



भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान भोपाल

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal

Bhopal Bypass Road, Bhauri, Bhopal 462066

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW IN HUMANITIES

14th January 2019

Applications are invited for the post of one Postdoctoral Fellow in Humanities in the following research area(s):

Critical Theory and/or Continental Philosophy

Deadline Extended: 15th March 2019

Research Topic: Formation, use, and transformation of political concepts in contemporary theory

Qualifications: Ph.D. in Philosophy or Literature or Political Theory or any related field. A readiness to engage in theoretical reflection along with a literary, philosophical, political, or cultural focus is essential. Expertise in some aspect of Critical Theory and/or Continental Philosophy is highly desirable.

Salary: Rs. 40,460 per month (Gross pay)

Duration: 1 year

Apply to: Interested applicants should email their CV and a 1-page cover letter (describing their past accomplishments, research interests, and career goals), a research proposal (not more than 1000 words), a writing sample, along with the names and contact information of three referees to adity@iiserb.ac.in.

Please include an abstract (about 200 words) in your research proposal.

In your research proposal (no more than 1500 words in total), please indicate:

- The topic
- The questions and goals of your project
- The methodology to be employed
- Any preliminary work done

As a writing sample, please include a contextualised chapter from your book or dissertation, an article, work in progress, or some equivalent material (no more than 5000 words).

This position will remain open until filled. Shortlisted candidates will be called for interview by e-mail. No TA/DA will be paid to the candidate for appearing in the interview. The selected candidate will be notified by e-mail and **expected to join immediately**.

Main Purpose of the Role: To develop an independent research project under the supervision of the primary investigator and to contribute to the production of research on the formation, use, and transformation of political concepts in contemporary theory.

Key Responsibilities:

- To conduct individual and collaborative research projects
- To disseminate research results through publications, seminar and conference presentations, public engagements, and outreach activities
- To undertake appropriate organisational and administrative activities connected to the research project
- To provide guidance to other students, as required, which may include conducting tutorials and overseeing student projects and presentations
- Where appropriate, to assist with undergraduate teaching in own area of expertise

Further Specifications:

- The concepts to be considered could include one or more of the following: Freedom, Equality, Democracy, Nation, Civil Society, People, Populism, Law, Citizenship, Education, Sovereignty, Truth, Narrative, Memory, Protest, Hope, Utopia, Political Action, Radicalism, Fanaticism, Secularism, Religion, History, Pluralism, Multiculturalism, Imperialism, Gender, Caste, Race, Sexuality, and other concepts contested in contemporary theoretical and socio-political discourse.
- Comparative projects, projects considering the historical evolution of concepts, projects focussing the use of concepts in marginal and non-canonical discourses, or projects conceptualising and contesting disciplinary boundaries are most welcome.
- Disciplinary interests may include—but are not restricted to—critical theory, continental philosophy, early modern thought, classical philosophy, literary criticism, Marxist theory, feminist and queer theory, psychoanalytic theory, cultural studies, history of political thought, intellectual history, social history, history of ideas, and the history of philosophy.

Person Specification:

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| • PhD in Philosophy, Political Theory, Literature, Sociology, or any other related area | <i>Essential</i> |
| • Specialisation in Critical Theory and/or Continental Philosophy | <i>Desirable</i> |
| • Knowledge of Critical Theory and/or Continental Philosophy to the level of expertise required to engage in high quality research | <i>Essential</i> |
| • Research expertise in an area that will complement and enhance the department's research strategy and goals | <i>Essential</i> |
| • Interest in interdisciplinary approaches drawing on insights from across the humanities | <i>Essential</i> |
| • Ability to engage effectively with a wide ranging audience, both orally and in writing, using a range of media | <i>Essential</i> |
| • Ability to write up research work for publication in high profile journals and engage in public dissemination | <i>Essential</i> |
| • Ability to develop research objectives, projects and proposals for own and joint research, with the assistance of a mentor if required | <i>Essential</i> |

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| • Competency to conduct individual and collaborative research projects | <i>Essential</i> |
| • Competency to make presentations at conferences and exhibit work at other events | <i>Essential</i> |
| • Attention to detail and commitment to high quality and rigour | <i>Essential</i> |
| • Interest in and enthusiasm for the subject matter of the project(s) | <i>Essential</i> |
| • Positive attitude to colleagues and students | <i>Essential</i> |
| • Ability to plan and prioritise own work in order to meet deadlines | <i>Essential</i> |
| • Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills | <i>Desirable</i> |

Description of Research Project(s) of Primary Investigator (Dr. Adity Singh):

- My current research focuses on the development of an “aleatory dialectic” and the associated emergence of a temporal, dialectical, and revolutionary subjectivity in the interpretation of dialectical materialism proposed by Althusser and Badiou following Marx and the Epicureans. The notion of materialism developed by these thinkers spatialises time, while dialectics, plural, emerge as aleatory irruptions in an atemporal regime of things. Before such eventual irruptions, not only is there no such thing as time, there is nothing resembling a subject. My question here concerns that which orients the not-yet-subject to inscribe itself into ever-new (revolutionary) temporalities. At the other end of the spectrum, I also look at thinkers like Hegel and Sartre, who develop an intensional notion of the subject that finds itself embroiled in a linear time that progresses within a totalising dialectic. This version is in constant danger of undermining the revolutionary potential of the subject, whose gradual emergence is not unlike eternal stasis. Yet it is only here that we have any concept of a subject before an event. My aim is to formulate a pre-revolutionary temporality of the aleatory subject by dialectically co-ordinating these two incommensurable modes of thought.
- My previous research explored the possibility of subjectivity and freedom in Alain Badiou’s philosophy through a close reading of his set-theoretical ontology and his ‘objective’ phenomenology, in order to discuss the position of the subject in relation to an ethics (Kantian/Lacanian – focussing on decision, action, and universality) and a politics (Marxist/Rousseauist – focussing on organisation and the state) respectively. This analysis aimed to formulate a new concept of freedom by arguing that Badiou’s work gives hope to the existence of a collective political subject, one which is paradoxically free because it lives for an imperative – a truth it believes in.

Contact Details:

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