Department of Psychology

Jesus and Mary College
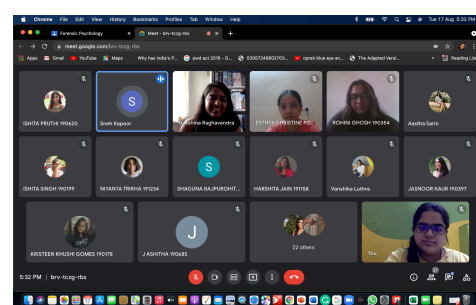
Annual Department Report for the AY 2021-2022

Activities Organized by the Department

17-08-2021	Alumni Talk: Forensic Psychology : Introduction and Scope by Ms. Dakshina Raghavendra
26-08-2021	Webinar: Critiquing 'Normalcy' and Disability by Reshma Valliapan & Aparna Sanyal
08-09-2021	Webinar: Affective Registers of Cinematic Deshbhakti - An Exploration of Patriotic Emotions in Hindi Cinema" with speaker Dr. Ravi Kant.
29-09-2021	Webinar: Qualitative Approaches in Psychology by Prof. Kumar Ravi Priya, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kanpur
20-10-2021	Webinar: Contributions of Military Psychology to Armed Forces and Society by Dr. Devesh Nath Tripathi, Scientist F, DIPR, DRDO
29-10-2021	Dr. Meenakshi Mehta Memorial Lecture: "The Estrangement of Social Psychology from 'Social': Sociological Imagination as an Antidote" by Dr. Arvind Kumar Mishra, JNU
12-01-2022	Alumni Talk: Navigating the Qualitative Interview: Refugee Voices in Focus by Ms. Pallavi Ramanathan, Research Scholar, IIT Delhi
19-01-2022	Webinar: Doing Quantitative Research Online: Methodological Insights and Challenges by Dr. Tushar Singh

Alumni Talk: Forensic Psychology : Introduction and Scope by Ms. Dakshina Raghavendra

The Department of Psychology conducted a webinar on "An Introduction to Forensic Psychology" on 17th August, 2021 from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. The guest speaker for the webinar was
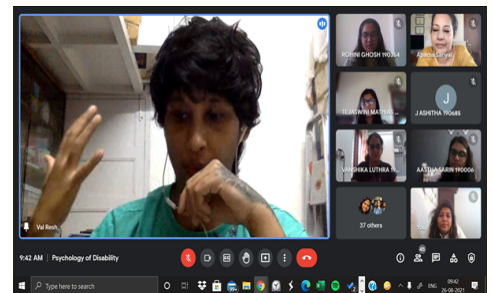
Ms. Dakshina Raghavendra, an alumna of Jesus and Mary College, Psychology department (Batch of 2019), pursuing her M.Sc. in Forensic Psychology from the University of Bath, England. With over 50 participants from 3rd year psychology and the faculty, the webinar was filled with enthralling discussions and intriguing case formulations that kept everyone hooked.

Webinar: Critiquing 'Normalcy' and Disability

A talk was organized on Critiquing 'Normalcy' and Disability to acquaint the students with the construct of disability and the prevailing notions around it. The speakers for the session were Ms. Reshma Valliapan and Ms. Aparna Sanyal; an artist/ school teacher and filmmaker by profession respectively, who have also been advocating strongly for mental health and wellbeing.

Reshma Valliapan (or Val Resh, as she likes to call herself) and Aparna Sanyal worked together on 'A Drop of Sunshine', a documentary directed and produced by Aparna Sanyal, which chronicles Val Resh's real life journey with schizophrenia. The 39-minutes long documentary was released in 2011, and tells an inspiring story of how she fought not only her illness, but also society and the mainstream notions of Schizophrenia. In doing so, it takes a controversial and contrarian position towards recovery from Schizophrenia, proposing that the only treatment method that can work in the condition is one where the so-called 'patient' is encouraged and empowered to become an equal partner in the process of healing.
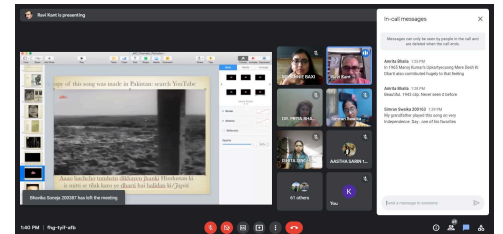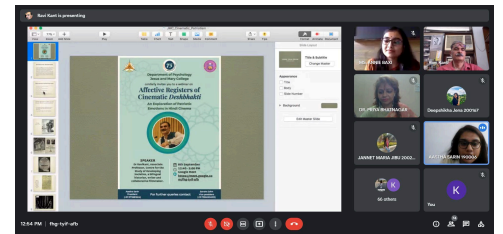
The session concluded with an engaging Q & A session, where the students got Resh's perspective on media representation, advancement in science in understanding and treating

schizophrenia, and her journey with art and what it meant to her. Overall, the session proved to be two hours worth of knowledge, new perspectives and critiquing our own views and ideas about disability.
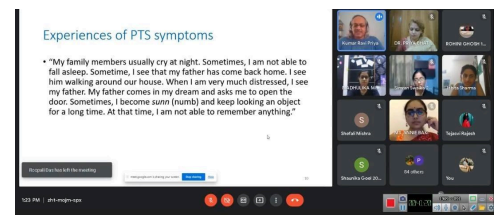
Webinar: Affective Registers of Cinematic *Deshbhakti*

On 8th September 2021, a Webinar on Affective Registers of Cinematic *Deshbhakti* was organized by the department to celebrate "*Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*", an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of India's independence. The speaker for the session was Dr. Ravikant, an Associate Professor at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies. The webinar addressed the interaction between emotion and cinematic expression as seen in Indian films from the 1930s to the 1950s. Using the concept of affect, Dr Ravi Kant specifically articulated that *Deshbhakti* was separate from contemporary nationalism. The event saw over 100 participants, including students and faculty members from various departments.
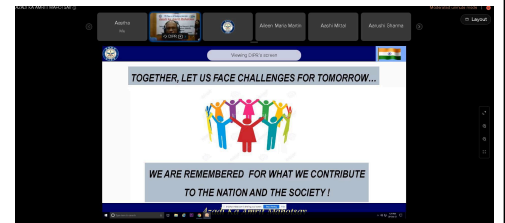

Webinar: Qualitative Approaches in Psychology

A webinar was organized later in September on "Qualitative Approaches in Psychology"- revisiting the foundations with undergraduates. It was attended by more than 130 psychology students. Prof Kumar Ravi Priya, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kanpur shed light on the basic tenets of qualitative research, the criteria of rigor, and the various kinds of qualitative approaches. He also gave the attendees a personal insight into the study he conducted in Nandigram in 2009. This was a challenging ethnographic study owing to the political climate and violence.

Webinar: Contributions of Military Psychology to Armed Forces and Society The Department in collaboration with DIPR and DRDO organized a webinar on the contribution of military psychology to the armed forces dated 20th October from 1 pm to 2 pm on Webex. The speaker Dr Devesh Nath Tripathi, scientist, DIPR highlighted how military psychologists study the unique capabilities of candidates and officers, and through rigorous psychologically intensive selection processes, researchers use their understanding of social psychology and organizational behavior to contribute to the development of the armed forces.	
Webinar: Dr. Meenakshi Mehta Memorial Lecture: "The Estrangement of Social Psychology from 'Social': Sociological Imagination as an Antidote" The Department also held a memorial lecture in the loving memory of Dr. Meenakshi Mehta on 29th October 2021. The topic for the event was "The Estrangement of Social Psychology from 'Social': Sociological Imagination as an Antidote" by Dr. Arvind Kumar Mishra, Jawaharlal Nehru University. The lecture navigated over areas of social and organizational psychology. Dr. Mishra articulated that the language of science is not enough to capture the entire psyche and social life highlighting the inadequacies of the scientific method and reiterating the role of modern psychologists in the creation of fruitful theories. The insightful lecture concluded by stimulating the young minds to question psychological constructions in the social realm.	

Webinar: Navigating the Qualitative Interview: Refugee Voices in Focus.

On 12th of January 2022, a webinar was organized on the topic "Navigating the Qualitative Interview: Refugee Voices in Focus." by Ms. Pallavi Ramanathan, research scholar at IIT Delhi. Ms. Pallavi is an ex-student from the Department who has recently published a journal article based on the experiences of Tibetan Refugees in the Journal of Psychology in Developing Societies. She explained the various dynamics of qualitative interviews, especially when researching with/on vulnerable populations.

Webinar: Doing Quantitative Research Online: Methodological Insights and Challenges

A webinar on Doing Quantitative Research Online: Methodological Insights and Challenges was organized on 19th January, 2022. Dr. Tushar Singh, Assistant Professor Department of Psyc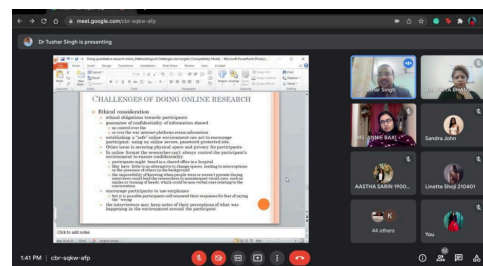hology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, the resource person started his webinar with a comprehensive introduction to research methodologies and techniques in psychological research, and went on to discuss the impact of the pandemic on conducting online research. After a brief description on quantitative and qualitative research methodologies- how to develop research questions, design the study, collect data, ethical considerations- he discussed the challenges of doing online research, first touching upon the issue of participant selection, keeping in mind physical, psychological, and resource limitations of the target audience etc. Another challenge discussed was the issue of ethical considerations around informed consent in the online modality and it's practical difficulties. Issues involved in data collection such as satisficing,

maintaining accuracy of responses, skewed data collection, non-differentiation, etc were also discussed, and suggestions to avoid/deal with such issues were also gracefully delivered by the speaker.	