

SASA CONFERENCE 2024 Panelist Biographies

Sara Ivanhoe:

Sara Elizabeth Ivanhoe is a Doctoral Candidate at the Graduate Theological Union writing her dissertation on the beneficial effects of yoga postures, breathwork, and meditation for quality sleep. She holds a Master's Degree from Loyola Marymount University in Yoga Studies and has been teaching yoga for almost 30 years. She serves as the Founding Yoga Director at the University of Southern California as well as a lecturer in the Department of Mind-Body Health. She has recently completed a 2-year sleep study on almost 200 student volunteers in collaboration with USC's Institute of Integrative Health and Wellness.

Qurratulaen Liaqat:

Dr. Qurratulaen Liaqat works as Associate Professor at the Department of English Forman Christian College (A Chartered University) Lahore, Pakistan. Her areas of interest are posthumans, postcolonial, and post 9/11 Literature.

Roy Pereira:

Roy Pereira, SJ, PhD has been teaching Neuroscience for a couple of years. His research area involves the mind-body connection especially as it relates to health. At Loyola Marymount University he is also involved in designing mental health and wellbeing programs for the campus.

Rohin Relan:

Rohin Relan is a 10th grade high school student in Los Angeles. He is curious and passionate about his South Asian culture being of Nepali and Indian backgrounds. He has had the fortune of attending previous SASA conferences when he was younger and very excited to participate and contribute as a scholar this year.

Swati Goel:

Dr. Swati Goel holds a Ph.D. from the Centre for Historical Studies, JNU. Her core area of research is Medieval Indian History with special emphasis on the dynamics of the medieval Braj region. The title of her doctoral study is 'The Development of the Region of Braj: Bhakti Sects, Political Groups and the Merchants (16th to mid 18th century)'. She has presented a number of research papers at various national and international conferences and has a number of publications to her credit. She is a committed professional demonstrating a record for publishing excellence, conference presentations, and industry exposure as a Curator, Writer, Academic counsellor and Research Assistant at prestigious organizations. She continues to engage herself in organizing Academic conferences, heritage walks in her research area which concerns the development of the medieval region of Braj.

Geoff Ashton:

Geoff Ashton is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Philosophy at the University of San Francisco. He reads Sanskrit, Thai, and Spanish, and has conducted research at numerous institutions of higher learning abroad, including India, Thailand, and Spain. His current research explores philosophies of nature across Western and Asian traditions.

Jannatul Maa:oa:

Jannatul Maa:oa is a PhD researcher in Women and Gender Studies in Religion. She is also working with South Asian Network at Los Angeles California. She is a dialogue practitioner and work to promote dialogue and diversity.

Santosh Khadka:

Santosh Khadka is Professor of English, and an Academic Lead for DCDL graduate program at California State University, Northridge. He earned his PhD in composition and cultural rhetoric from Syracuse University in New York. He has written and edited scores of books and research articles.

Tika Lamsal:

Tika Lamsal is an associate professor of Rhetoric and Language at the University of San Francisco (USF) and teaches Cross-cultural Business Communication, Global Rhetorics, and English Rhetoric and Writing courses in both graduate and undergraduate programs. His research interests include communication across cultures and languages, refugee literacies, Non-western rhetorics, and South Asian diaspora writing.

Dr. Choodamani Nandagopal:

Dr. Choodamani Nandagopal is Professor in Art History and Cultural Studies, UNESCO Fellow and Tagore National Fellow. She has a PhD from Mysore University and published thirty books. Some of them are Dance and Music in Temple Architecture, Arts and Crafts of Indus Civilization, Three volumes of Temple Treasures, Ramappa Temple, and The crest Jewel of Kakatiya Heritage. At present she is the Director for Centre of Excellence in Art and Culture Research Chitrakala Parishath Bangalore.

Santanu Banerjee:

Santanu Banerjee is an assistant Professor in the department of English, Kazi Nazrul University and he is also the curator of Setubandha, the KNU museum.

Saikat Chakraborty:

Saikat Chakraborty is a PhD research scholar and a contractual teacher in the department of English, Kazi Nazrul University.

Raj Deol:

Raj Deol is a graduate student at the School for International Studies at Simon Fraser University; his current research focuses on caste, social inclusion and development. He has previously supported research on human rights backlash, politics of international donor aid and labour migration. He is a development practitioner who has previously worked with several UN agencies in South Asia on issues of gender equality, disaster resilience, and migration.

Surabhi Pandey:

Ms. Surabhi Pandey currently serves as a visiting faculty at Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi, while concurrently pursuing her doctoral studies at the Department of History, School of Liberal Studies (SLS), Ambedkar University, Delhi. She is a former recipient of the Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) at the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) Delhi. Her academic interests encompass Early Modern Indian Religious History, Ethnography in the Study of Religion, Medieval Vaishnavism, and the cultural and religious significance of sacred spaces, particularly in the Braj region.

Iswari Pandey:

Iswari Pandey is a professor of English at California State University, Northridge. His publications include the award-winning book, *South Asian in the Mid-South: Migrations of Literacies*.

Salomé Deboos:

Professor Salomé Deboos is currently teaching Anthropology of Religion and Anthropology of Migration at University Lyon 2 Lumière. For more than twenty years, she is conducting extensive field research in the Indian Himalayas and particularly in the Zaskar valley. Her main research interest is focusing on personal and community identity building process. She published her last book *Homeland or Religion, Personal identity building in Zaskar, Indian Himalayas* in July 2023, Leiden, Brill.

Veena Howard:

Veena R. Howard, Ph.D., is Professor of Asian Religious Traditions in the Department of Philosophy at California State University, Fresno. She also holds the Endowed Chair in Jain and Hindu Dharma. She also serves as the director of the newly endowed M.K. Gandhi Center: Inner Peace and Sarvodaya. Her publications include the books, *Gandhi's Global Legacy: Moral Methods and Moral Challenges* (Lexington, 2023); *The Bloomsbury Research Handbook of Indian Philosophy and Gender* (ed.), (Bloomsbury, 2019); *Dharma, Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, and Sikh Traditions of India* (ed.) (IB Tauris, 2017); and *Gandhi's Ascetic Activism: Renunciation and Social Action* (SUNY Press, 2013). She has also authored numerous peer-reviewed articles including, "The Nonviolence Conundrum: Political Peace and Personal Karma in Jain and Hindu Traditions" (Religions, 2023); "Oxford Bibliography Article: Mohandas K. Gandhi" (Oxford University Press, 2019); "Divine Light and Melodies Lead the Way: The Santmat Tradition of Bihar" (Religions, 2019); "The modern monastic Santmat movement of Bihar: building bridges between Sanātana Dharma and Sant-Mat (International Journal of Dharma Studies, 2017); "Lessons from 'The Hawk and the Dove': Reflections on the Mahabharata's Animal Parables and Ethical Predicaments" (Sophia International Journal of Philosophy and Traditions, 2016), "Rethinking Gandhi's Celibacy: Ascetic Power and the Empowerment of Women" (The Journal of the American Academy of Religion, 2013), She has also translated three books from the modern Sant tradition from Hindi into English. She has served on the Board of Trustees of the Parliament of the World's Religions.

Meenakshi Sengupta:

Meenakshi Sengupta is an artist and educator based in Kolkata. Assistant Professor at the Department of Painting, School of Fine Arts and Design of Sister Nivedita University, she is currently researching gender representation and marginalization of women artists in colonial and post-colonial India at Kala Bhavan, Visva Bharati University.

Sengupta holds a BVA in Painting, Indian Style from Kolkata's Government College of Art and Craft (2011) and an MFA in Painting (gold medal) from the Faculty of Fine Arts at Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda (2013). She manipulates formal and aesthetic conventions of traditional pictorial practices, such as Indian miniature painting, to generate contemporary meaning. Wits, ironies, and puns are frequently employed in her work to explore gender relations in contemporary life.

Sengupta is currently represented by the Shakshi Gallery, Mumbai and Shifting Frames, France.

Rafia Khatoon:

Rafia Khatoon, a MAPSS graduate at the University of Chicago, specializes in urban anthropology, focusing on sleep, homelessness, and the interplay of body, flesh, and politics. Her research explores the dynamics of public and private spaces, as well as embodied experiences and affect, particularly in relation to sleep within urban settings. With a background in Sociology and Filmmaking from Shiv Nadar University, India, she employs ethnographic methods, including participant observation and visual anthropology, to understand the sleep experiences of the homeless in urban settings. Her research aims to deepen understanding of the experiences of sleeping rough in cities to aid policies.

Md Abu Taher:

Md Abu Taher is a PhD student at the University of the West, California. Their research area is humanistic religion and its especial reference to Buddhism.

Melissa Townsend:

Melissa Townsend is an independent scholar, artist, writer, teacher, and yoga practitioner. A student of Sanskrit and Yoga Philosophy, she has translated, painted, and authored The Yoga Sūtras of Patañjali – A Visual Meditation. Book One, Samādhi Pādah and Book Two, Sādhana Pādah. She has presented the work, taught and lectured about it nationally and internationally. The paintings for Book Three, Vibhūti Pādah and Book Four, Kaivalya Pādah, are complete, and she is currently working on translation and commentary for publication.

Nairita Ghosh:

Nairita Ghosh is a PhD candidate at the Department of History & Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. She is proficient in the studies of inscriptions, numismatics, and texts, both Sanskrit and Prakrit languages. Her area of specialisations includes social history, history of the Deccan, social and urban geography, and philology. Ms. Ghosh has been published with the Orient Black Swan Publishers, and the Deccan College, among others.

Aheli Chaudhuri:

Aheli Chaudhuri is currently pursuing post-graduation in English from the Department of English, University of Delhi. Their fields of interest are Indian mediaeval literature, Indian Knowledge

System and Post Colonial Asian literature. They are also very fascinated in the comparative studies of literature.

Abhishek Das:

Abhishek Das is a curious and somewhat motivated self-learner and a student of English Literature. Completed MA in English from Swami Vivekananda University, Kolkata. Literature and interdisciplinary studies excite them every time and they always try to work on different aspects of Literature, both in English and Bengali.

Subhajit Sikhder:

Subhajit Sikhder is a PhD candidate in the Department of Media and Communication at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Palashi Vaghela:

Palashi Vaghela is a President's Postdoctoral Fellow at University of California, San Diego. She received her PhD in Information Science at Cornell University and is an engineer turned feminist scholar, researcher, writer, poet, and activist working at the intersection of society and technology.

Akhil Kang:

Akhil Kang is a PhD candidate in Anthropology at Cornell University where they work on upper caste victimhood and woundedness

Aniba Hassnain:

Aniba Hassnain is an MPhil English scholar at Forman Christian College Lahore, Pakistan. Their interest is in the realm of drama, covering both Classical and Modern drama. In addition to their theatrical interests, they have done research in the field of masculinity studies, digital literature and eco-theological studies.

Stephen Ithel Duran:

Stephen Ithel Duran is a Cross-Border Postdoctoral Fellow (CPD) with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. A long-term resident of Japan and graduate of the Tokyo University of the Arts, he has been working in the field of Asiatic Music Historiography for over a decade, specializing in ancient and medieval notational systems and Buddhist music historiography.

A pioneer in the fields of comparative liturgy and neume studies, Dr. Duran's modern Japanese and English translations of oral transmission manuscripts pertaining to esoteric Buddhist chant are the first of their kind, including, as they do, the first modern translation of the earliest manuscript to detail the form and function of Japanese Buddhist neumes, as well an exhaustive translation of the medieval literature surrounding the methodology of intoning Sanskrit Buddhist texts in the Japanese Shingon-sect.

Dr. Duran currently lives in Nepal where he is undertaking a project on Sanskrit Buddhist chant and song in the Newari tradition.

Radhika Gupta:

Radhika Gupta teaches Cultural Anthropology at Leiden University (Netherlands). She is the author of "Freedom in Captivity: Negotiations of Belonging along Kashmir's Frontier" (Cambridge University Press, 2022).

Tushti Chopra:

Tushti, LLB, LLM, MMC, PGD FSc. Presently a student at NALSAR.

Maryam Raza:

Maryam Raza is a Lecturer at the Institute of English Studies, University of the Punjab, Pakistan. Weaving romanticism and mythology in her work, Ms. Raza's poetry has found place in Pakistan and abroad. Raza's current research interests are film studies, visual arts and mythmaking. In addition to that, Maryam Raza has a book chapter publication on Pakistani Anglophone writers.

Stephen Christopher:

Stephen Christopher is a Marie Curie postdoc at the University of Copenhagen. He is the co-Editor-in-Chief of the Copenhagen Journal of Asian Studies and an Asia editor at the Database of Religious History (DRH) at the University of British Columbia.

Purnima Bhatt:

Purnima Bhatt is a Professor (Emerita) of History, Anthropology and Interdisciplinary Studies at Hood College where she has taught for 40 years. Her books and numerous papers focus on subjects ranging from South Asian Studies to African History and women's studies.

David Blundell:

Prof David Blundell is an anthropologist offering his courses at the University of California, Los Angeles. As a South Asian specialist, his research has focused on Theravada Buddhism in Sri Lanka. In India, Dr Blundell collaborates on studies concerning followers of Dr B R Ambedkar and the revival of Buddhism in terms of social transformation of the Dalit community.

Mayuri Deka:

Dr. Mayuri Deka is the Associate Professor in the School of English Studies at The University of the Bahamas. She has published and presented numerous papers on multi-ethnic identities, diasporic literatures, Postcolonial literatures, and pedagogy with a focus on South Asia. Recently, Deka has been researching the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion within effective leadership. She is in the process of writing her book on pro-social pedagogy and social justice. Deka has taught a wide range of American and World literature, including texts from various diasporas and focusing on the interactions within cultures and races.

Kuldeep Singh:

Kuldeep Singh is a dedicated faculty member in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies at Himachal Pradesh University Shimla. With a passion for education and research, Kuldeep Singh specializes in teaching Environmental Science and MBA Rural Development while also

coordinating the Disaster Management Program. As a social scientist, [Your Name] delves into various projects focusing on the socio-economic, geographic, and cultural aspects of the Himachal Himalayas. Their extensive work includes creating documentaries shedding light on the rich tapestry of local deities and the vibrant culture of Himachal Pradesh. Through their multifaceted contributions, Kuldeep Singh continues to enrich academia and deepen our understanding of the Himalayan region.

Deepak Shimkhada:

Dr. Deepak Shimkhada is an adjunct professor of Asian art history at Chaffey College, Rancho Cucamonga.

Abhishek Jain:

Abhishek Jain is Bhagwan Mallinath Visiting Assistant Professor of Jain Studies and Comparative Theology at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. He was previously a research fellow of classical and medieval Indian studies at the International Institute for Asian Studies at Leiden University in the Netherlands. His research is focused on Indian philosophy, the religion of Jainism, and theories of narrative and history.

Lorilai Biernacki:

Lorilai Biernacki teaches in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Her first book, *Renowned Goddess of Desire: Women, Sex and Speech in Tantra* (Oxford, 2007) won the Kayden Award in 2008. She is co-editor of *God's Body: Panentheism across the World's Religious Traditions* (Oxford 2013). She recently published a book on Abhinavagupta, panentheism and New Materialism, titled: *The Matter of Wonder: Abhinavagupta's Panentheism and New Materialism* (Oxford 2023).

Nalini Rao:

Dr. Nalini Rao is Associate Prof. of World Art in Soka University of America, Ca, where she teaches, World Art History with specialization in South Asian Art, Architecture and Archaeology. Rao is the author of many books, some of which include, *Facets of Indian Culture, Aditya*, 2022, *The Hindu Monastery in South India: Social, Religious and Artistic Traditions*, *Sindhu-Sarasvati Civilization*, *Royal Imagery and Networks of Power at Vijayanagara, Belur, and Sravanabelagola*.

Brinda Mehta:

Brinda J. Mehta is the Germaine Thompson Professor of French and Francophone Studies and Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Mills College @ Northeastern University in Oakland, CA. She is an award-winning author with five published monographs 66 articles on postcolonial feminist literature, and a recently completed manuscript on *The Wounds of War in Contemporary Arab Women's Writings*.

Jonathan Kay:

Jonathan Kay is a transcultural musician, and is currently a PhD student in the department of East-West Psychology at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco under the mentorship of Dr. Debashish Banerji. In search of non-western ways of musical knowing,

Jonathan moved to Kolkata, India, and for 10 years traditionally studied North Indian Raga music, innovating its expression on the saxophone and learning the rare Indian instrument the boro esraj. His research is exploring the intersection between Eastern wisdom traditions grounded in the Integral Yoga of Sri Aurobindo, and poststructuralist philosophy/psychology based on the work of Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari. As a scholar-practitioner in arts-based research, Jonathan is exploring musico-philosophical horizons between thought and sound, and his original music is based upon heterocultural and transnomic experimentation through contemplative models of improvisation.

Punam Madhok:

Punam Madhok is Associate Professor of Art History at East Carolina University. She received her PhD and MA in Art History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and her BA at Kala Bhavan, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan, India. She has presented papers at conferences, received grants to study works of art in Italy, Russia, Japan, Cambodia, and India, and has published articles on Asian, Renaissance, and Baroque art.

Debojyoti Dan:

Debojyoti Dan is a poet and a literary critic. He has been teaching in Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya (College) in the department of English, since 2009. He has special interests in Modern and Postmodern literature and theories. He learned French initially from Rama Krishna Mission and then pursued further diplomas in French from Alliance Française du Bengal. He has several publications to his credit including two books of poems *Enigma of Red Shadows* (2011) and *Enigma Unveiled* (2023). He has written various chapters in edited international books and peer reviewed journals. He was awarded the first prize in the world French Poetry Competition known as 'Le Printemps des Poètes' in 2007. He had worked in Alliance Française du Bengal as a cultural co-ordinator in the Cine club from 2007-2009.

Ingo Mitalo:

Ingo Mitalo is a Doctoral Scholar at Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam India. He holds his Bachelors and Masters degree in Political Science from Indira Gandhi Government College, Tezu and Banaras Hindu University respectively. His area of research interests includes borderland studies, peace and conflicts studies, electoral politics, tribes and identity politics, and others.

Ayan Chakraborty:

Ayan Chakraborty is a PhD scholar and a Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for English Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has published several academic articles/book chapters across international and national journals/edited books. He has recently published his first book of poems "On Un-Poetry & other poems" (2022). He has also contributed several other pieces of creative fiction in various literary magazines. His areas of interest include modern poetry, political and postcolonial literature, Indic studies, contemporary Indian literature, religious studies and cultural theory.

Cogen Bohanec:

Cogen Bohanec is an Assistant Professor in Sanskrit and Jain Studies at Arihanta Institute where he teaches Sanskrit language, and Jain philosophy and its applications. He is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Claremont School of Theology (CST), and he has taught numerous classes on South Asian Religions and Sanskrit at the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) in Berkeley. Dr. Bohanec specializes in comparative dharma traditions, philosophy of religion, and Sanskrit language and literature, and has numerous publications in those areas. He has a PhD in “Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion” with an emphasis in Hindu Studies from GTU, and he also holds an MA in Buddhist Studies from the Institute of Buddhist Studies at GTU.

Geoff Ashton:

Geoff Ashton is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of San Francisco. Professor Ashton has studied Sanskrit, Thai, and Spanish, and conducted research at numerous institutions of higher learning abroad (twice as a Fulbright scholar), including Jawaharlal Nehru University (Delhi, India), Deccan College (Pune, India), the Jñāna-Pravaha Institute (Varanasi, India), Chiang Mai University (Chiang Mai, Thailand), Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok, Thailand), and La Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Madrid, Spain). He has been invited to present his research at various institutions in Asia, Europe, and North America, and has authored numerous articles, book chapters, and essays on Indian Philosophy, Buddhist Philosophy, philosophy of religion, comparative ethics, and comparative aesthetics.

Rohini Pragy, Samani:

Rohini Pragy, Samani is an associate professor at Jain Vishwa Bharti Institute and has been visiting faculty at Florida International University. She is also initiate Jain Samani from last 22 years and disciple of Ācārya Mahāśamaṇa. She has published research articles, books that focuses Jain Studies and comparative philosophy and religion. Non-violence, structural violence, and Training in Non-violence are subjects of her interests which she offers in her courses. She is also member of AAR and SASA from past few years.

Ishita Mahajan:

Ishita is a PhD candidate in Religious Studies at the University of Edinburgh. Her doctoral thesis looks at the questions of identity, nationalism and agency in the context of the deity traditions of Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, India. Her research is currently being supported by the FfWG (Funds for Graduate Women) Foundation Grant. Her areas of interest include Himalayan religion and culture, nationalism, agency and visual anthropology.

Sonu Sah:

Sonu Sah is a Doctoral Research Scholar from Institute of Language Studies and Research - Jadavpur University, Kolkata, West Bengal, India. She has completed her MPhil from Sikkim University, India in 2023. Her broad area of research include Folk studies while especially focusing on Bhojpuri Folk from the perspective of Gender, Culture, Marginal and Migration Studies.

Ameya Balsekar:

Ameya Balsekar is Associate Professor of Government at Lawrence University, in Appleton, WI. His research in the sub-field of comparative politics centers on the intersections between the material and symbolic dimensions of political life.

Zoe Slatoff:

Dr. Zoë Slatoff has a Ph.D. in Religion and Philosophy from Lancaster University in the U.K. and an M.A. in Asian Languages and Cultures from Columbia University. She is the Clinical Professor of Sanskrit at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, where she teaches Sanskrit and Yoga Philosophy courses in the Yoga Studies M.A. program, as well as undergraduate courses through the Theology department. Her Ph.D. dissertation—which she is working on turning into a book—was an exploration of the intersection of Yoga and Advaita over time, centering around a translation of the *Aparokṣānubhūti*, a text attributed to Śaṅkarācārya, although probably written closer to the early sixteenth century, and its commentaries. Dr. Slatoff is also the author of *Yogāvatāraṇam: The Translation of Yoga*, a Sanskrit textbook based on classic yoga texts, which integrates traditional and academic methods of learning, from which she teaches.

Venu Mehta:

Venu Mehta is an Assistant Professor of Jainism and Comparative Spiritualities at Claremont School of Theology. Her present research focuses on the devotional practices of Jain Goddess Padmavati.

Kushmala Mariam Mogha:

Kushamala Marian Moghal is from Lahore, Pakistan currently doing an M.Phil in English Literature at Forman Christian College. Their research interest lies in Gender Studies, Post Colonial Studies, and Trauma Studies.

Yashashwani Srinivas:

Yashashwani Srinivas is a PhD student at the School of History, University of Leeds. Her PhD is on the Dalit Movement in post-colonial Karnataka, for which she has secured funding from the prestigious Arts and Humanities Research Council. As a researcher working on themes of caste, gender, print culture and social movements she has held positions at universities and organisations India, the UK and the USA. She co-founded community education initiative- Neelam Iravupadasalai with Dalit film maker and screen writer Pa Ranjith.

Jenny Bhatt:

Jenny Bhatt is a writer, literary translator, book critic, and writing instructor. Her most recent book was *The Shehnai Virtuoso: Dhumketu's Best Short Stories* (2022; Deep Vellum.) She is currently a Ph.D. scholar in literature at the University of Texas at Dallas. Find her at <https://jennybhattwriter.com>.

Sudipta Dutta:

Sudipta Dutta is a faculty member at the Department of English, Derozio Memorial College, West Bengal, India. He was a former student at West Bengal State University, where he was a university gold medalist. He has multiple research publications to his name in the form of journal articles

and book chapters. He is also a part of the organizing core committee at the Centre for Studies in Gender, Culture and Media, West Bengal State University. His research interests include: migration studies, myth and literature, popular culture and Twentieth century Bengali fiction.

Bagesh Kumar:

Dr Bagesh Kumar (Assistant Professor) teaches in the Department of International Studies, Political Science and History, CHRIST (Deemed to be) University, Delhi NCR. His research critically engages with education policy, the reproduction of social inequalities in the neo-liberal era and how it shapes the identity and aspirations of the Dalit youth in Indian higher education.