



HSNC UNIVERSITY, MUMBAI

(A STATE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY)

R and D Cell

Ph.D Research Centre in Sociology

(Sub Centre at KC College)

2 Credit Ph.D. Coursework

on

Ontological and Epistemological Foundations of Research

Starting 4th September, 2025

Thursday to Saturday for two weeks (Online)

3.00 pm to 5.00 pm

Course Fee - 1500 (Non HSNCU Participants)

**Open to PG students, early career researchers, research scholars
and faculty across disciplines**

Register here by 30th August

<https://forms.gle/L3QuCnNisnXC7efD9>

Course Coordinator

Prof. Leena Pujari

with

Ayeshna Dutta

Mamta Dey

For queries if any, write to us at
phdrc.sociology@hsncu.edu.in



2 Credit Ph.D. Coursework on Ontological and Epistemological Foundations of Research

Course Objectives

- To engage with philosophical questions of ‘what constitutes knowledge’ and ‘who is the knower’.
- To critically analyse standardized notions of objectivity, reliability, validity.
- To explore the idea of research as a subjective intellectual journey, rather than an objective, disinterested search for the ultimate truth.

Course Outcomes

At the end of the course, the research scholars should be able to:

- have an understanding of some theoretical and practical knowledge of key qualitative and quantitative research methods.
- Have knowledge of how to design research methods which are attentive to social, political, and institutional contexts, as well as considerate of ethical considerations
- Enhance analytical and writing skills.

Course Structure

Unit I : Ontology and Epistemology

- Nature of social reality
- Ways of knowing the world
- Positivism, Empiricism and Scientific knowledge
- Standpoints epistemologies

Unit II : Operationalizing research: The Ethnographic Site

- Shifting Field: Village. Tribe. Digital Spaces
 - Getting to the Field: Negotiating Access
 - Thick description
 - Reflexivity as a methodological tool
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