



Society Activity Report 2020-21 The Informal Discussion Group

The Informal Discussion Group opened its activities for the academic year 2020-21 with its first event, **'Hazrat-e-Dilli versus Delhi'**, which was a panel discussion on rethinking Delhi's past through a socio-cultural and historical perspective. The discussion was held on 8 September 2020 and was led by Dr Narayani Gupta (Historian, Author, and Consultant with Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage), Dr Swapna Liddle (Historian, Author), Ms Rana Safvi (Historian, Author); having also been moderated by Dr Sabina Kazmi (Assistant Professor, Department of History, St.Stephen's College, Delhi).

In the following semester, owing to the Pandemic, since the first-year junior members were inducted into the College community only in the latter half of the first semester, the IDG hence conducted its Orientation in a Whatsapp format, which was then followed by the students' initiation into the Society. In the same semester, the IDG in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of St. Stephen's College, organized a webinar series on the theme **'Challenges of teaching-learning in our times-A conversation'**. The webinar series witnessed an interaction between teachers and students that reflected on their experiences and tried to understand the challenges of the online mode of teaching-learning, which has perhaps transformed quickly and quite fundamentally so, during the Pandemic and consequent lockdowns. The first talk in the series was given by Dr Bikram Phookun (Department of Physics, St. Stephen's College) on 21 January 2021 and was moderated by Nidhi Singh from IIIRD Ba Programme (Co-President of the Society). It was followed by the second session, the speakers for which were Dr NP Ashley (Department of English, St. Stephen's College) and Ms. Wafa Hamid (Department of English, Lady Shri Ram College) on 8 February 2021.

In the following days, the aforementioned webinar series was followed by a delightful interactive session with Prof Annie Zaidi (Author, Screenwriter, Filmmaker, and Editor of Unbound: 2000 Years of Women Writing and Equal Halves) on the theme- **'Identity, Dislocation and Belonging in Modern India'**, held on 27th February 2021.

The IDG—being one of the oldest societies of the college—updated its Society Logo in the academic year 2020-21, for the first time since its inception in 1961. This was solely done in order to incorporate a gender-neutral approach towards general outlook and functioning of the IDG.

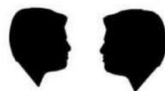


The new society logo was released on 23 March 2021, marking the end of all activities for the academic year. **The new logo has been attached below as follows:**



Photos from various aforementioned sessions have been attached below-
Session 1-

The Informal Discussion Group
St. Stephen's College



invites you to a Panel Discussion by



Narayani Gupta



Rana Safvi



Swapna Liddle

on the topic
Hazrat-e-Dilli Vs Delhi

Narayani Gupta taught history in Delhi before she retired in 2004. Her research has focused on urban history, and she has served as a consultant on conservation projects. Her research is mainly based on Delhi.

Rana Safvi is a writer, blogger and translator. She documents her passion for India's Ganga Jamuni Tehzeeb via its food, customs, festivals, monuments and clothes. She is the author of Tales from the Quran and Hadith, Dastan-e-Ghadar and Where Stones Speak: Historical Trails in Mehrauli, the First City of Delhi.

Swapna Liddle is an author and historian who specializes in the history of Delhi. She has been closely involved in the movement to preserve heritage monuments and sites. Her latest books are *Connaught Place*, *The Making of New Delhi* and *Chandni Chowk: The Mughal City of Old Delhi*.

Date: 8th September
Time: 6:00 PM
Venue: Google Meet



Dr. Sabina Kazmi
Assistant Professor
St. Stephen's College
(Moderator)



Session 2- (Recording- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uoplqPk3k4aQTaJuKxYU6jWpOVTymE4N/view?usp=sharing>)

The Informal Discussion Group
&
Internal Quality Assurance Cell
St. Stephen's College



present the first session from the series

"Challenges of Teaching-Learning in Our Times"



A conversation on the theme with Dr. Bikram Phookun

Dr. Phookun is an Associate Professor at the Department of Physics, St Stephen's College, Delhi, where he has been teaching since 1996. He holds a PhD in Astronomy from the University of Maryland at College Park, USA, and a BSc and MSc in Physics from St Stephen's College, University of Delhi. He helped set up the Physics Programme at Ashoka University, where he served as a Professor of Physics from 2017 to 2019. Besides this, Dr. Phookun has been actively involved in working towards the betterment of processes of teaching and learning.

Date: 21 January 2021

Time: 4:30 PM

Venue: Zoom

In case of queries, contact:

Nidhi: 7889847932

Taha: 9596438634



Recording... || View

		Sharon Sara Alex	Aiman Masoodi	SHINY SHARON
Felicita Lawrence	Manjula Singh	Anamika Xalxo		VEDANTA THAPAR

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Recording... || View

				Hari Prasad
Sharon Sara Alex	Aiman Masoodi	SHINY SHARON	Felicita Lawrence	Manjula Singh
Anamika Xalxo		Vishal .	Amrita Bhan	K

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Session 3-



**The Informal Discussion Group &
Internal Quality Assurance Cell
St. Stephen's College**

present the second session from the series,

**"Challenges of Teaching-Learning
in Our Times"**

A Conversation with



**Prof Ashley NP, Dept of
English, St. Stephen's College**



**Ms Wafa Hamid, Dept of English,
Lady Shri Ram College**

Campus spaces are hugely transformative, not just because one is initiated into thinking with a discipline but also due to one's belongingness in an academic community, its activities and concerns. In the age of corona and online teaching, what happens to all that which is often indicated with a shorthand, "college life" and what are its implications for our social selves?

And at the same time what becomes of our perceptions of home, homing and time during a pandemic.

Our speakers will throw light on these two themes respectively.

Date: 8 February (Monday) 2021

Time: 4:30 pm onwards

For queries, contact Nidhi: 7889847932

Venue: Zoom



Session 4-

**THE INFORMAL
DISCUSSION GROUP**

St. Stephen's College



**INVITES YOU TO A
CONVERSATION
WITH
PROF ANNIE ZAIDI**

ON THE THEME:
**Identity, Dislocation
and Belonging in
Modern India**

Date: 27 February, Saturday
Time: 5PM onwards
Venue: Zoom

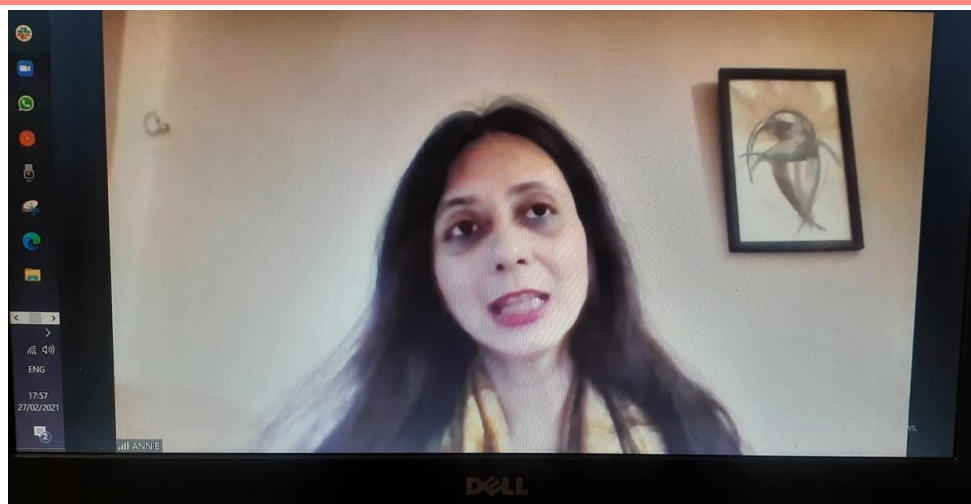
For queries:
Nidhi - 7889847932
Susan - 9645520438



Annie Zaidi is the author of Bread, Cement, Cactus: A memoir of belonging and dislocation, Prelude to a Riot, Gulab, Love Stories # 1 to 14, Known Turf: Bantering with Bandits and Other True Tales, and the co-author of The Good Indian Girl. She is the editor of Unbound: 2000 Years of Indian Women Writing and Equal Halves.

She is the recipient of the Tata Literature Live Award for fiction (2020), the Nine Dots Prize for innovative thinking (2019) and The Hindu Playwright Award (2018) for her play, Untitled I. Her work has appeared in various anthologies and literary journals including The Griffith Review, The Aleph Review, The Massachusetts Review, The Charles River Journal, The Missing Slate and Out of Print.

She is also a screenwriter and filmmaker and has directed the documentary film, In her words: The journey of Indian women.





A screenshot of a Zoom video conference grid. The grid is arranged in four rows. The first row has four tiles: 'Aiman', a video of a woman (chinmayee), a video of a woman (ANNIE), and 'Aparna B Varghese'. The second row has four tiles: 'Shivani Godara', a video of a man (Themeem T), a video of a man (Callistine lewis), and a video of a woman (makhdooma saadat). The third row has four tiles: 'Sharon Sara Alex', 'Kusum Panwar', a small video of a woman (Aayushi Das), and 'P Scaria'. The fourth row has three tiles: 'Nina', 'Hamzah', and 'Nidhi Singh'. At the bottom is a Zoom control bar with buttons for 'Unmute', 'Stop Video (O-JV)', 'Participants', 'Chat', 'Share Screen', 'Record', 'Reactions', and a red 'Leave' button.