

**Department of Sociology and Anthropology**  
**Annual Seminar (2021-22)**  
**Concept Note**  
**Theme: 'Hope'**

In the midst of the devastating disease that has swept the globe, we find ourselves living some semblance of normal life. This may well be a reflection of hustle culture, a stark reminder of the inequality that is, in many ways, a greater tragedy than the one we are facing, or a dystopian picture of humanity transmogrifying into automatons.

It is, however, undeniable that humans display remarkable resilience in the face of adversity, and have done so through conditions that should, by all logic of nature and crisis, decimate them. It is this resilience that we are attempting to explore through this year's seminar. How do people persist through pain, danger, grief, devastation, and the myriad other disasters, big and small, that befall us? What mechanisms of support do we imbue our structures with? Why does prayer help? Whom do we look to for comfort and security when we need it most? What is it about society, community, culture, religion, and the individual that simply cannot be eradicated? In this way, at least, we are nothing if not cockroach-like in our ability to survive, to persist, to resist, and eventually, to thrive.

These and many other questions form the basis for a call for papers this year. The theme lends itself well to interdisciplinary research, perhaps as a socio-psychological exploration of human resilience as a reaction to trauma, an analysis of economic busts and booms corresponding to crisis and disaster, or changing political landscapes and fates in light of massive social change. Through it all, we aim to understand and respect this capacity for hope, the belief that things will be alright, and that we shall overcome. We believe this to be a productive way of coming to grips with mid and post-pandemic reality, without succumbing to fear and despair. Finally, for the two disciplines of sociology and anthropology, this theme represents a reiteration of the ability to look at solutions, at joy, and at opportunity through a critical and analytical lens. We 'hope' you will join us in this endeavour.

At this seminar, we pursue Mary Oliver's succinct advice, "Instructions for living a life: Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it."

**Honours Programme: 2 credit**

**Hub: Lingua**

## Potential Sub-Themes:

- Mechanisms of support in communities: birth, death, grief, union.
- Religion, faith, belief
- The environmental movement and hope
- Human resilience and adaptability
- Great and small historical events of hope: revolution, historical ‘firsts’, coups, struggles for independence
- Economic booms post-crisis- evidence of hope and human urge to thrive?
- Re-establishment of ‘normalcy’ after disaster/crisis/conflict

You may explore any of these, or any others that fit with the theme.

## Procedure:

- **Abstract:** Fill out the form linked here with an abstract of 250-300 words about the topic you would like to explore. (Form Link: <https://forms.gle/aMkhvVAD3WE9c2zM7>)
- **Registration fees:** Rs 500/- (if the seminar is organised online). If circumstances permit us to organise the seminar offline, there would be additional expenses incurred for lodging and boarding.

## Timeline:

- Topic Submission: **12th Aug, 2021**
- Allotment of Supervisors: **30th Aug, 2021**
- First draft: **20th November, 2021**
- Revised draft: **21st December, 2021**
- Abstract Submission: **10th January, 2022**
- Seminar Presentation: **21st-22nd January, 2022**
- Final Paper Submission: **31st January, 2022**

**HONOURS CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME PROPOSAL  
AY 2021-2022**

<b>General Information of the Activity</b>	
1.	<b>Department and Hub</b> Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology Hub: Lingua
2.	<b>Title of the Activity</b> Annual Seminar of the Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology
3.	<b>Name of the Professor taking the course and Email address</b> Radhika Rani (radhika.rani@xaviers.edu) and Arpit Gill (arpit@xaviers.edu)
4.	<b>Name/s of the Resource person/s</b> Pranoti Chirmuley, Radhika Rani, Ankita Gujar, Sahana Sen and Arpit Gill
5.	<b>Name of the Dept Coordinator and Email address</b> Pranoti Chirmuley (pranoti.chirmuley@xaviers.edu)
6.	<b>Name of the Hub Coordinator and Email address</b> Suvaiba Pirani (suvaiba.pirani@xaviers.edu)
7	<b>Number of credits for the activity and number of hours</b> 2 (30 hours)
8	<b>Fees</b> 500/-
9	<b>Eligibility</b> Any undergraduate students of SXC-M
10	<b>Number of students</b> 25
11	<b>Duration and Time</b> August 2021-January 2022

<b>Details of the Activity</b>	
1	<b>Title: THEME: ‘Hope’</b> Annual Seminar of the Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology (2021-22)
2	<b>Learning Objectives:</b>  i) Conducting a critically nuanced academic enquiry on a topic related to the theme. ii) Developing one’s sociological imagination in the context of our everyday lives and its challenges.
3	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b>  i) Participants will learn skills related to conducting an academically oriented research ii) Academic communication skills related to writing a research paper. iii) Soft skills related to effective presentation of one’s research.
4	<b>Description</b> - Participants will be assigned a faculty member who will closely supervise and support the entire process of researching and writing the seminar paper. - There will be interim deadlines related to submission of a concept note, first draft of paper, abstract, second draft, presentation and final draft of the paper.
5	<b>Modules if any</b> - The paper will have to be developed with diligent and consistent research (reading and writing) in the run-up to the seminar. - A day-long seminar will be organized in January 2022 for the presentation of all the research papers.



**THE DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIOLOGY AND  
ANTHROPOLOGY PRESENTS:**



# ACADEMIC SEMINAR

2021-2022

## Theme: Hope

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO CONDUCT INDEPENDENT ACADEMIC RESEARCH ON A TOPIC RELATED TO THE THEME. THE JOURNEY WILL BE SUPPORTED AND SUPERVISED BY A FACULTY MEMBER. FINAL PAPER WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL SEMINAR.

HONOURS PROGRAM ACTIVITY 2021-22

DURATION: AUGUST '21- JANUARY '22

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 25

CREDITS: 2

REGISTRATION FEE: INR 500

CONDUCTED BY: THE DEPT. OF SOCIOLOGY &  
ANTHROPOLOGY