

An Indian-Australian research partnership

<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Literatures of decoloniality, Philosophies of difference</b>	
<b>Project Number</b>	<b>HSS0903</b>	
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## Research Clusters:

## Research Themes:

Highlight which of the Academy's CLUSTERS this project will address? <i>(Please nominate JUST <b>one</b>. For more information, see <a href="http://www.iitbmonash.org">www.iitbmonash.org</a>)</i>		Highlight which of the Academy's Theme(s) this project will address? <i>(Feel free to nominate more than one. For more information, see <a href="http://www.iitbmonash.org">www.iitbmonash.org</a>)</i>	
1	Material Science/Engineering (including Nano, Metallurgy)	1	Advanced computational engineering, simulation and manufacture
2	Energy, Green Chem, Chemistry, Catalysis, Reaction Eng	2	Infrastructure Engineering
3	Math, CFD, Modelling, Manufacturing	3	Clean Energy
4	CSE, IT, Optimisation, Data, Sensors, Systems, Signal Processing, Control	4	Water
5	Earth Sciences and Civil Engineering (Geo, Water, Climate)	5	Nanotechnology
6	Bio, Stem Cells, Bio Chem, Pharma, Food	6	Biotechnology and Stem Cell Research
7	Semi-Conductors, Optics, Photonics, Networks, Telecomm, Power Eng	7	<b>Humanities and social sciences</b>
8	HSS, Design, Management	8	Design

## The research problem

Define the problem

Feminist theorisations in the twenty-first century are characterised by differential genealogies that are marked by the politics of location, standpoint epistemologies, strategic essentialisms, identity politics, and intersectionalities. These genealogies, in turn, trace itineraries through postcolonial and cultural studies,

debates around decoloniality, queer theory, and philosophical considerations pertaining to ethics of solidarity across differences, centre and peripheries, and everywhere in between. The burden of such multifarious theoretical histories can sometimes obscure the specificities and complexities of localised sites of difference that have not yet garnered purchase in wider philosophical epistemologies and social philosophies, metropolitan institutional spaces, or within global publishing regimes; as for example, the problematic of caste, or secularism as understood in the Indian subcontinent. Generational transformations and region/nation-based considerations too are imbricated in categories of conceptual analysis such as body/identity and space/place. This project aims to open up the moral, epistemological and political concerns with regards to the politics of location, the speaking positionalities and the ethical project of thinking through difference and decoloniality.

## Project aims

*Define the aims of the project*

This project intends to undertake the study of literatures of decoloniality (understood in the widest possible senses) and philosophies of difference/ philosophical positions from the margins (as delineated in feminist and other non-hegemonic philosophical traditions) through a focus on, but not limited to, one or more of the following threads:

- Articulations of identity politics in the subcontinent and philosophical quandaries around identity
- Decolonial epistemologies
- Ethics of care and thinking the affective in the ethical
- Alternative sexualities and queer politics as philosophies of difference
- Caste positions and progressive theories
- Solidarities across differences
- Epistemologies and practices
- Ressentiment*, revolution, and philosophy of oppression
- Tribal ecologies, rights, and philosophy of culture
- The difficulties and ethics of reciprocity
- The Muslim As Other
- Indigeneities and Indigenous philosophies

## Expected outcomes

*Highlight the expected outcomes of the project including likelihood of patents*

The twenty-first century has seen the unreserved expressions of identity politics all over the world, and increasingly divided communities that shape national polities. This project will contribute to theoretical understandings of decoloniality that are transforming nations such as Australia and India and also offer nuanced explorations of the way in which difference is articulated, contested, and managed in these two sites of multicultural democracy, both at institutional levels as well as in community expressions. The aim is also to contribute towards developing productive theoretical frames to approach difference and solidarities.

## How will the project address the Goals of the above Themes?

*Describe how the project will address the goals of one or more of the 6 Themes listed above.*

This project will address the Humanities and Social Sciences theme of the Academy

## Capabilities and Degrees Required

*List the ideal set of capabilities that a student should have for this project. Be as specific or as general as you like. These capabilities will be input into the online application form and students who opt for this project will be required to show that they can demonstrate these capabilities.*

The potential students should have an M.Phil. in Feminist/Literary/Cultural Studies or Philosophy. The applicants need to be invested and interested in incorporating both Literature and Philosophy seriously into their project, and have the capability to do so. They will need to demonstrate their disciplinary training and interdisciplinary methodology in the research project that they propose and at the entrance level tests.

Select up to **(4)** keywords from the Academy's approved keyword list (**available at <http://www.iitbmonash.org/becoming-a-research-supervisor/>**) relating to this project to make it easier for the students to apply.

The only word available for Humanities and Social Sciences in the approved keyword list is Humanities.

Our preferred words would be: Gender, Class, Caste, Religion, Sexuality, Identity, Difference, Solidarity, Decoloniality, Ethics, Social Philosophy, Epistemology.