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Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH)

DIGITALITY MARGINALITY & PLURAL SUBJECTIVITIES

2 - 4 FEB 2026

University of Edinburgh

+ Hybrid

The conference will be hybrid: in-person at the IASH building, Edinburgh and online.

+ Interdisciplinary

Facilitating an interdisciplinary engagement on evolving and contested digital agency.
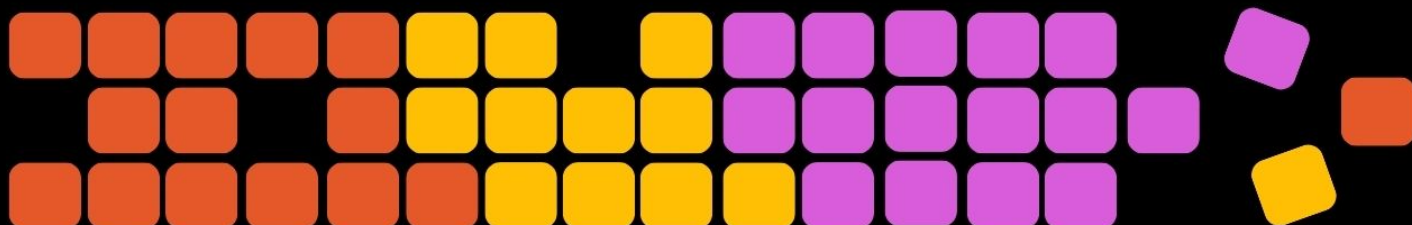
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Professor Arkotong Longkumer
Mediating the Digital: Lessons from the field

— *Professor of Anthropology & Modern Asia, School of Divinity, Edinburgh.*

Dr. Benjamin Molineaux
Texts, Typology and History : Digital Methods and the Languages of the Southern Cone.

— *Senior Lecturer, Linguistics Angus McIntosh Centre for Historical Linguistics*

Organisers: Dr. Deepshikha Behera & Dr. Rathiulung Elias KC, IASH Edinburgh

MONDAY. 2 FEBRUARY 2026

Session I- Gender, Education, and AI Ethics : Exploring Online Experiences

Time: 1030 – 1300 GMT
Chair. Dr Jéssica Hipolito (University of Edinburgh)
Papers
- Girlhood in a Digital Age: Exploring Adolescent Experiences of Social Media
  Lauren Galligan (University of Edinburgh)
- The 'SECS' Project: Sexuality Education and Navigating Its Dissemination Online *Prerna Vats (Ambedkar University, Delhi)*
- Default Feminized Voices, Entrenched Biases: Exploring the Ethical Implications of Gendered AI in Human–Technology Interaction
  Rudransh Kantharia (IIT Madras)
- Crayons × Code: Re-exploring Children's Drawings Through Multimodal AI and Dynamic Ethics
  Dr Chen Qu (University of Cambridge x University of Edinburgh)

Documentary
- The Virtual Shepherd: Love and Screen Addiction at the End of the World
  Professor Ghiabi Maziyar (University of Exeter)

KEYNOTE SESSION
Time: 1400 - 1530 GMT

Mediating the Digital: Lessons from the field
*Speaker. Professor Arkotong Longkumer (University of Edinburgh)*
Chair. Dr. Deepshikha Behera (University of Edinburgh)

Paper Session II- Curating the Digital Past: Archives, Memory, and Counter-Publics

Time: 1600 - 1800 GMT
Chair- Professor Arkotong Longkumer (University of Edinburgh)

- Small Place Archives: Public Histories and the Economics of Heritage
  Haidamteu Zeme (University of Edinburgh x IIT Delhi)
- From Access to Agency: A Capabilities Analysis of Digital Exhibition Practices
  Juan Pablo Angarita Bernal & Geneva Blackmer (University of Cambridge)
- Mediating Dalit Plurality: Bangla Magazines and the Digital Archive
  Dr Sayantan Mondal, (GITAM Hyderabad)
- Plotted in Points: Mapping Memory and Absence Across the Armenian Ruins of Kars
  Ela Gok (Glasgow School of Art)
- Curating the Counter-Public: Algorithmic Resistance and the Visual Aesthetics of Dalit Digital Archives
  Chettupally Anvesh, Komire Sai Kumar (University of Delhi); Siddhi Jangid, (IIT Mandi)

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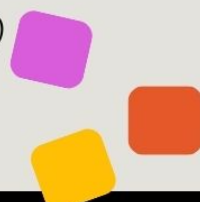
TUESDAY. 3 FEBRUARY 2026

Paper Session III- Ecology & Spirituality in a Digital Age
Time: 0900 - 1100 GMT
Chair. Dr. Rathiulung Elias K C (University of Edinburgh)

- Climate Justice and the Performing of Prayer in Digital Spaces across Transnational Margins. *Dr. Steve Taylor (University of Otago)*
- When Trees Have Digital Voices: Corporate Ecocide and AI in the Anthropocene *Dr. Ravindra Singh (Career Point University, Kota)*
- #AllEyesOnPapua: Affective Solidarity and Plural Subjectivities in Digital Visual-Narrative Resistance *Wahyu Candra Dewi, Sadar Ginting, Anna Christi Suwardi (DEEP EnGender, Indonesia)*
- Breaking Epistemologies of Ignorance: Decolonising Digitality in Aotearoa New Zealand. *Dr. Michael Toy (Moravian University)*
- Margins in the Cloud: Digitising Folk Songs and Visual Narratives as Ecological Testimony. *Nitya Tushar Sankhe (Rhode Island School of Design), Chestha Chauhan*

KEYNOTE SESSION
Time: 1130 - 1300 GMT

Texts, Typology and History : Digital Methods and the Languages of the Southern Cone
Speaker. Dr Benjamin Molineaux (University of Edinburgh)
Chair. Professor Lesley McAra (University of Edinburgh)

Paper Session IV- Digitising the Margins: Language, Identity, and Cultural Survival

Time: 1400 - 1600 GMT
Chair. Dr. Benjamin Molineaux (University of Edinburgh)

- Performing Identity of the Marginalised: Digital Activism of the Bakerwal Community in Jammu and Kashmir. *K. W. Hassan (Central University of Kashmir)*
- Digital Binti as Decolonial Practice: Subaltern Epistemologies in Online Santal Worlds. *Sunny Mandi (IIT Bombay)*
- *Reclaiming Nüshu: Digital Stewardship and Feminist Counter-Narratives in the Revival of Nüshu.* *Erika Jing (Williams College x University of Oxford)*
- From Shore to Screen: Digital Translation and the Marginalization of Coastal Languages. *Zoya Fatima (University of Lucknow)*

Paper Session V- Caste, Indigeneity, and Digital Resistance

Time: 1615 - 1800 GMT

- Constitutional Morality and the Language of Social Protest: Exploring Digital Activism of Dalits in India. *Akash Sulochana (University of Hyderabad)*
- Digital Counter-(Re)Publics Beyond Slacktivism: Caste-Marked Student Activism under Hindu Majoritarianism in India. *Aniruddha Mahajan (University of Edinburgh)*
- Speaking from the Digital Margins: Santal Identity, Online Spaces, and Counter-Narratives. *Suklal Saren (Jadavpur University)*
- Everyday Tactics, Digital Spaces: Adivasi Visual Narratives and Counter-Histories *Rituparna Mandal (University of Kent)*

TUESDAY. 4 FEBRUARY 2026

Digital Collectives: Conference Partners (0900 – 0930 GMT)

- Comparatists in Conversation. *Smitha Susan Varghese (SOAS London)*
- Mobilising Relief Work in Digital Spaces: The Formation of a Tribal Women's Collective. *Kimngaihoi Vaiphei (Young Tribal Women's Network)*

Paper Session VI - Everyday Digital Cultures: Access, Circulation, and Belonging

Time: 0930 – 1130 GMT
Chair- Dr. Aditya Deshbandhu (University of Exeter)

- Designing for Whom? Blind Use, Ordinary Cyborgs, and Social Belonging on WhatsApp. *Hrittika Bowmick (BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus)*
- Gustatory Icons and Neo-Canonization: Assamese Food Cultures in Digital Space *Priyanka Das, (Tezpur University)*
- Moving Cultures: Urban Practitioners' Conceptualisations of the Autorickshaw in Cultural Urbanism. *Dr. Keerthana Vinay (M.O.P. Vaishnav College, Chennai)*
- Marginalisation through Memes. *Rinku Kumari, (Tata Institute of Social Sciences Mumbai)*
- Subtitling, Digital Circulation, and the Loss of Linguistic Plurality in Vishal Bhardwaj's Shakespeare Trilogy. *Pankhuri Singh (University of Exeter)*

Paper Session VII-Digital Intimacies: Gender, Labour, and Performed Subjectivities
Time: 1200 – 1400 GMT
Chair- Dr. Sheelalipi Sahana ((University of Edinburgh)
- Digital Queer Intimacies in the City: Pleasure, Labour, and Ghettoisation. *Aravind Raveendran (Krea University)*
- Digital Heterotopias of Intimacy: Reconfiguring Sex Workers' Subjectivities in Neoliberal India. *Sheetal Bhopal (Jawaharlal Nehru University)*
- From Rural Space to Digital Screen: Reclaiming Feminist Agency through Everyday Performance. *Disha Ghosh (University of Hyderabad)*
- A Day in Her Life: Glamourised Domesticity and the Trad Wife Illusion in the Indian Context *Suman Sahu (University of Delhi)*
- The Consumable 'Other': Rakhi Sawant and the Politics of Cringe *Anusha Imtiyaz & Sanandita Chakraborty (Ambedkar University Delhi)*

Paper Session VIII- Digital Regimes of Violence: Surveillance, Law, and Resistance
Time: 1400 – 1600 GMT
Chair. Dr. Moyukh Chatterjee (University of Edinburgh)

- Big Other Is Watching: Cow Vigilantism and the Birth of Law in Digital New India. *Bilal Khan (EFLU Hyderabad)*
- Digital Afterlives of Conflict: Zo Subjectivities, Memory, and Counter-Narratives from Manipur. *Luaisangmuan Hangsing (Independent Researcher, Manipur)*
- Afterlives of the Photographs of Violence: Anti-Muslim Violence, Anti-CAA Instagram Pages, and Attempts at Articulating Post-National Imaginations. *Jay S. Dash (University of Hyderabad)*
- Bare Life to Data Body: Exploring Digital Resistance through Select Instagram Pages *Ivy R Sarkar (Independent Researcher)*