

# Call for Papers

## Engaging with categories in South Asia: processes, challenges and implications

22<sup>nd</sup> AJEI International Workshop

CPR (Delhi) — EHESS-CEIAS (Paris, Campus Condorcet) — Online

21-22-23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022

L'ÉCOLE  
DES HAUTES  
ÉTUDES EN  
SCIENCES  
SOCIALES

ceias  
centre d'études - Inde | Asie du Sud  
centre for South Asian studies



ifp  
Research  
on Culture  
Environment  
& Society  
Institut Français  
de Pondichéry

CR  
CENTRE FOR  
POLICY  
RESEARCH

CSH  
CENTRE DE SCIENCES  
HUMAINES

### Description of the Workshop

As researchers in social sciences, we are constantly confronting categories. While categorisation is an inevitable process, the division and classification of the social world is not neutral. It entails choices and has implications. Some of these choices may be determined by institutions, others informally emerge within society, and still others are made by researchers for analytical purposes.

Categorisation can leave a lasting imprint on social and political structures, as in the South Asian context. For example, the administrative categories of “Scheduled Tribes” and “Scheduled Castes” have consequences in terms of rights, identity and power relations. Similarly, the distinction between urban and rural induces different governance structures, policies and funding arrangements. Likewise, the categorisation of social relationships, like kinship or friendship—which vary geographically and acquire different meanings over time—can lead to normative inferences regarding gender, among other implications.

This conference invites social scientists who are engaging with categories in their research to reflect on the manners in which they use them. In their work, they may trace the origin and evolution of categories. They may also use existing categories and develop a critical stand, or develop new ones as analytical tools. Therefore, different sets of questions can arise from the encounter of researchers with categories or categorisation in their field:

- ➔ How do categories emerge? How are they institutionalised, mobilised, appropriated, and by whom? What are the implications or effects of categories in terms of resources, boundaries, representations or power relationships?
- ➔ When we researchers use categories as analytical or methodological tools: what are the benefits and/or limits of using categories in our analysis? What are the normative implications of using categories as researchers in social sciences? What theoretical frameworks inform the process of categorisation?

## Guidelines

We encourage participants to discuss categories and categorisation through empirical observations and case studies, and/or submit methodological and theoretical reflections. **Graduate students (Master and PhD Students)** of the Humanities and Social Sciences among the following disciplines are invited to submit their proposals: Arts History, Anthropology, Film Studies, Geography, Gender Studies, History, Political Sciences, Sociology, Urban Studies.

Abstracts in **English**, from **300 to 500 words** maximum, are expected by the **20<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. The following informations must be mentioned: name and surname of the applicant, position and institutional affiliation, current location (country and city).

They should be sent to: [ajeiworkshop2022@gmail.com](mailto:ajeiworkshop2022@gmail.com)

→ Successful applicants will be notified by **7<sup>th</sup> February 2022**.

→ Final papers of 8,000 words maximum should be submitted by **1<sup>st</sup> April 2022**.

In keeping with Covid-19 protocols for social distancing, the conference will take place **in person** simultaneously at Center for Policy Research (CPR) in New Delhi and at EHESS-CEIAS (Campus Condorcet) in Paris, as well as **online**, on the **21, 22 and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022**.

Presentations will be followed by discussions and the different panels will be enriched by various **side activities** related to the theme of the conference, such as film screening, workshops, exhibitions and participation in cultural events taking place in Paris and in New Delhi.

The workshop is organised by the **AJEI (Association de Jeunes Études Indiennes)**, a network of students, young researchers and scholars involved in the field of Indian studies which actively promotes dialogue between French and Indian academics:



<http://ajei.hypotheses.org/> — @AJEI3 on Twitter



For any enquiry, please do not hesitate to contact the organising team.



**IN BRIEF**

**Calendar:**

- Abstract submission deadline: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- Notification of selection: 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022
- Final papers submission: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022
- Conference: 21-22-23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022

**Papers:** 300-500 words abstracts for application; 8,000 words maximum for final papers.

**Working language:** English.

**Organising Committee:** Kiran BHATTY, Roma CASAMITJANA, Lola CINDRIC, José EGAS, Cansu GURKAYA, Hugo RIBADEAU DUMAS, Vishnu TANDON.

[ajeiworkshop2022@gmail.com](mailto:ajeiworkshop2022@gmail.com)

© Hugo RIBADEAU DUMAS