



KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY SOUTHASIA INSTITUTE FOR
HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

MA IN HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY (SOCIETY, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT)



Remains of the Indus Valley Civilisation (c 3300 BCE-1300 BCE)
as found in modern-day Harappa.
Photo: Kanak Mani Dixit

SiHP logo, derived from one of the Indus Valley seals.



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Cyāsal Gajalakṣmi (2nd Century BCE)

Source: नेवा : म्हसीका - Newa Mhasika

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=893408676221556&set=pcb.893408776221546>

INSTITUTE OVERVIEW

The **Southasia Institute for History and Philosophy (SiHP)** is dedicated to foster academic, research and outreach activities in social, technical and environmental issues with history and philosophy from and about Southasia at its core.

It aims to strengthen relationships with leading universities and research and policy organisations focused on Southasia in order to understand, shape and support collective efforts to tackle all forms of inequalities and discontents, knowledge barriers and gaps, and environmental risks and challenges in the region.

THE MA PROGRAMME

MA in History and Philosophy (MAHP) is a 60-credit programme, in collaboration with the **Kathmandu University**, intended to provide curricula tailored to Himalayan and Southasian socio-ecological realities and aspirations, to prepare context-sensitive, professionally competent and socially committed graduates, and to help close an important ‘career gap’ in our societies. The three thematic streams, viz., History and Philosophy of **Society, Technology and Environment**, will help bring about qualitative improvement in future undergraduate and high school education in the humanities and sciences in Southasia, defined as a demo-biogeographic region.



Definitive Agreement Signing with Kathmandu University to launch MA in History and Philosophy programme (7 October 2024)
Photo: Kathmandu University

VALUES OF THE MA PROGRAMME

SiHP's MA Programme actively encourages its students, through diverse and open-ended enquiries and continuing experimentation, to gain the following four central values:

1. Value of Transformative Experience

Education is a greater activity than merely acquiring knowledge, a set of skills and employment. The MAHP programme seeks to encourage its students for findings ways to enrich and transform themselves through their experiences about the world.

2. Value of Inter-connectedness

Since the world is a total set of relations, the Programme promotes enquiries that capture this inter-connectedness along with their full dynamic complexity.

3. Value of Authenticity

The Programme emphasises on originality, intuitive understanding and self-awareness such that its students are able to articulate and act with authenticity for effective changes in their world.

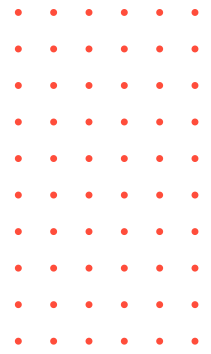
4. Value of Detachment

The MAHP programme aims to enliven its students for appreciating the value of detachment from self, and the self as a space of possibilities for better individuals as well as collective action and realisation.



Photo: Ashesh Rajbanshi

GOALS OF THE MA PROGRAMME



1. Deep Engagement with 'Texts'

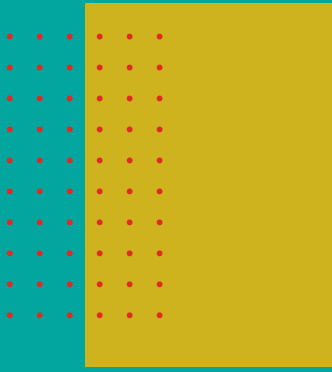
The Programme helps its students to a set of activities centred around 'texts', as broadly defined, namely –

- extract problem, data, information, solution, argument and its structure;
- engage with the original and supplementary ideas constructively for complexity and contradiction;
- develop appropriate (linguistic, digital and comparative) skills to approach and interpret the texts as well as search emphatical ways to improve the clarity of the questions or robustness of solutions by Would-speculations;
- comprehend the context of production, dissemination and use of the texts by posing What-If scenarios, finding new questions and research directions;
- outline the historical development of related ideas, approaches and methods, and master a range and scale of texts for shifting interpretation.

2. Conceptual Maturity

The Programme encourages its students to develop intuitive and original understandings through the following activities –

- acquire existing themes, theories, practices and interpretations;
- have conceptual means to distinguish what makes a question historical/philosophical;
- identify appropriate historical/philosophical responses to the questions asked;
- achieve historical/philosophical maturity in grasping a pluralist/diversity-sensitive approach to different schools and thinkers;
- further the fields of Southasian history and philosophy, and the three thematic areas of the course.



3. Quality Research

Through research assignments and the mandatory thesis, the students in the Programme are supported to –

- demonstrate proficiency on the topic related to Southasia and relevant to the lives and livelihood of its inhabitants;
- perform research skills on a chosen question in history and philosophy of society, technology and environment;
- make a contribution to the discipline by reformulation of a question, redesign/repurpose a method, or finding a novel solution;
- exhibit presentation, engagement and persuasion skills;
- practice a sensitive and responsive discipline-specific and field-appropriate conduct of research.

4. Professional Skilling

The students enrolled in the Programme will gain following professional skills under experienced guidance –

- writing skills (mss, proposals, reports), teaching skills (to a group and to another person), oral presentation skills, coordination, collaboration and mentoring skills;
- skills related to time management, teamwork and leadership;
- research management and administration skills including constructive feedback, effective communication, data and resource management;
- linguistic and design skills for public engagement of research methodologies and findings.

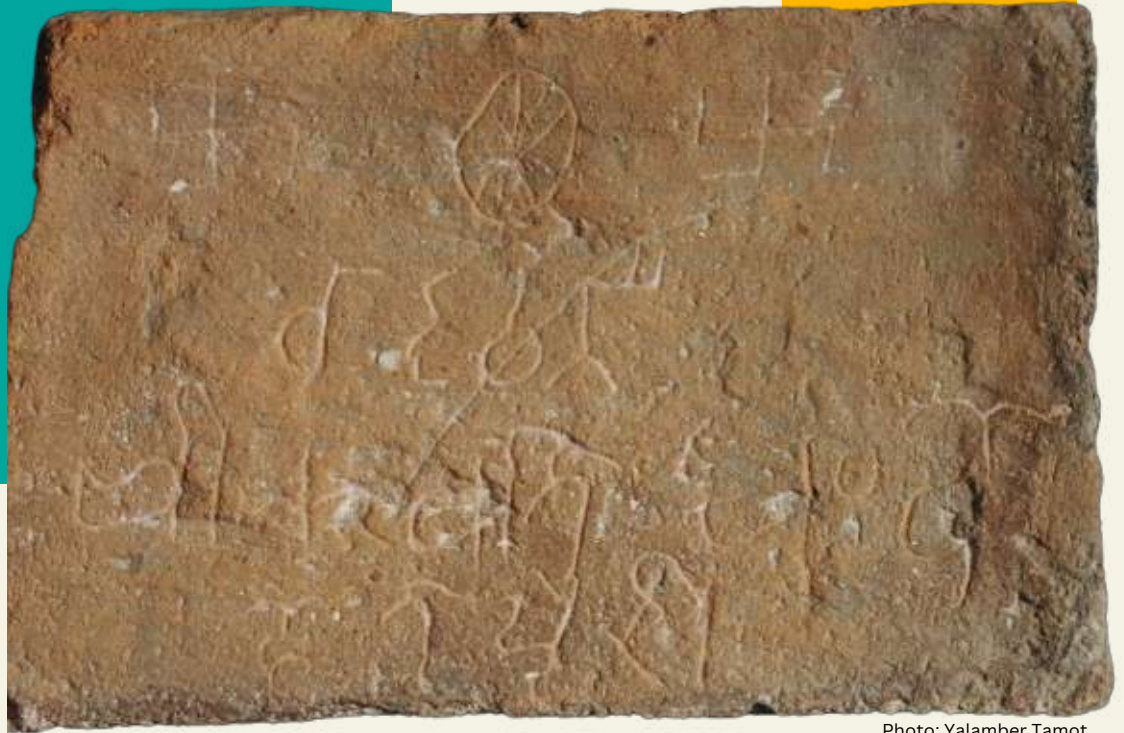


Photo: Yalamber Tamot

Source: Cāruvatī Thūpa: Kirat period inscription from Nepalmandal
<https://www.asianart.com/articles/caruvati/index.html>

AS A HUMANITIES SCHOLAR

You will be able to pursue careers as:

- Historian
- Philosopher
- Researcher
- Public Intellectual
- Policy Analyst
- Planner
- Diplomat
- Public Servant
- Journalist
- Art and Literary Critique
- Social Commentator
- Public Communicator
- Community Leader
- Academic
- I/NGO Project Specialist
- Social Activist

GENERAL DETAILS

Total Seats: 22

Duration: Two years (4 Semesters) OR

Part-time: Three years (6 Semesters)

Class Hours: 11 am–5 pm (Mon-Fri)

Rolling admissions: You can apply, be evaluated, and get accepted anytime throughout the year!

ELIGIBILITY



A score of at least 50% in aggregate or CGPA 2.0 out of 4.0 grading system in any undergraduate discipline from a recognised institution; or



Exceptional, demonstrable and proven capacity to contribute to transforming Southasian societies, or the potential thereof, for rare recommendation of being as equivalent qualifications as above.



An acceptable ranking in the SiHP's ALT-HuS (Advanced Level Test for Humanities in Southasia) exam.

**You can secure your spot with a conditional offer while finishing up your ongoing undergraduate course.
Talk to us about your plans.**

SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES

a. Merit-Based

(upto 80% of the total fees)

Awarded for outstanding performance in SiHP's ALT-HuS exam. Recognises top achievers and encourages continued excellence.

b. Inclusive

(upto 50% of the total fees)

Supports students from underrepresented or disadvantaged backgrounds. Promotes equal access and diversity in education in general and in the classrooms in particular.

c. Graded scholarships

(partial to full tuition fees)

Offers partial to full tuition waivers depending on performance on each semester.

d. Chair Fellows

Prestigious grant that supports advanced research and specialisation for students.

e. Director's List

Granted to students with exemplary academic records and conduct during their studies at SiHP. Recognises those on the Director's List.

f. History & Philosophy Subject Scholarship

Granted to students with exemplary performance in History or Philosophy related subjects.

g. Stipend

Provided in exchange for academic or administrative work such as research assistance, teaching support, or departmental duties, or for specific assignments.

h. Hardship Fund

A discretionary financial aid intended to support students facing unexpected financial hardship, such as medical emergencies, family crises, or other serious personal challenges, particularly in their thesis semester.

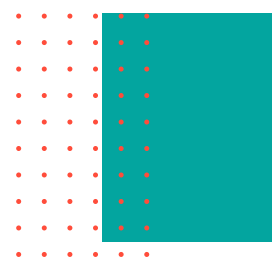
i. Support for External Grants/Scholarships

SiHP provides active administrative support for the prospective and current students to procure grants, scholarships and loans from external institutions in our network, by extending early conditional offers, recommendations and communications.

Financial-Aid Assistance

Students are supported for getting necessary and often substantial aid or loans from financial institutions on our recommendation.

CURRICULUM



The MA curriculum includes foundational and advanced courses in History and Philosophy, and the elective courses in Society, Technology and Environment. The MA Programme curricula is based on five principles –

1. strong and guided expertise in historical and philosophical explorations
2. creative comprehension and articulation skills
3. committed community engagement
4. academic freedom and periodic audits
5. continual assessment and task-based interactional pedagogy

The thematically structured curriculum will enable faculty, students and experts anywhere from Southasia or beyond to grasp, share and articulate the course content. Classical and Other language learning as well as strong fieldwork and community engagement requirements will equip the students with skills to break ideological and epistemic underpinnings in the mainstream humanities and arts curricula in the region.

Language

Contemporary Language

In the first semester, students will take a course in one of the living languages other than their mother tongue. If a student's mother tongue is Tibeto-Burman, for instance, they will learn an Austro-Asiatic or Indo-European language; if coming from a dominant language group, they will take up a 'minority' tongue, preferably an endangered language. Achieving relative proficiency in a language not their own, students will glean first-hand insights into a broader and dynamic socio-linguistic historical context within which historical and philosophical concepts are questioned and the questions are framed.

Classical Language

In the second semester, it will be mandatory for students to acquire proficiency in one of the following 'classical' languages in Southasia-defined generally, for example: Pali/Prakrit, Sanskrit, Tibetan, Limbu, Maithili, Tamil, etc. This will deepen their appreciation of the enduring and echoing knowledge systems within which both urgent and emergent worldviews are debated, contested and resolved.

Fieldwork & Labs

The History and Philosophy Labs will help the SiHP academic community to formulate, test, incubate and extend practical, historically grounded and more meaningful life-changing approaches to action for improving social, technological and environmental landscapes of the region.

This experimentation module brings concrete situations of history and philosophy to the fore thereby helping students gain practical insights into doing history and philosophy. The nature and aims of the actual experiments are customised to reflect changing interests and priorities of the students and echoing requirements of Southasian populations and communities.

Three weeks in the ‘field’ (i.e. outside campus) will help course participants to learn, engage and formulate Historical/Philosophical questions for the people and communities that are critical, right and just.

EVALUATION

Student evaluation will be based on in-semester and end-semester examinations, classwork and homework assignments, lab, fieldwork and presentations, quality term papers, and, when applicable, publications. Faculty are continually assessed for their performance and effectiveness in the course content delivery. Course details are periodically reviewed as well as audited, and the faculty are helped to construct the courses as required.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

We invest time and resources in providing for personalised student services such as counselling, co-learning, mentoring, guiding and referencing on one-to-one basis. Each individual at the time of admissions will have a faculty supervisor who will mentor them for academic growth at SiHP, provide for individual counselling and guidance and ensure that their co-learning with a peer group both within their class and beyond.

SiHP also has a career and student support counselling. The former has been designed to help students for in-study jobs, internships, trainings and skill enhancement programmes, while the latter is a sign-up professional assistance to the students to have their time at SiHP stress-free and enjoyable, rejuvenating and meaningful.

COURSE STRUCTURE

COURSES

SEMESTER	
I (CORE COURSE)	II (CORE COURSE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foundations of History (3 Credit) History and Taxonomy (3 Credit) Foundations of Philosophy (3 Credit) Other Languages (3 Credit) History and Philosophy Ideas Lab (3 Credit) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced History (3 Credit) Philosophy and Taxonomy (3 Credit) Advanced Philosophy (3 Credit) Classical Language (3 Credit) History and Philosophy Innovation Lab (3 Credit)
III (ELECTIVE COURSE)	
SOCIETY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private and Public Spheres (3 Credit) Economic Processes and Networks (3 Credit) Ideals and Norms (3 Credit) Power Pathways (3 Credit) Fieldwork 1 (3 Credit) 	
TECHNOLOGY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production (3 Credit) Infrastructures (3 Credit) Information Interfaces (3 Credit) Control and Access (3 Credit) Fieldwork 2 (3 Credit) 	
ENVIRONMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atmospheric Studies (3 Credit) Water Cycles (3 Credit) Life and its Conditions (3 Credit) Earth Systems (3 Credit) Fieldwork 3 (3 Credit) 	
IV (CORE COURSE)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Writing (3 Credit) Research Practice (3 Credit) Thesis (9 Credit) 	

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Key Dates

Event	Date(s)
Application Deadline	25 July 2025
Application Screening	26 July–10 August 2025
ALT-HuS Examination	15 August 2025
Interviews	17-18 August 2025
Merit List Announcement	22 August 2025
Admission & Enrollment Period	25 August-26 September 2025
Reporting and Orientation	5 October 2025

Semester I

Event	Date(s)
Commencement	6 October 2025
Fieldwork (part of class period)	15 January–6 February 2026
Final Examinations	8 February–27 February 2026
Assessment & Break	28 February–14 March 2026
Results	15 March 2026
Semester Break	16 March–14 April 2026

Semester II

Event	Date(s)
Commencement	15 April 2026
Fieldwork (part of class period)	23 July–14 August 2026
Final Examinations	16 August–31 August 2026
Assessment & Break	1 September–19 September 2026
Results	20 September 2026
Semester Break	21 September–5 October 2026

Semester III

Event	Date(s)
Commencement	6 October 2026
Fieldwork (part of class period)	15 January–5 February 2027
Final Examinations	7 February–28 February 2027
Assessment & Break	1 March–14 March 2027
Results	15 March 2027
Semester Break	16 March–14 April 2027

Semester IV

Event	Date(s)
Commencement	15 April 2027
Fieldwork (part of class period)	23 July–13 August 2027
Final Examinations	15 August–31 August 2027
Assessment & Break	1 September–19 September 2027
Results	20 September 2027

**Dates are subject to change. Please refer to official updates for the latest information.*

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

A. Submit your Application

1. Prepare application materials

- Application letter (motivation letter) or 1200-word Statement of Purpose (SOP)
- A CV/resume
- Copy of Citizenship Certificate or National ID or Passport
- 3 copies of PP-sized Photos
- Transcripts (School level, 10+2/A-level or equivalent, and Bachelor's or above)
- Certificates of all previous degrees.
- Migration Certificate (original hardcopy to be submitted to the Admissions Office post-admission)

If you are waiting for your final year's results, you may submit certificates and mark sheets until the previous exams.

2. Pay the application fee

Before you start your application, deposit the non-refundable application fee of **NPR. 3000** to the following account and get the voucher

A/C Name: Southasia Institute For History And Philosophy

A/C Number: 55507296319

Bank: Siddhartha Bank Limited

Branch: PATAN

Swift Code: SIDDNPKA

3. Download and print the application form.

4. Fill up all mandatory fields in the application form.

5. Send all the required documents, including payment proof and application letter (motivation essay) to **admin@sihp.edu.np**

OR Submit it in-person at the institute.

B. Appear in the SiHP's ALT-HuS exam and Interview

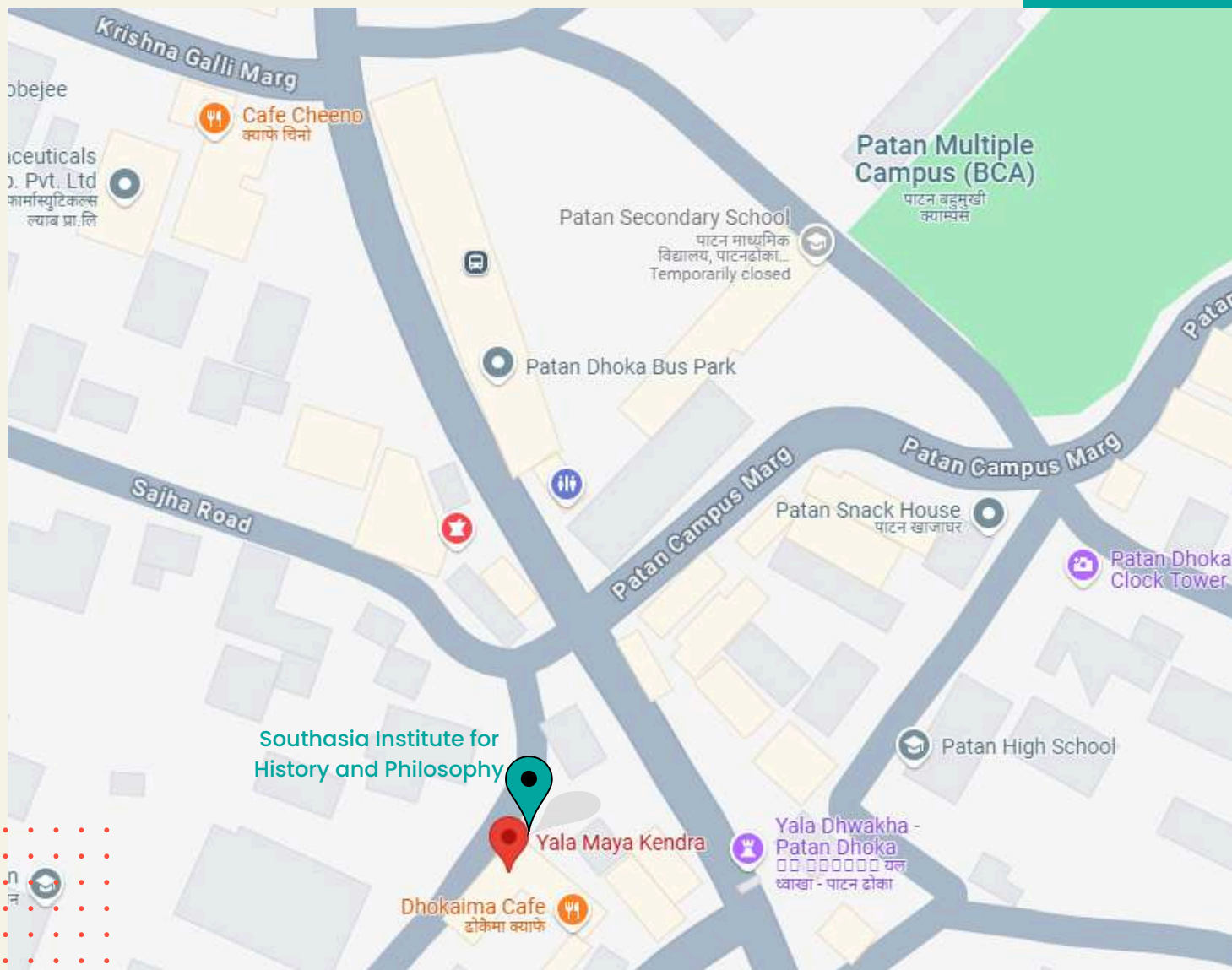
- Register for a date for ALT-HuS exam in the SiHP page.
- You will receive a sample set of questions once you submit your application.
- You will get confirmation of date and venue via email.
- Appear for the test. Once eligible, appear for the interview.

C. Apply for admission

Once you get selected,

- Fill up the admission form as provided.
- Include all the supporting documents.
- Pay the admission fee.
- Submit it in-person or via email.

LOCATION MAP



Source: Google Map
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/4aK1soiQRSWknw8T8>

SiHP's SHORT-TERM COURSES

HistoryFirst

This reading workshop is for those interested in knowing about the long-term processes in the collective construction of the past and present of the individual and social selves and of their material and metaphysical foundations. Specifically, the workshop will make you comprehend a variety of source materials, strategies to engage with them, and develop a critique of the existing approaches in writing about Nepali history in particular and histories of Southasian communities and traditions in general. Designed as part-workshop and part-discussion, in each session of this workshop, the participants will examine a source specimen critically and discuss readings that have been constructed out of such specimens.

A Course on New Humanities

This course is an introduction to SiHP's New Humanities Programme. It has been designed for enabling you to comprehend select contemporary topics as informed by historical and philosophical insights. The programme on the humanities is new in the sense that it seeks to explore unconventional methods, subjects and disciplines while consolidating its core emancipatory ambitions. In the 2025 edition, the course offered five modules on Society, Technology and Environment that are most relevant to Southasian populations and communities. The course is open to all Southasians and everyone else willing to understand the diverse subcontinent through historical sources and philosophical lineages but going beyond conventional dogmas and frameworks.

Philosophy Quartet

This is a month-long thinking and reading seminar on the diverse lives and thoughts of select philosophers from Southasia. The aim is to deliberate as a group on the thoughtful responses of these philosophers to their lived experiences, and on whether their reflections provide productive, and not to mention comparative, vantages for comprehending the dilemmas, doubts and resolutions in the contemporary world. In the 2025 edition, the course will cover thoughts of Karaikkal Ammaiyar, Yeshe Choegyal, Lallesvari and the Maibis.

THE COURSE IS FOR YOU

- If you are looking for meaningful academic and community engagements, and undertaking creative roles in transforming both material and non-material conditions in society and nature around you through sound historical and philosophical approaches;
- If you want to enhance your critical understanding of why Southasian populations and communities have evolved their diverse forms of social, political and economic characteristics in the present;
- If you want to experiment with and learn about collective strategies, actions and solutions to finding pathways towards dignified lives and livelihoods of our populations;
- If you believe that only by corresponding with dynamics of the earth systems, such as those imposed by the oceans, the Himalaya, the monsoon and the rest of the nature, societies in Southasia could remain sustainable, accessible, egalitarian and equitable;
- If you feel strongly in the emancipatory purposes of higher education in which learning outcomes assist us to help others in realising their personal and collective liberation, and dismantle newer forms of barrier, bondage and suffering arising through cultural and economic distinctions.

APPLICATION FORM



OPEN HOUSE REGISTRATION



Version 2025



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