

REFLECTIONS_CONCEPT NOTE

Monranjan Pegu, Dhruvadi Ghosh

Coordinators

We are witnessing a shifting history: from the diaries of pandemics to the fire in Amazon; a period of *Anthropocene* and shift in global power blocs; the priority remains in documenting the everyday exercise to look at objects, people, roads, and criss-crosses. Remembering Piet Mondrian's aesthetic doctrine of neoplasticism and the cutting of the canvas with verticals in 'Broadway Boogie-Woogie' (1942-43), observing every act from a bird's eye view and looking at the simplest, mundane lines out of claustrophobia is often emancipatory. In the era of post-truth when data compilation is producing a bunch of lies, humans are often operating as dots of adhesive against the decisive erosion of intellectual dots. Even if we are loners, existentialists, ultra-social, rebels or just observers, we need a time that would remain unforgettable. Here lies a challenge of constant interactions and building up performatives in small pockets. Life in a pandemic is like living in a non-space, like a man walking around the airport. As academics, we desperately seek the public bodies of memories originating from non-space. These bodies of memories and their anecdotes form in periods of interactions. In academia, there is a constant decline of narrative which has been overtly visible in the past few years. In or outside the classroom, the challenge remains for the institutions to commit to creative conversations. To use Gilles Deleuze term, the act of 'creativity' has a larger impact on the minds of scholars like us. In the Sociology classroom, in an online world, it's difficult to retain a sense of reflexivity. In this critical time, there should be a lived dimension of social theory through incorporating creative dialogue. Creative interaction stands between ambiguity and application as a form of imagination: imagination that Benjamin and Brecht would form their conversations upon; imagination that would triumph over the sense of aesthetics or arbitrary. Human conversation can only form in those corners where streets are locked down but the windows are opened to let a ray of hope through. Interactive space in academia initiates a wonder dynamics to take the dry narrative of logistics to a newer level of wet narrative where the act of excavating the truth remains an incessant journey. So to evolve from the classroom, what is needed today is to evolve in the classroom and outside, amid the immortal mass and at decisive isolation. Interactive sessions in social practice and everyday life integrate the dynamism of active agents. And today a creative conversation and active input is as important

as breathing in the thick air. Theorisation of everyday dialogues transform the mundane of the streets or intensify the pace of academic practice and can thus be initiated from classroom itself. When academic sessions integrate the resourceful channels, it not only gets deepened but also reassures the lost confidence in humans. A regular debate and discussion would not only save the academic narrative from falling flat but also amplify the unheard through the applications of creatives.

‘Reflections’ shall be a monthly platform of research scholars and faculty members at the Department of Sociology, Jamia Millia Islamia to share their work (but not limited to) and reflections on critical socio-political issues that the society faces today. Discussions and debates are the key. It shall be a forum where scholars deliberate and critique each other's work to encourage co-learning and ‘critical consciousness’. It will be a shared space for lively discussions.

- ‘Reflections’ will be organized on the last Friday of every month, from 5-6 pm
 - The event will be a formal part of the extra-curricular calendar of the Department of Sociology
 - We invite speakers to share the title and abstract of the presentation beforehand.
 - Speakers are allotted 30 minutes for the presentation, in any mode preferred by them
 - Presentations will be followed by a discussion, allowing for active engagement with the audience.
- Each session will be moderated by a research scholar on a rotating basis.
 - Speakers may also be invited for ‘special lecture’ sessions as decided collectively by the research scholars and faculty members of the Department