

The University traces its origins back to 1916 when it was established by the famous social reformer Maharshi D.K. Karve. Nurtured with great dedication, the University, which has the distinction of being the first women's university in India, has over the years, continually expanded its scope and redefined its direction to respond creatively to the changing needs of women students. Today it offers a wide range of curricular options at undergraduate and graduate levels, including Open University courses and post secondary vocational training in a polytechnic. With unusual prescience, women's studies was introduced a year before the International Women's Year.

Call for Papers or Posters

Abstracts of papers should be about 200-250 words. Abstracts of paper and concepts for posters should be submitted by **10 January 2012**. Last day for Registration is **27 January 2012**. All papers should be submitted by then. Attachment should be in word format (Verdana font, text size 10, heading size 11 with 1.25 line spacing and reference format.

The India Quebec Seminar Schedule 1-2 February

Time	Programme (Day1)
9:00-10:00 a.m.	Registration & Breakfast
10:00-11:15 a.m.	Inaugural Session Presidential Address Keynote Address
11:15 -11:30 a.m.	Tea
11:30 a.m-1:00p.m	Panel 1: Overview of Women's Struggles for Political Articulations
1:00 -2:00 p.m.	Lunch
2:00-3:30p.m.	Panel 2: Women and Politics
3:30-3:45 p.m	Tea Break
3:45- 5: 15 p.m.	Parallel Sessions

Programme (Day 2)

10:00-11:15 a.m.	Panel 3: Gender Indices of Development and Well-being
11:15-11:30 a.m.	Tea Break
11:30 -1:00 p.m.	Parallel Sessions
1:00-2:00p.m.	Lunch
2:00-3:30 p.m.	Panel 4: Women, Economy and Labour Force Participation
3:30- 3:45 p.m.	Tea Break
3:45- 5:15	Valedictory Session

Registration Fees

Rs. 500 for teachers and others

Rs. 200 for students

Registration forms are available online at rcwssndt.org

The filled in application forms along with the DD (made out to the Research Centre for Women's Studies) and abstracts may be sent to Prof. Veena Poonacha, Co-ordinator, Research Centre for Women's Studies, SNDT Women's University, Juhu Campus, Juhu Road, Mumbai 400 049

Gendered Politics and the Public Domain: Perspectives for India and Quebec

(Funded by the University Grants Commission)

A Seminar Organized by

The Research Centre for Women's Studies
&
UGC Area Studies Centre
for Canadian Studies



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Gendered Politics and the Public Domain: Perspectives for India and Quebec

A Seminar Jointly Organized by

Quebec

and

SNDT Women's University, Mumbai

Located within the specific histories of India and Quebec, this seminar explores the dimensions of feminist struggles for gender justice. It aims at developing an appreciation of feminist politics/strategies across geopolitical borders, strengthen feminist struggles for equity and build research/academic collaborations between scholars. For despite socio-economic and political differences, the two nations have experienced colonization and have long histories of struggles for self determination. These experiences have shaped feminist political articulations in both nations.

Seeking to hear these divergent voices, the seminar reaches out to a shared understanding of women's lives and struggles for equity. Encoded in the discourse is recognition that the past political strategies to enhance women's political representation, strengthen the criminal justice systems to deal with gender violence or access to education may have been insufficient: For the context of feminist political articulations, since the 1960s and 1970s have changed. Feminist politics has had to respond to the changed socio-economic context of the 21st century. Despite the greater visibility of gender issues in national and

international arenas, existing development indices show a visible decline in the wellbeing of women. This seminar examines the changed context of feminist struggles in India and Quebec for political representation, education, workforce participation and health. The seminar broadens the concept of political participation as going beyond electoral representation to be found in the alternative political environments.

Objectives:

1. To trace the trends in feminist politics, strategies and articulations since the 1960s in India and Quebec;
2. To review the theoretical and ideological basis of feminist politics in the two nations;
3. To document factors that affect/ restrict /facilitate women's access to health, education and workforce participation; and
4. To gain fresh insights into feminist politics in the light of the present challenges of economic liberalization, changing labour relations, identity politics and cultural politics;

Theme 1: Overview of Women's Struggles and Challenges for Political Articulation

Having grown out of the various civil rights struggles of the 1960s and 1970s, feminist

political struggles have had to grapple with a variety of issues affecting women. These struggles have ranged from issues of gendered violence to struggles to ensure women's socio-economic and political entitlements. This session provides an overview of the women's movement and the current challenges faced by feminist politics.

Theme 2: Women and Politics

This theme explores women's participation in electoral politics and in alternative politics. It raises critical questions about the factors that inhibit women's participation in representational politics and their greater presence in alternative political forums such as mass-based movements, trade unions and protest actions. An additional area of interest is the impact of identity and cultural politics in struggles to establish gender equity.

Theme 3: Gender Indices of Development and Wellbeing

Using the Millennium Development Goals as a reference point, this theme explores women's access to health and education in the two nations. Undoubtedly, the issues of concern regarding women health or access to education in the two nations are different, but the papers from India and Quebec presented in the session will document the specificities of these experiences.