



Research Interest Group: Education and Marginal Groups

proposes

Reading Groups

Education and Marginal Groups RIG proposes following three reading groups.

Education, Margins and State in Ordering the City:

This fortnightly reading groups that will explore the contact between education, state and the margins. Education practices have always been affected by the core-periphery distinction, as marginal groups for long have been shown to be excluded from educational practices and policy. Generally, we attribute this exclusion to the failure of the education system and the state. This RIG will take a different route to argue that margins instead offer us a unique perspective to understand educational practices themselves and by extension the contact between state and the education. Margins are those sites that throw open for us the processes through which education and state interact with one another and how these practices are shaped in the current ecosystem, playing an important role in ordering the urban.

By meeting twice in a month over virtual platform, we propose this reading group where we focus on discussion around the readings drawing from disciplines of education, sociology, anthropology and philosophy. Some of the thinkers covered through these reading groups would be Veena Das, Asher Ghertner, Gautam Bhan, Ayona Dutta, Ananya Roy, Sanjay Srivastava, Amita Baviskar, Sarada Balagopalan, Geetha Nambissan, Nita Kumar, Giorgio Agamben, Michel Foucault and so on.

This online reading group is jointly organized by Prof. Jyoti Dalal, Dr. Ruchira Das, Dr. Charles Varghese and Mr. Chetan Anand. We will also be inviting speakers for some of the sessions. **The schedule for this online reading group in Oct.-Nov is as follows:**

- **25th Oct., 2023:** Ghertner, A. (2015). Introduction. *Rule By Aesthetics: World-Class city Making in Delhi*.

- **8th Nov., 2023:** Ghertner, A. (2015). World class City Making. *Rule By Aesthetics: World-Class city Making in Delhi.*
- **22nd Nov., 2023:** Das,V. and Poole, D. (2004). State and its Margins: Comparative Ethnographies In *Anthropology in the Margins of the State.*

Reading 'Human Condition' of Hannah Arendt:

Arendt stands as an important thinker to understand the contemporaneity. Troubled with being called political philosopher, her work traces the break that comes between philosophy and politics, which consequently constrains the former as a zone of esoteric ideas while abandoning the latter. The decay and the stagnation of politics can be located in the 'turning away from the world', as she phrases, to understand the prevalent depoliticization of human life. Her insights are important to locate education in the times where it is getting reduced to certain instrumental, utilitarian goals, with an extractive, calculative relationship with the world.

Human condition looks at three core human activities: labor, work and action, and how they are connected while also creating a space for humans to engage with each other in their plurality instead of creating walls out of fear. Labor is understood through necessity and survival, where the focus is on sustenance of life; work provides the thing-character to the world which exists through different artifacts and the workmanship, and action affirms human beings as political creatures. It is through action that something new is brought into this world and through work it is made tangible and durable. It is the articulations of these activities with each other that forms the core of this book. While this book is largely understood as an attempt to resuscitate politics, but for her, that is also possible through the broader rescue of these three fundamental and interrelated activities.

This online reading group is scheduled on every Monday from 7:30-9:30 pm.

This is jointly organized by Prof. Jyoti Dalal and Mr. Chetan Anand.

Reading 'Ecrits' of Lacan:

This reading group will read *Ecrits* (Writings) by Jacques Lacan who was a French psychoanalyst and a seminal figure in the French intellectual scene. He has influenced and conversed with other thinkers like Levi Strauss, Louis Althusser, Jacques Derrida etc. Psychoanalysis although has its origins in the medical practice of treating and improvement of mental health, it has long been used to understand the relationship between the subject and society. Freud's own seminal book 'Civilization and its Discontents' paved the way for such a reading of psychoanalysis. Lacanian turn to psychoanalysis found its distinctive voice through its conversations with philosophy specifically developing upon the works of Aristotle, Descartes, Kant, Hegel, Heidegger etc. Recently, Freudian-Lacanian psychoanalysis has gained a lot of momentum in philosophy and social sciences, especially after the emergence of philosophers like Slavoj Žižek, Mladen Dolar and Alenka Župancic on the scene. This reading group aims to explore important conversations at the intersection of psychoanalysis, philosophy and social sciences. There has been a long history of thinking of reason as the centre of structuring of modern society at least since Kant, this reading group through psychoanalysis will privilege desire as a lens to understand the world today that is also given the name of late capitalism. We will bring into focus Lacanian theory of language, especially its developments on Ferdinand de Saussure's seminal work in linguistics and Jakobson's ideas on metaphor and metonymy. This reading especially becomes important as we find ourselves in an age where aesthetics and affect are emerging as dominant figures of thought. Through this book this group will develop this conversation psychoanalysis has with these varied disciplines, alongside there will also be a concerted attempt to bring psychoanalysis in conversation with discourses of education, especially by bringing psychoanalytic lens of looking at childhood with other discourses of education. Various themes of psychoanalysis that will be important and will be brought forth in our discussions would be sex, desire, drive, relationship of subject to other, imagination, language, childhood etc.

This reading group is scheduled on every Saturday from 2:30-6:30 pm at Vasant Kunj, Delhi. The discussions are led by Mr. Chetan Anand.

Joining reading group:

If you wish to join any of the reading groups, please write to conveners or leave a message to them.

Email: rig.edumargins@gmail.com

Dr. Jyoti Dalal # 9311433343.

Dr. Ruchira Das # 9899778064

Dr. Charles Varghese # 9847502945

Alternatively, the groups can be joined through the following whatsapp links:

Reading Group I: Education, Margins and State in Ordering the City:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/EnrYDI5OJi92GEZa4XLpdP>

Reading Group II: Reading 'Human Condition' of Hannah Arendt:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/CD6Qd9iNHNh44gsXj3xTkY>

Reading Group III: Reading 'Ecrits' of Lacan:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/GR4wRP7Se3wKIEJ7kIHuZu>