

March 27, 2021

Press Release

JMI organises a Public Lecture by Prof. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak on "Being, Knowing, Living"

The Department of Sociology, Jamia Millia Islamia, concluded its online international lecture series 2020-2021, as part of the centenary celebrations of Jamia Millia Islamia, by organizing a public lecture by leading literary and post-colonial theorist, **Prof. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak**. Prof. Spivak is University Professor in Humanities at Columbia University and a founding member of Institute for Comparative Literature and Society. The Honorable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Najma Akhtar, chaired the event which was held online on 25th March 2021 at 7.30 pm on WebEx platform, arranged by the CIT. It was attended by nearly 410 participants, which included the faculty members, the research scholars and the students of JMI and other universities. The Department of Sociology has been organizing lectures on the theme '**Celebrating Diversity: Plural Epistemologies and Lifeworlds**'. Prof. Spivak's lecture was the 14th and last lecture of this online international lecture series.

The programme started with a welcome address by Prof. Manisha Tripathy Pandey, Head, Department of Sociology, JMI who welcomed the Vice Chancellor, the speaker and the participants. The Vice Chancellor, in her remarks as the Chair, congratulated the Department of Sociology, Jamia Millia Islamia, for successfully organizing this international lecture series on the theme 'Celebrating Diversity'.

While addressing the audience, the Vice Chancellor said, "Jamia Millia Islamia has completed 100 years. It first lit the lamp in the year of 1920 at Aligarh, with the firm willpower of its stalwart founding members like M. M. Ali Jauhar, Dr. M. A. Ansari and Dr. Zakir Hussain to create an institution revealing indigenous philosophy and soul of profusion. 'Celebrating diversity' sums up the ethos of our university. The intellectual, literary and critical engagement on the idea of diversity by the teachers and students of Sociology Department, manifest the spirit of plurality and diverse and inclusive culture of this university and is a commendable effort of this Department".

The Vice Chancellor appreciated the works of Prof. Spivak and said that her "works will continue to inspire generations to come". The Head of the Department then thanked the Vice Chancellor for her encouraging remarks and also for setting the tone of the event by talking about diverse and plural backgrounds of students and faculty of the university. The Head then introduced the speaker as a powerhouse of contemporary philosophical discourse.

A literary theorist, a feminist critic and an influential postcolonial intellectual, Prof. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak has a doctoral degree from Cornell University and has taught at the Universities of Iowa, Texas at Austin, Emory, Pittsburgh, and Pennsylvania, besides Columbia University. Spivak is best known for her essay "Can the Subaltern Speak?" and for her

translation of and introduction to Derrida's *Of Grammatology*. Besides the National Sahitya Akadami prize, Spivak was also awarded the 2012 Kyoto Prize in Arts and Philosophy and the Padma Bhushan in 2013. She is hailed as a critic who has globalized the philosophy of deconstruction, considering the position of the subaltern. A practical Marxist-feminist-deconstructionist, Spivak has received 11 honorary doctorates from universities.

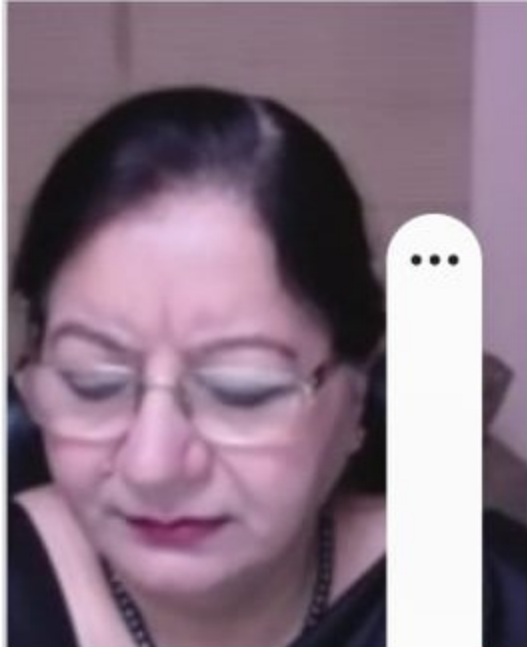
During an hour-long thoughtful and empirically-embedded lecture, Prof. Spivak argued for understanding “equal but not same” as the episteme for diversity of being, knowing and living. By giving examples from her childhood experiences, Bengali writings and academic world, Spivak emphasized how the new intellectual must be an active participant in everyday life.

Prof. Manisha T. Pandey, who was also the moderator, then invited questions from the participants. The audience were enthralled by her arguments which were dense, yet so simple and sparkled with wit and humor. The programme ended with a vote of thanks presented by Dhruvadi Ghosh, a research scholar of the Department.

Public Relations Office
Jamia Millia Islamia



Manisha T. Pandey



NAJMA AKHTAR

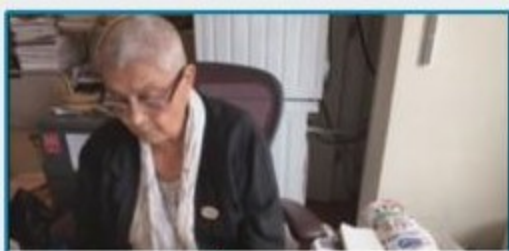


Nishat Zaidi

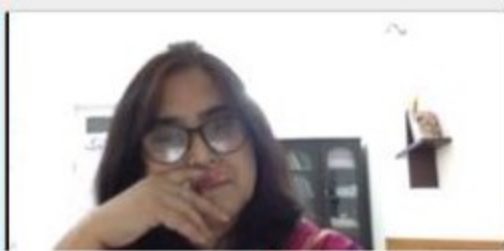


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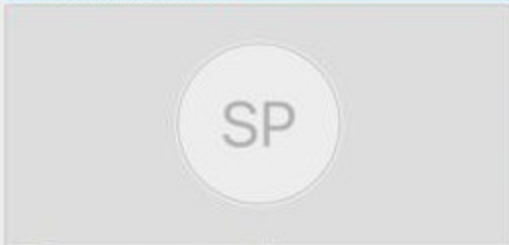
Gayatri Spivak



Manisha T. Pandey



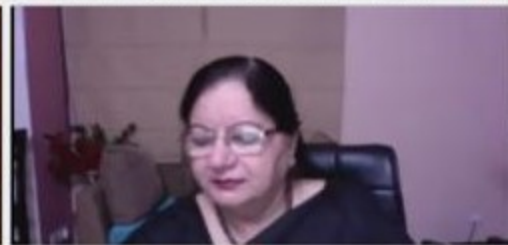
Jamia Millia Isla...line Events (host)



Surya Parekh




Arvinder Ansari




NAJMA AKHTAR






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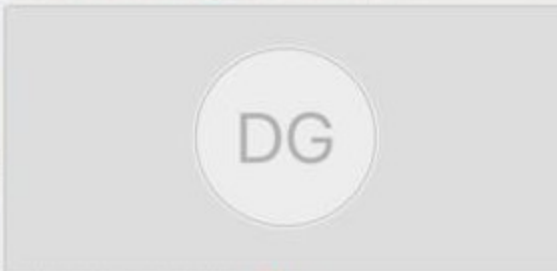
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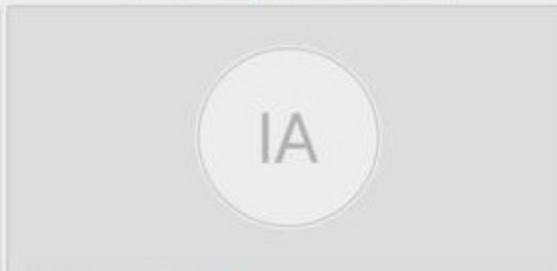
Prof. Azra Abidi 



Sumbul Farah 



Dhrupadi Ghosh 



Imtiaz Ahmad 