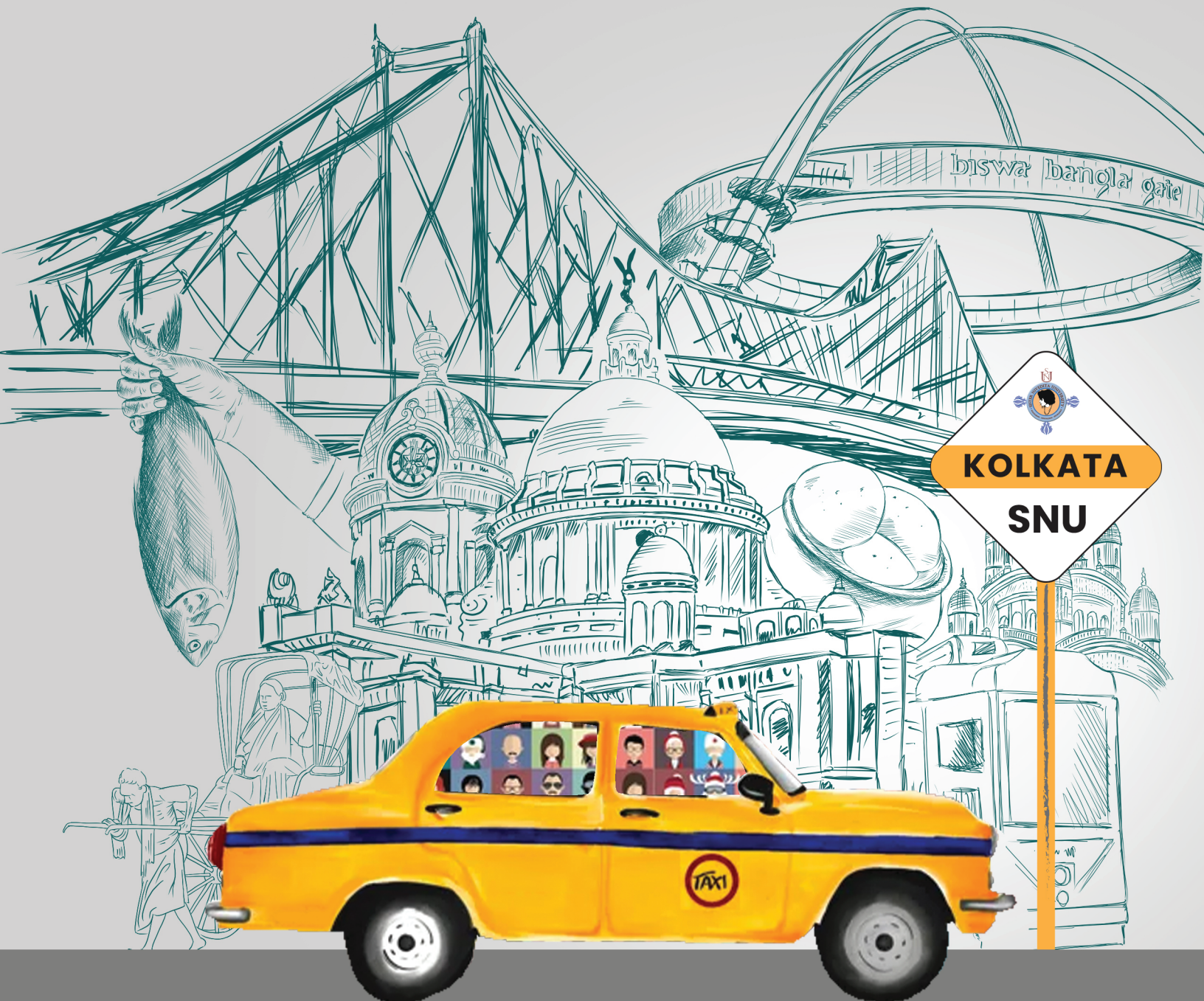


ICA REGIONAL HUB CONFERENCE 2026

4-6 June | SNU, Kolkata

COMMUNICATION AND INEQUALITIES IN CONTEXT



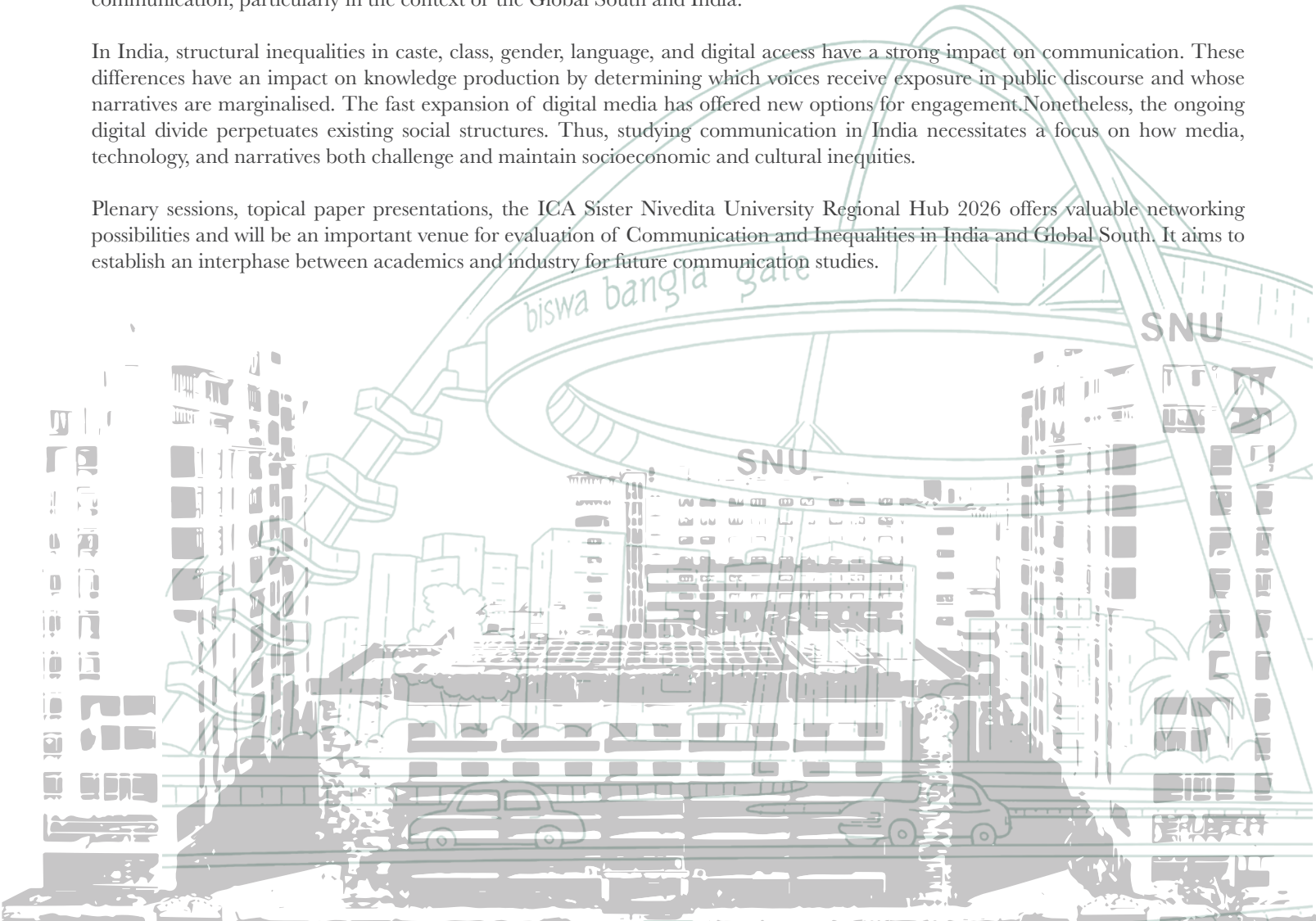
Overview

The 76th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA) is scheduled to be held from June 4 - June 8, 2026, at the Cape Town International Convention Centre in Cape Town, South Africa. The conference will focus on the theme “Communication and Inequalities in Context,” bringing together prominent scholars, researchers, and practitioners to critically explore how communication processes intersect with social, cultural, political, and technological inequalities. As a leading global event in the field of communication studies, this three-day conference typically draws close to 300 attendees and includes over 100 presentations that highlight the latest theoretical and methodological advancements. The event is a crucial venue for international academic exchange and the progression of communication research.

The ICA Sister Nivedita University (SNU) Regional Hub is set to host its inaugural parallel conference alongside the 76th Annual ICA Conference (ICA26), scheduled from June 4-8, 2026, in Cape Town, South Africa. This event invites scholars, researchers, and practitioners to engage in critical discourse on the theme "Communication and Inequalities in Context." The conference seeks to offer a platform for examining topics such as social inequalities & identity, digital communication and emerging inequalities, communication inequality and knowledge production, intersectionality and communication power, and pathways toward inclusive communication, particularly in the context of the Global South and India.

In India, structural inequalities in caste, class, gender, language, and digital access have a strong impact on communication. These differences have an impact on knowledge production by determining which voices receive exposure in public discourse and whose narratives are marginalised. The fast expansion of digital media has offered new options for engagement. Nonetheless, the ongoing digital divide perpetuates existing social structures. Thus, studying communication in India necessitates a focus on how media, technology, and narratives both challenge and maintain socioeconomic and cultural inequities.

Plenary sessions, topical paper presentations, the ICA Sister Nivedita University Regional Hub 2026 offers valuable networking possibilities and will be an important venue for evaluation of Communication and Inequalities in India and Global South. It aims to establish an interphase between academics and industry for future communication studies.



Themes

Communication and Inequalities in Context

The conference seeks to foster inclusive dialogue that interrogates structural disparities, emerging digital divides, and inequalities in knowledge production.

Conference Sub-Themes

1. Communication, Society & Structural Inequalities
 - Communication and social transformation
 - Communication infrastructures and social stratification
2. Critical Theory, Power & Inclusion
 - Theorising communication inequalities
 - Tensions and intersectionality of power hierarchies in communication
 - Intersectionality, hierarchy, and representation
3. Global & Cross-Border Communication Contexts
 - Transnational flows and asymmetries
 - Cultural and geopolitical communication divides
4. Digital Cultures, Algorithms & Data Justice
 - Algorithmic bias and platform governance
 - Data inequality and technological exclusion
5. Knowledge Systems & Research Inequalities
 - Academic hierarchies and epistemic power
 - Regional disparities in research resources and visibility

Program Leader



PROF. (DR.) MINAL PAREEK

Dean

School of ARTS, MEDIA & DESIGN,
SISTER NIVEDITA UNIVERSITY

icaregionalhub@snuniv.ac.in

Key Dates

FEB 20, 2026

Abstract Submission System Opens

APRIL 15, 2026

Abstract Submission deadline

MAY 10, 2026

Notification of Acceptance

JUNE 4-6, 2026

Commencement of the Conference

Programme Committee



PROF. B.P. SANJAY

Professor,
Manipal Institute of
Communication, MAHE.



DR. SURBHI DAHIYA

Professor and HOD,
Department of Media Business Studies,
Indian Institute of Mass Communication
(IIMC), New Delhi



DR. MAUSUMI BHATTACHARYYA

In-Charge, Associate Professor,
Centre for Journalism &
Mass Communication, Visva-Bharati



NOSHIR CONTRACTOR

General Secretary,
International Communication Association
Chair of REACH



DR. SNEHASIS SUR

President,
Press Club, Kolkata
Professor of Practice,
St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata



PROF.(DR.)PADMA RANI

Professor,
Manipal Institute of Communication

EVENT FLOW

Day-1 4th June

REGISTRATION (09:00AM – 9:45AM)

Outside Auditorium on B-Block 11th Floor

10:00AM – 12 Noon

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

Venue-Block B, Auditorium 11th Floor

Sarod Performance by

Mr. Joydeep Mukherjee

Introductory Speech

Prof. Suranjan Das

Vice-Chancellor, Adamas University, Kolkata,
Former Vice-Chancellor, Jadavpur University

Other Speakers

Prof. Ashutosh Ghosh, FRSC, FASc

Vice Chancellor, University of Calcutta

Prof. B.P. Sanjay

Former Vice Chancellor, Central University of Tamil Nadu,
Head, International Communication Association,
India Chapter

Prof. (Dr.) Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay

Pro Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University

Prof. (Dr.) Anupam Basu

Vice Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University

Prof. (Dr.) Minal Pareek

Dean, School of Arts, Media & Design
Sister Nivedita University

Virtual Presence:

Thomas Hanitzsch

Message from ICA President

Prof. Noshir Contractor

Jane S. & William J. White
Professor of Behavioural Sciences,
Northwestern University

INAUGURATION OF THE EXHIBITION

Tea break(12 noon – 12.15 pm)

PLENARY (12:30PM – 1:25PM)

**Topic: Beyond Development Paradigms:
Reframing Global Media and
Communication Inequalities**

Moderator: Dr. Pritha Chakraborty

Prof. Ananda Mitra

Professor, Department of Communication,
Wake Forest University

Dr. Mausumi Bhattacharyya

In-Charge, Associate Professor, Centre for
Journalism & Mass Communication, Visva-Bharati

PRESIDENTIAL SESSION (ICA):

(12:30PM – 13:45PM)

**Topic: Risks, Uncertainties, and
Exposure – Articulating Vulnerability
in Academic Work**

Lunch(1:30PM – 2:15PM)

PANEL: (2:30 PM–3:00 PM)

**Topic: Broadcasting, Accessibility and
Inclusive Media Practices**

Moderator: Prof.(Dr.) Minal Pareek

Dr. Snehasish Sur

President, Press Club Kolkata,
Professor of Practice,
St Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata

Mr. Abhijit Dasgupta

Former Station Director DD & Documentary Filmmaker

Dr. Abhijit Roy

Professor,
Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University

EVENT FLOW

Day-1 4th June

TECHNICAL SESSION:(03:00 PM – 04:30 PM)

Timing: Each Presenter: 8 minutes
8-10 slides in a PPT

PANEL: (4:30 PM-5:30 PM)

Topic: Power, data and ethics: Toward critical methodologies
in digital communication research

Moderator: Dr. Jhumur Datta Gupta

Ekaete George

Doctoral Researcher,
University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Prof. Buroshiva Dasgupta

Advisor, Department of Journalism
& Mass Communication, Sister Nivedita University

Prof. Debanjan Banerjee

Dean, Media Science,
Techno India Main Campus, Salt Lake

Prof. Subir Dhar

Professor, Department of English and Director,
School of International Languages,
Sister Nivedita University

Hi-Tea(5:30PM – 6:00PM)

OPENING PLENARY (ICA – Cape Town): (9:15PM – 10:30PM IST)

76TH OPENING PLENARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE:
INEQUALITIES AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION IN COMMUNICATION: INROADS AND CHALLENGES AHEAD

EVENT FLOW

Day-2 5th June

REGISTRATION (09:00AM – 9:45AM)

Outside Auditorium on B-Block 11th Floor

TECHNICAL SESSION:(10:00 AM – 11:30 AM)

Timing: Each Presenter: 8 minutes
8-10 slides in a PPT

Tea break (11:30AM – 11:45AM)

REACH PANEL (HYBRID):
12:30 PM – 01:15 PM – ICA PANEL

Topic: Communication Research and
Education for Sustainability:
Global and Multilingual Perspectives

Chair :

Mohan Dutta, Massey University

Organiser:

Noshir Contractor,

Northwestern University

Christopher Rochette,

International Communication Association

Participant:

Agnes Lucy Lando, Daystar University

Zhao Alexandre Huang, University Gustave Eiffel

Di Zhang, Renmin University of China

Nia Sarinastiti, Atma Jaya University

EVENT FLOW

Day-2 5th June

PLENARY (11:45 AM – 12.45 PM)

**Topic: From Culture to Content:
Platformization and Inequalities
in Global Cultural Industries**

Chair:

Prof. Buroshiva Dasgupta

Advisor, Department of Journalism
& Mass Communication, Sister Nivedita University

Prof. (Dr.) Saumendranath Bera

Professor, Department of Journalism
and Mass Communication, Calcutta University

Prof. Shabina Omar

Professor & Head, Department of English, AJC College

Prof. Manas Pratim Goswami

Professor, Department of Journalism
& Mass Communication, NEHU

Prof. Uma Shankar Pandey

Head, Department of Journalism
and Mass Communication,
Surendranath College for Women, Kolkata

**Interactive Session
(12:50 PM – 1:20 PM)**

**Topic: Gender Inequalities
in Policy Decisions**

Chair:

Prof. (Dr.) Minal Pareek

Dean, School of Arts, Media & Design
Sister Nivedita University

Speaker:

Ms. Charu Pragya

Lawyer and Social Activist

Lunch (1:30PM – 2:15PM)

**EMERGING SCHOLARS NETWORK
(2:30 PM – 4:00 PM)**

**Moderator: Dr. Pritha Chakraborty
Prof. B.P. Sanjay**

Former Vice Chancellor, Central University of Tamil Nadu,
Head, International Communication Association, India Chapter

Prof. Ankuran Dutta

Professor and Head of the Department of
Communication and Journalism, Guwahati University
Former Director of The Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre,
High Commission of India, Colombo, Sri Lanka

PANEL: (4:15 PM–5:30 PM)

**Topic: Decolonizing AI in Southeast
Asia: Global Trends, Local Realities
and Research Frontiers**

Chair:

Dr. Snehasis Sur

President, Press Club, Kolkata,
Professor of Practice,
St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Kolkata

Panel Members:

Prof. Joya Chakraborty

Professor and Head,
Department of Mass Communication
& Journalism, Tezpur University

Jayanta Ghoshal

Consulting Editor, NDTV

**Dr. Jinu K Varghese
(Virtual Presence)**

Assistant Professor, Manipal Institute
of Communication, Udupi, Karnataka

Hi-Tea (5:30PM – 5:45PM)

**CLOSING SESSION DAY 2
(05:45 PM – 06:30 PM)**

Cultural Performance by
School of Art, Media and Design, SNU

EVENT FLOW

Day-3 6th June

REGISTRATION (09:00AM – 10:00AM)

Outside Auditorium on B-Block 11th Floor

PANEL: (HYBRID SESSION)
10:00 AM–11.00 AM

**Topic: Language, Markets and Media:
Inequalities in Global and
Vernacular Communication**

Moderator: Mr. Arindam Basu

Panel Members:

Prof. Mrinal Chatterjee

Former Professor & Head, Indian
Institute of Mass Communication,
Dhenkanal, Odisha

Prof. Joana Jaya

Senior Lecturer
INTI International University, Malaysia

Prof. Aashish Joshi

Head, Department of Mass Communication,
Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University
of Journalism and Communication

Saadia Azim

COO, Bangla Sahayata Kendra,
Govt. of West Bengal

Rishu Singh

National Lead - PR & Corporate
Communications, Fortis Healthcare

Tea break (11:00AM – 11:15PM)

TECHNICAL SESSION:(11:30 AM – 1:00 PM)

**Timing: Each Presenter: 8 minutes
8-10 slides in a PPT**

Lunch(1:30PM – 2:00PM)

REACH PANEL (HYBRID):
12:30 PM – 1:45 PM – ICA PANEL

**Topic: AI in Communication Research
and Teaching: Perspectives from
the Global South, ICA PANEL**

Chair :

Mengxiao Zhu, University of Science
and Technology of China

Organiser:

Noshir Contractor,
Northwestern University

Christopher Rochette,
International Communication Association

Participant:

Firasat Jabeen,
Forman Christian College

Desmond Okocha,
Bingham University, Nigeria

Yeary Setianto,
Universitas Multimedia Nusantara

Kulveen Trehan,
Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University

PANEL: (02:00 PM – 03:00 PM)

**Topic: Emerging Trends and Challenges in
Multidisciplinary Research:
Preparing for the Future of Knowledge**

Moderator: Dr. Sanjay Sen Gupta

Panel Members:

Prof. Debjyoti Chanda

Professor,
Mass Communication and Videography,
Rabindra Bharati University

EVENT FLOW

Day-3 6th June

Prof. (Dr.) Santwan Chattopadhyay

Professor and Director, School of
Journalism and Mass Communication,
Jadavpur University

PLENARY (3:00PM – 3:45PM)

**Topic: Who owns Visibility?
Media Power and the Politics
of being seen**

Moderator: Dr. Pritha Chakraborty

Panel Members:

Prof. Surbhi Dahiya

Professor & HOD,
Department of Media Business Studies,
Indian Institute of
Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi

Prof. Shubha H S

Director & Professor Coordinator:
Multimedia Resource Centre,
Manipal Institute of Communication

VALEDICTORY SESSION

03:45PM – 04:45PM

Prof. Deb Narayan Bandyopadhyay

Advisor, West Bengal State Council
of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal

Prof. Durgesh Tripathi

Professor,
University School of Mass Communication,
Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University

Closing Statement

by

Prof. (Dr.) Minal Pareek

Dean, School of Arts, Media & Design
Sister Nivedita University



Organising Committee



Conference Chair
Prof. (Dr.) Minal Pareek



Co-Chair
Dr. Sanjay Sen Gupta



Advisor
Prof. (Dr.) Buroshiva Dasgupta



Organising Secretary
Mr. Apratim Bhattacharya

Conference Convenors



Dr. Pritha Chakraborty



Mr. Saikat Mazumder



Mr. Arindam Basu



Dr. Jhumur Datta Gupta



Mr. Souvik Sur

Digital Media , Designing & Steering Team



Mr. Satyajit Samanta



Mr. Rishi Sahu



Mrs. Perna Munshi



Mr. Rajib Bhunia



Mr. Kishor Dey



Ms. Sudeshna Goswami



Samrajni Karmakar



Tushar Sinha

The unforgettable city

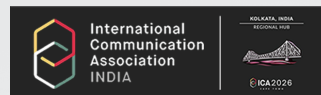
There are cities that grow, and there are cities that grows on you. Kolkata belongs to the latter, a living archive where every street corner hums with layered time, where the past is not buried but breathes gently into the present.

Born on the banks of the Hooghly River, Kolkata emerged not merely as a colonial capital but as an intellectual crucible. It was here that ideas found urgency, that conversations became movements, and that language itself was reshaped into resistance, reform, and renaissance. The city witnessed the rise of the Bengal Renaissance, a moment when art, literature, science, and philosophy intertwined to redefine modern Indian consciousness.

In the quiet corridors and bustling addas, voices gathered, none more enduring than that of Rabindranath Tagore, whose words seemed to belong as much to the city as the city belonged to him. Tagore did not merely write about Bengal; he wrote Kolkata into eternity, into its rains, its solitude, its aching beauty, and its restless intellect. His verses still linger in the monsoon air, in the rustle of old books, in the cadence of everyday speech.

Kolkata's history is not a straight line; it is a conversation, between empire and independence, tradition and modernity, memory and imagination. From colonial corridors to nationalist fervor, from literature to politics, the city has continually negotiated its identity while holding onto its soul.

To walk through Kolkata is to encounter time in fragments. A tram bell echoing through decades, a crumbling façade carrying whispers of another century, a university corridor alive with arguments. It is a city that does not rush to forget. As we gather here, we do not merely congregate, we enter a narrative. A city that has shaped thought, nurtured dissent, and inspired creation invites us to become part of its ongoing story. In Kolkata, history is not behind us, it is a daily chronicle collected over time.



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