



IAAWS

Indian Association for Women's Studies



in 2017

IAWS is a professional association that aims to further women's studies as an interdisciplinary academic field concerned with women, women's movements and the politics of gender. It seeks to promote women's studies perspectives in different disciplines within and beyond educational institutions.

Beginning

The Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS) is a common platform for Women's Studies scholars from different locations within India and friends based abroad. It is governed by the IAWS Constitution and registered under the Registrar of Societies, New Delhi.

IAWS is voluntarily managed by an elected Executive Committee. Members include academics, researchers, students, activists, social workers, media persons and others - women and men. Its activities and programs are made possible by donations/resources from individuals, institutions, corporate bodies, and local, national, international agencies.

The evolution of the IAWS can be traced to the publication of the path-breaking 'Towards Equality' ,Report of the Committee of the Status of Women in India (CSWI,1975)and the upsurge of the women's movement in India from the mid-1970s.

Women's Studies being recognized as a politically significant activity in the quest for equality, some of the pioneers got together to organise the first National Conference on Women's Studies in 1981 at SNDT University, Mumbai In April 1981, with support from UGC and ICSSR. The RCWS (SNDT) Women's University(Mumbai) and Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS, Delhi) were the founding institutions for the IAWS. focus on the women's question through research, teaching and engagement in activities. resolved to set up the Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS) which was registered as a membership-based organisation in 1982. Since then, IAWS has established itself as the leading pan Indian forum for Women's Studies scholars from different locations and regions.

The historic conference defined Women's Studies as a 'critical perspective' that needed to be integrated into all disciplines and recognized the need for universities to promote women's studies in the formal curriculum.

Founding members

- **Dr. Madhuri Shah** (then Chairperson, UGC)
- **Dr. Hemlata Swarup** (then VC, Kanpur University)
- **Dr Jyoti Trivedi** (then VC, SNTD Women's University)
- **Dr. Phulrenu Guha** (Kolkata)
- **Prof. Lotika Sarkar** (New Delhi)
- **Dr. Devaki Jain** (founder-Director, ISST, New Delhi)
- **Prof. Neera Desai** (then Director, Research Unit on Women's Studies, SNTD)
- **Dr. Vina Mazumdar** (founder-Director, CWDS, New Delhi)
- **Dr D Shankar Narayan** (then Additional Secretary UGC) represented the government.

Founding members



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Dr. Hemalatha Swarup



Dr Jyoti Trivedi



Dr. Phulrenu Guha



Prof. Lotika Sarkar



Dr. Devaki Jain



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Dr D Shankar Narayan
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Dr. Anita Ghai

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Mini Sukumar

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Kalpana

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Co-ordinator, Northern Region:

Indu Agnihotri (Ex-Officio)

Member, (Institutional):

Aishika Chakraborty

Workshops and Conferences

IAWS organizes regional workshops and national conferences around themes of contemporary and historical relevance. These have enriched discussions and debates in the field of women's studies, generating a rich resource of empirical and theoretical works available to scholars in India and abroad. Conferences combine structured academic discussions along with cultural events that foreground other paths to knowledge through film screenings, exhibitions, drama, music and craft.

National Conferences on Women's Studies are now held once every three years. These conferences have become important land marks in the journey of women's studies in and across India. They have helped generate new knowledge and provide a common space to researchers, activists, policy makers, media personnel and publishers for interaction and exchange.

National Conferences held since 1981

- 1981 Mumbai: First National Conference
- 1984 Thiruvananthapuram: Gender Justice (...?)
- 1986 Chandigarh: Women's Struggles and Movements
- 1988 Visakapatnam: Rural Women: Poverty, Survival, Struggle and Change
- 1991 Kolkata: Religion, Culture and Politics
- 1993 Mysore: The New Economic Policy and Women
- 1995 Jaipur: Looking Forward, Looking Back: In Search of Feminist Visions, Alternatives, Paradigms and Practices
- 1998 Pune: Survival and Sovereignty: Challenges to Women's Studies
- 2000 Hyderabad: Women's Perspectives on Public Policy
- 2002 Bhubaneswar: Sustaining Democracy: Challenges in the New Millennium
- 2005 Dona Paula, Goa: Sovereignty, Citizenship and Gender
- 2008 Lucknow: Feminism, Education and the Transformation of Knowledges
- 2011 Wardha: Resisting Marginalizations, Challenging Hegemonies: Re-visioning Gender Politics
- 2014 Guwahati: Equality, Pluralism and the State: Perspectives from the Women's Movement

1981 MUMBAI: FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE



IV. 1988 VISHAKAPATNAM: RURAL WOMEN: POVERTY, SURVIVAL, STRUGGLE AND CHANGE



1988 VISHAKAPATNAM: RURAL WOMEN: POVERTY, SURVIVAL, STRUGGLE AND CHANGE



1993: VI National Conference THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY AND WOMEN

Mysore



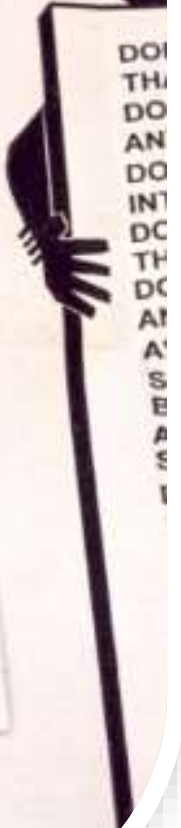
1998: PUNE: NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SURVIVAL AND SOVEREIGNTY: CHALLENGES TO WOMEN'S STUDIES



POTTER MAGAZINE
SERIES NO. 3, 1998

DON'T WORRY.
WE ARE MAKING
A NUCLEAR BOMB
TO DEFEND YOU!

THANKS!



OULD
LED



DON'T GO OUT ALONE AT NIGHT
THAT ENCOURAGES MEN.
DON'T GO OUT ALONE AT ANY TIME
ANY SITUATION ENCOURAGES SOME MEN.
DON'T STAY AT HOME
INTRUDERS AND RELATIVES CAN BOTH RAPE.
DON'T GO WITHOUT CLOTHES
THAT ENCOURAGES MEN.
DON'T GO WITH CLOTHES
ANY CLOTHES ENCOURAGE SOME MEN.
AVOID CHILDHOOD
SOME RAPISTS ARE TURNED ON
BY LITTLE GIRLS.
AVOID OLD AGE
SOME RAPISTS PREFER AGED WOMEN.
DON'T HAVE A FATHER, GRAND-FATHER,
UNCLE OR BROTHER.....
THESE ARE THE RELATIVES THAT
MOST OFTEN RAPE YOUNG WOMEN.
DON'T HAVE NEIGHBOURS
THESE OFTEN RAPE.
DON'T MARRY
RAPE IS LEGAL WITHIN MARRIAGE.
TO BE QUITE SURE
DON'T EXIST!

COURTESY LONDON SAFE TRIPS (LONDON) LIMITED

POSTER MAGAZINE
SERIES NO. 8, 1998



THE RAPIST'S
MINDSET



In one voice we say
it Loud

We won't live under

NUCLEAR CLO





The VIIIth National Conference of Women's Studies Organised by The Indian Association of Women's Studies in collaboration with Maharashtra Stree Abhyas Vyaspeeth explored the theme - 'Survival and Sovereignty: Challenges to Women's Studies'



Ram Bapat speaking on 'Culture and Resistance'
Others from left are speakers: Volga, Pushpa Bhave,
Pawwida Baksh-Soodeen, Razia Patel



Apart from India participants from Nepal, Bangala Desh, Cylone as well as England, Canada and Netherland participated in the conference. The representatives from Pakistan could not attend the conference due to the recent tensions of nuclear trials in both the countries. The conference missed their presence and also expressed solidarity with them.



The local participants also were present in great numbers for the plenaries and sub theme discussions.



The Executive Committee members & local organisers

First row – Meenakshi Apte;
Middle row – Ratna Kumari,
Nirmala Banerjee,
Kamala Bhasin, Kalpana
Kannabiran, Chhaya Datar,
Manjeet Bhatia, Rohini
Gawankar

Last row – Usha Kanhere,
Bhavana Mehata, Poornima
Chikarmane, Manu Bhaskar,
Gabriele Dietrich



The Cultural programmes also were organised in the conference. Here Sushama Deshpande presenting 'Vyay Me Savitri' - a one woman show on Savitribai Phule. A hindustani vocal recital of 'Feminist Composition' by Neela Bhagwat followed the play.

CULTURAL PROGRAMMES **(8th National Conference, Pune)**

Sushma Deshpande
presenting "Vyay Me
Savitri" – a one woman
show on Savitribai Phule.





The books and posters stall at Stri Vividha



Visit to the statue of Savitribai Phule, reformer in her own right and Phule's wife was also organized, Picture shows Phulavanta Zodge, senior activist and advocate of Phule's thinking speaking to the participants and wishing every success to the conference



The conference included an innovative programme - Feminist Walk. The walk was organised to Mahatma Phule's house, who was a 18th Century social reformer in Maharashtra. The house presently is restored as a museum. Picture shows Pushpa Bhave sharing the contribution and pioneering work of Mahatma Phule with his wife on the women's education, to the conference participants.



Prof. Lotika Sarkar (Left) with Dr. Phulrenu Guha



**From Left:
Prof. Vina
Mazumdar,
Dr. Neera Desai,
Dr. Vasanthi Raman
and
Sh. N. K. Banerjee**

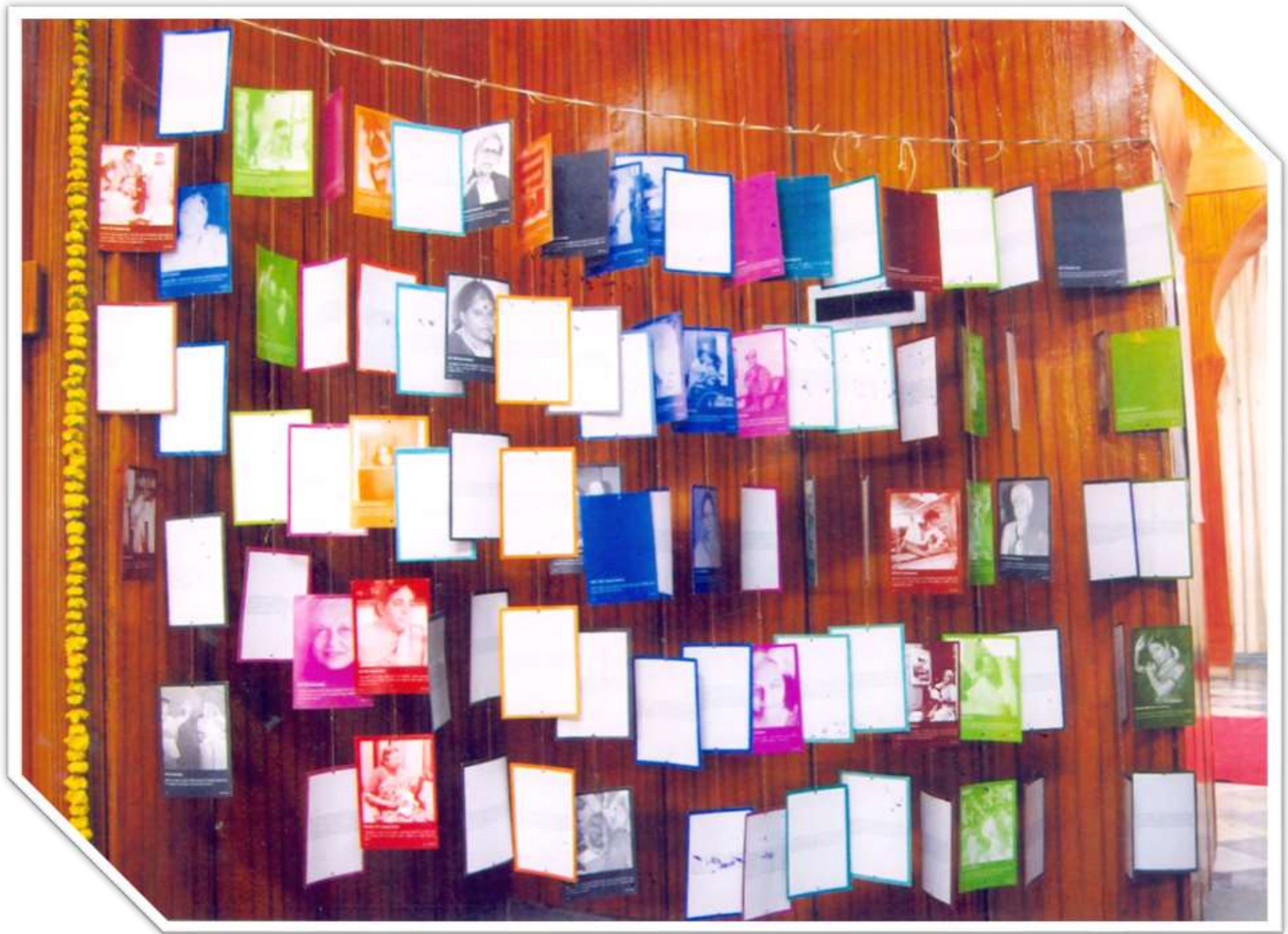
2008: LUCKNOW: FEMINISM, EDUCATION AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF KNOWLEDGES: PROCESSES AND INSTITUTIONS















**XII National Conference: 21-24 January, 2011, Mahatma Gandhi,
Antarashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha
RESISTING MARGINALIZATIONS, CHALLENGING HEGEMONIES:
RE-VISIONING GENDER POLITICS**



संस्कृतम्
संस्कृतम्
संस्कृतम्











Arrest us
We are all
Comrades

STOP
UAPA
STOP UAPA
STOP UAPA

SALWA
KUDUM
KUDUM
KUDUM
KUDUM !!

A.F.S.P.A.

Democracy Long Live
Women Movements Long Live
WE SUPPORT DR. BINAYAK KARANIA
(Indian Association For Workers Rights - IAWWS)

अनार अन् विनायक





















2014 GUWAHATI: EQUALITY, PLURALISM AND THE STATE: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT





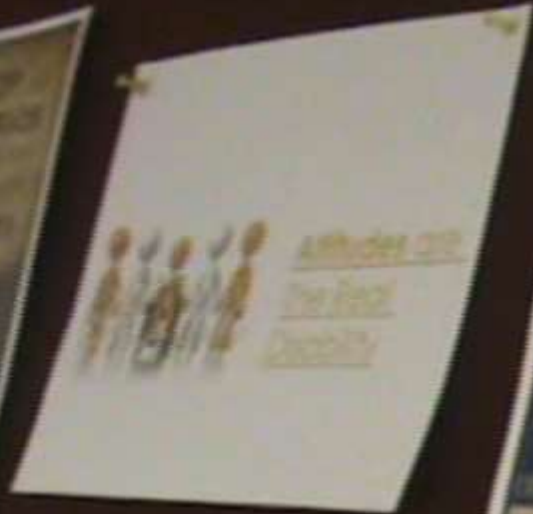


मानव संसाधन विकास विभाग
श्री अखिल भारतीय महिला विश्वविद्यालय
एकता, पुरुषार्थ & 50 वीं वर्ष
परिपक्वता प्रकृति का विकास

2014 GUWAHATI: PRE-CONFERENCE - I ENGAGEMENT WITH THE VOICES OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES







2014 GUWAHATI: PRE-CONFERENCE - II

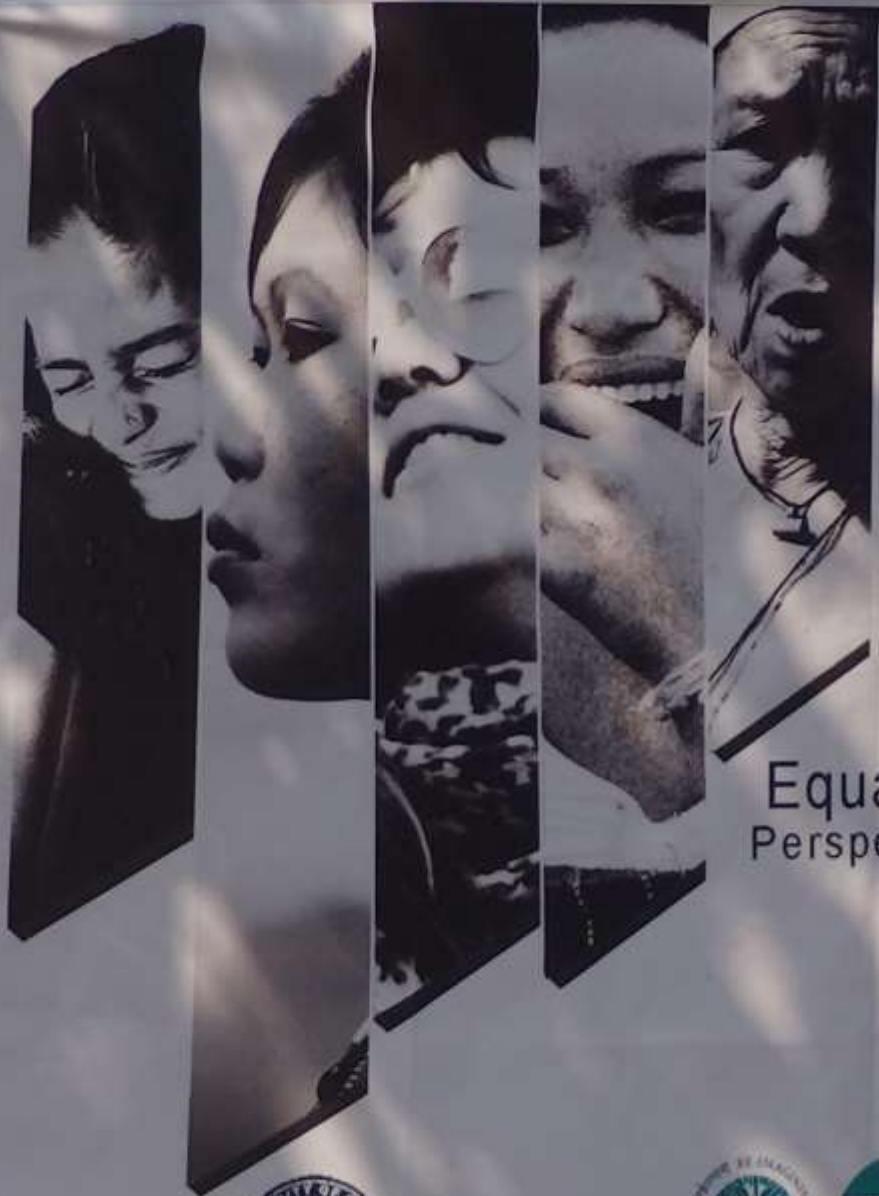
YOUNG WOMEN: RESISTING VIOLENCE AND EXPLORING LEGACIES





Subject: *Women's Studies*
20th Century Indian Women's Studies
Meeting: *Women's Studies and Learning Experiences*
Date: *Monday, February 3, 2014*
Time: *11:40 AM*

11:40
Monday, February 3



Indian
Association
for Women's Studies

XIV NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S STUDIES

Equality, Pluralism and the State
Perspectives from the Women's Movement

4th to 7th February 2014
Venue: Gauhati University

In
collaboration
with



Supported
by



COTTON COLLEGE
STATE UNIVERSITY

Co-Sponsored
by



Apart from IAWS publications on specific themes, the IAWS Newsletter, published twice a year, disseminates information about the Association's activities in different parts of the country. It explores gender issues, and includes book reviews, announcements, seminar/ workshop reports and a lot more.



Editor's Note

As IAWS moves towards its 30th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION, the theme 'Equality Through Law and the State: Perspectives from the Women's Movement' and the journal 'Gender Perspectives' in South East, provide the challenges of the times, challenges to pluralism, not only in our social practice but also in the realm of social theory development, while the trajectory of India's development, just independence has been through new skills, social mobility, wars, it also created new responsibilities for varied sections of the people at also a nation at some levels. Highlighted by the Report of the Committee On Status of Women (CSW) (1974). These activities were part of professional not only inspired by pluralist concerns underlying the conditions, justice, equality, work, leadership, justice, discrimination, justice, however, but, at the same time, created possibilities of refining the scope of these concepts. The responses to the status have been judged as a precursor to the celebration.

Significant in the development history since 1974 also saw a rethinking of men, high institutional justice, academic, religious pluralism, cultural identities, including caste, ethnic, regional identities. The varied attachments to law or laws, along the decades would what is known as the Women's Movement's 30th Birthday and 'Gender Perspectives' explore the formation of legal studies, can be considered as key moments in the process. The CSW's role is a shift from the use of legal language as seen as in CSW Report to new methods of patriarchy, equality, representation and to studies on new forms of hierarchies, power and gendered identities. Focus on the experiential brought to the fore, the line between power and knowledge, has source of knowledge, or how power is constructed, and on how to undertake research, or women as subjects who make to diverse support job. Studies also pointed to the possibility of women in social science, relations and multiple methodologies relating to communities. The 'Gender Perspectives' (1997) marked the shift towards highlighting differences, the context of masculinity-masculinity of identity, religious, social, gender, work, law, class, intersection and how these categories and social consciousness, labour, feminist studies for example, which highlighted the intersections of class and gender, began to look at the intersections of caste, class, gender, Divisions, social location, identity, women's experiences were seen as mutually constituting and shaping each other.

The issue of the IAWS Newsletter, which has pluralism as its focus, is dedicated to three leading women - Pina MacLaurin, Latha Datta, and the late Neeta Chandra. They and their work by moments in the formulation of new concepts and definition of categories, and provided a sense of continuity to the different conversations and dialogues that have taken in varied institutional sites.

Meera Wajpathar

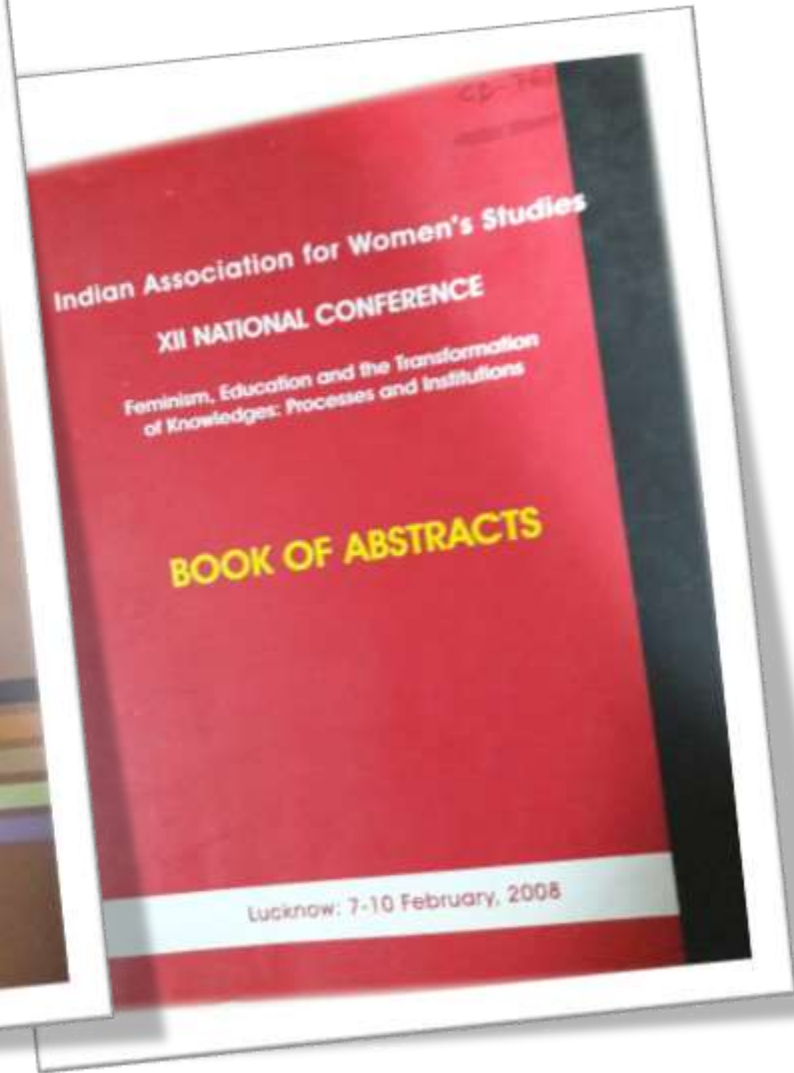
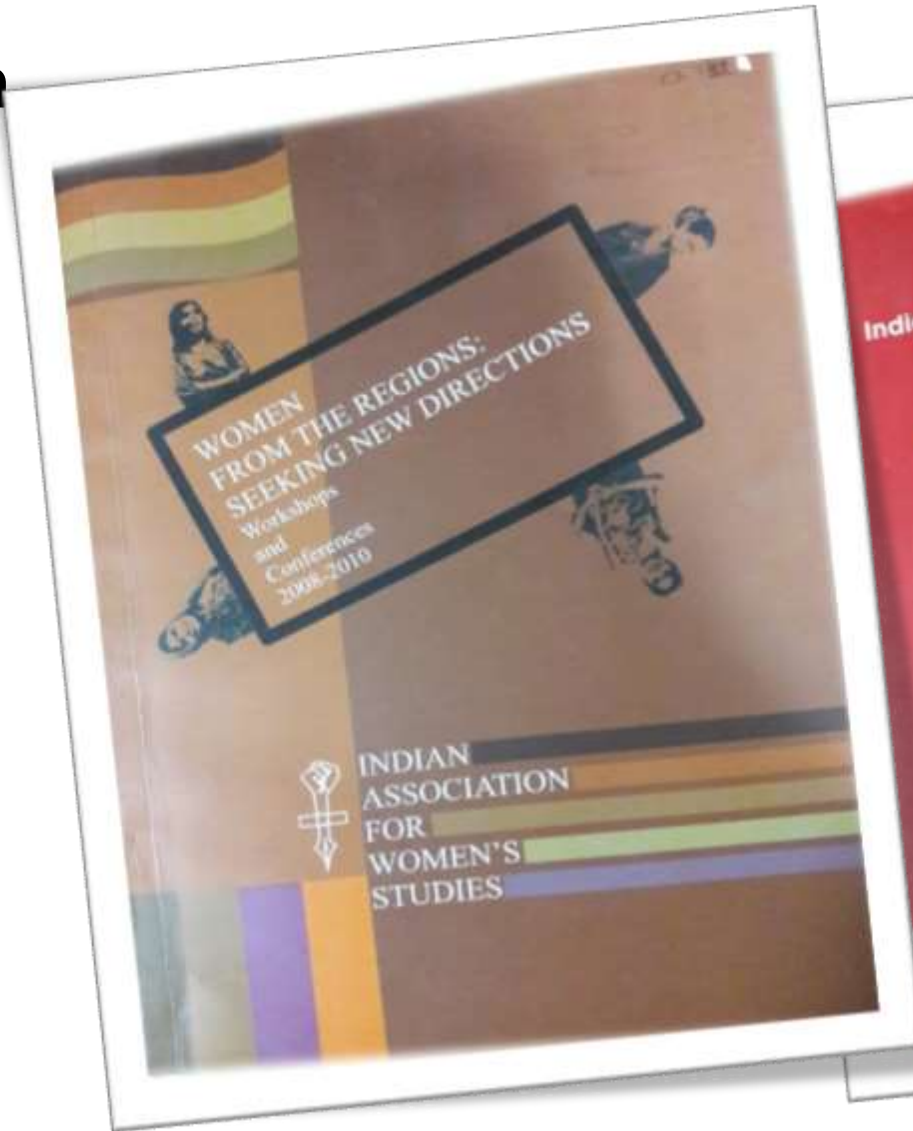
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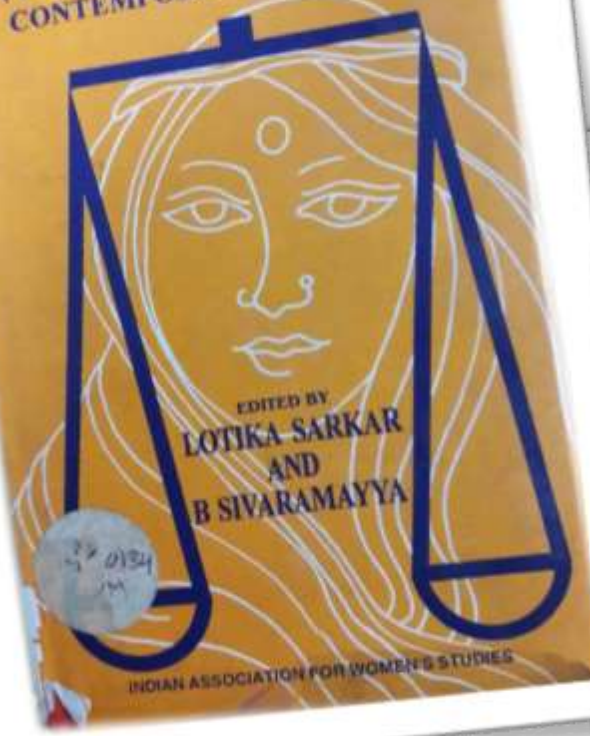
PUBLICATIONS

IAWS facilitated research and papers presented at conferences have been published in the Indian Journal of Gender Studies, the Economic and Political Weekly and other national and foreign/international journals.



WOMEN AND LAW

CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS



EDITED BY
**LOTIKA SARKAR
AND
B SIVARAMAYYA**

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

ANCHORING
WOMEN'S STUDIES
IN INDIA

25
YEARS

Twenty five years of
**THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES**



A Commemoration
2008



President's Address
and
Executive Committee
Reports

WWW.IAWWS.ORG

INDIAN ASSOCIATION
FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

Xiii
national general
body meeting

WOMEN AND INDIAN NATIONALISM



EDITED BY
**LA KASTURI &
A MAZUMDAR**

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

305.423
WOM

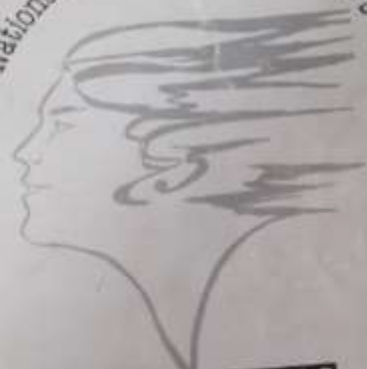
THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY AND WOMEN

A COLLECTION OF BACKGROUND PAPERS TO SIXTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE 1993

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

330.9
NEW

VIIIth National Conference of Women's Studies



ABSTRACTS

Survival and Sovereignty Challenges to Women's Studies

Indian Association of Women's Studies
May, 1998

CD-64

MP-R
IAS-W

0796 1200

WOMEN AND SECURITY

EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES
2005

SURVIVAL AND SOVEREIGNTY

WOMEN'S ACCESS TO NATURAL RESOURCES

Edited By
Gabriele Dietrich

MPR:
3-140-C

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Radhika Coomraswamy



Indian Association of Women's Studies

CD-963

Feminism, Education and the Transformation of Knowledges: Processes and Institutions

REPORT

XII National Silver Jubilee Conference of the
Indian Association for Women's Studies
Lucknow, 7-10 February, 2008



CD-1022

CWIS LIBRARY

THE STATE AND THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN INDIA

A Report



Indian Association of Women's Studies

CD-793.5
General Secretary,
Treasurer and Editor's Report

XIV General Body Meeting
6th February, 2014
Guwahati



INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES
<http://www.iaws.org/>

CD-793.5

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES
XIV National Conference on Women's Studies
Equality, Pluralism and the State:
Perspectives from the Women's Movement

Voices from the North East



Organized by IAWS
at Gauhati University, Guwahati

CD-650.2

In search of pasts?
History, women's movements and women's studies



Indian Association for Women's Studies

SUB-THEMES

Vth National Conference

9-12 FEBRUARY, 1991, JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY, CALCUTTA



Indian Association for Women's Studies

Fifth National Conference

ON

Religion, Culture & Politics

9-12 February, 1991

Organized by :

School of Women's Studies

Jadavpur University

CALCUTTA-700 032

RELIGION, CULTURE & POLITICS

SUB-THEMES

- The demographic context and patterns of women's relationship to religion, culture and politics
- Family and socialization
- Mass Media
- Religion, culture and politics : the economic context
- State policies and their implications
- Religion, culture and politics: the impact of women's rights and legal system
- The role of education in religion, culture, and politics and gender justice Political use of religious/cultural idioms
- Religions organizations and institutions, fundamentalism and reformism

VIIth National Conference

JAIPUR

LOOKING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK: IN SEARCH OF FEMINIST VISIONS, ALTERNATIVES, PARADIGMS AND PRACTICES



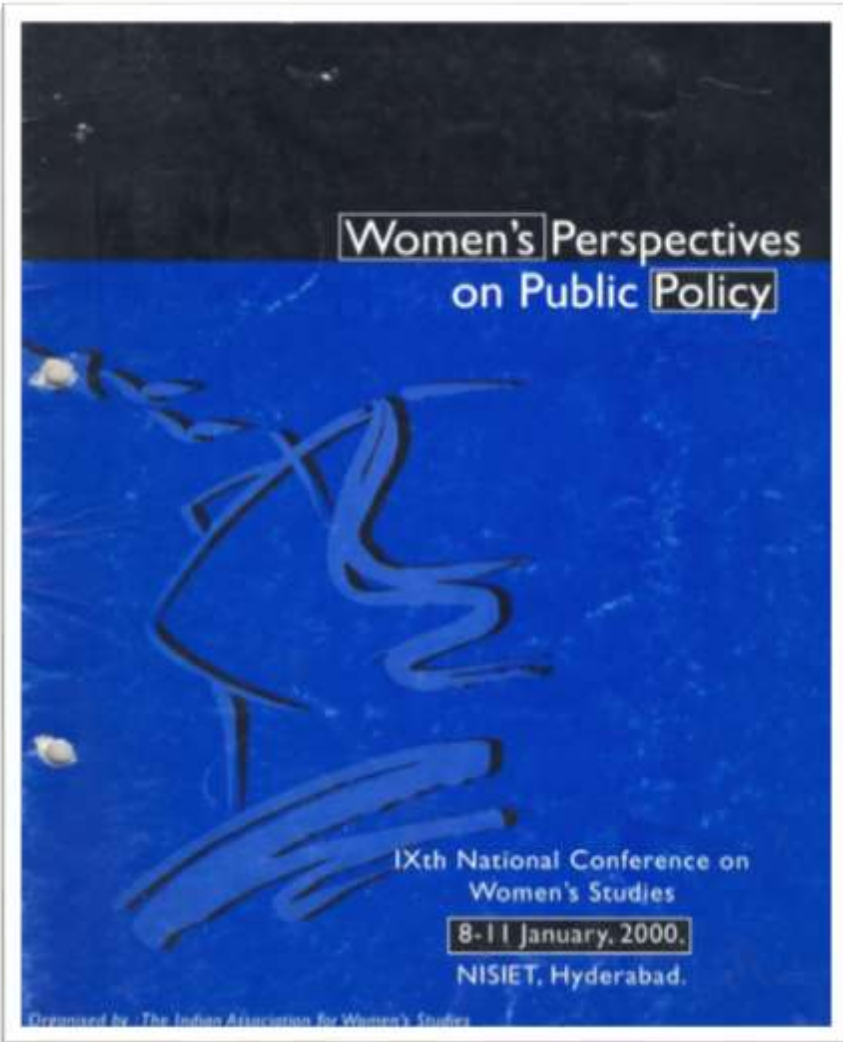
SUB-THEMES

- Family And Women's Sexuality
- Women and Media
- Culture, Identity and Women's Rights: Exploring New Directions in Feminist Praxis
- Women's Writing: Redefinitions, Aesthetics And Future Visi
- Creation And Dissemination Of Knowledge And Knowledge System
- Women-Centered Natural Resource Management-Land, Water And Energy
- Women And Health
- Work And Workers
- Women, Political Participation And Politics Of Organising

IX National Conference

8-11 January, 2000, NISIET, Hyderabad

WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES ON PUBLIC POLICY



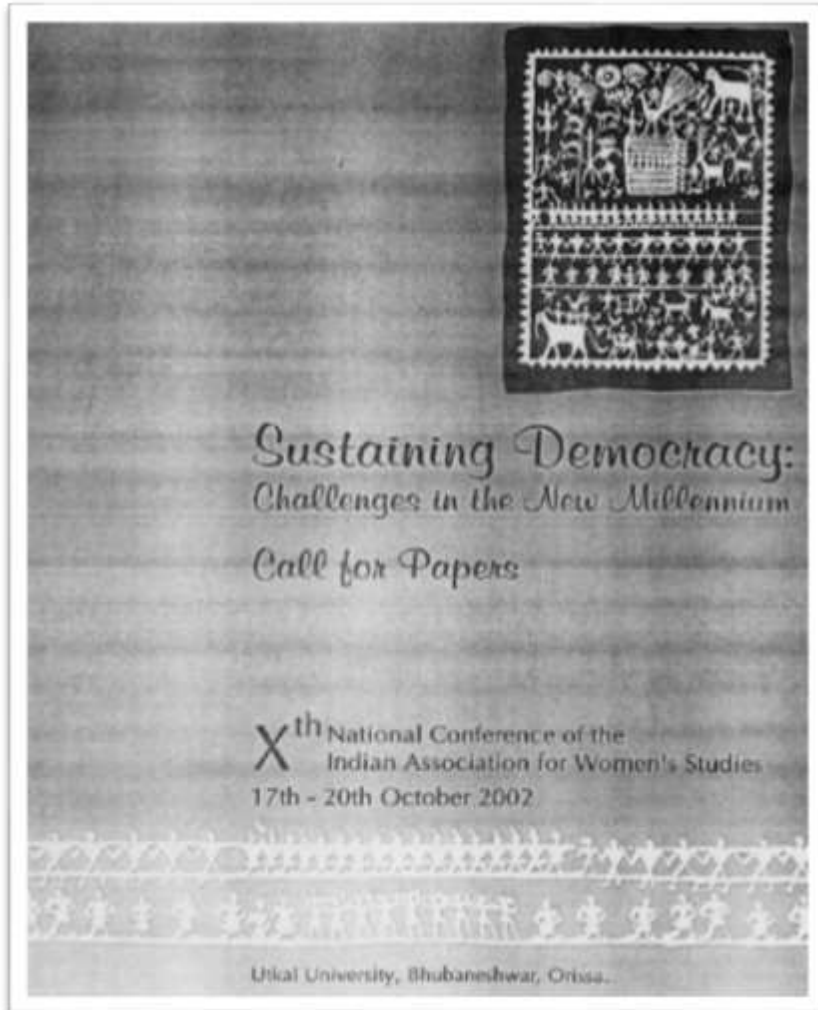
SUB-THEMES

- Mobilizing for Change: Possibilities and Challenges
- Women's Experience in Panchayats
- Engendering New and Emerging Community Rights and Responsibilities in Natural Resource Management
- Meeting the Evolutionary, Cultural and Ethical Needs of Communities
- Public Policy and People in Prostitution and Sex Work
- Gender, Conflict and Political Violence
- Women in Business
- Violence Against Women

X National Conference

17-20 October, 2002, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, Orissa

SUSTAINING DEMOCRACY: CHALLENGES IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM



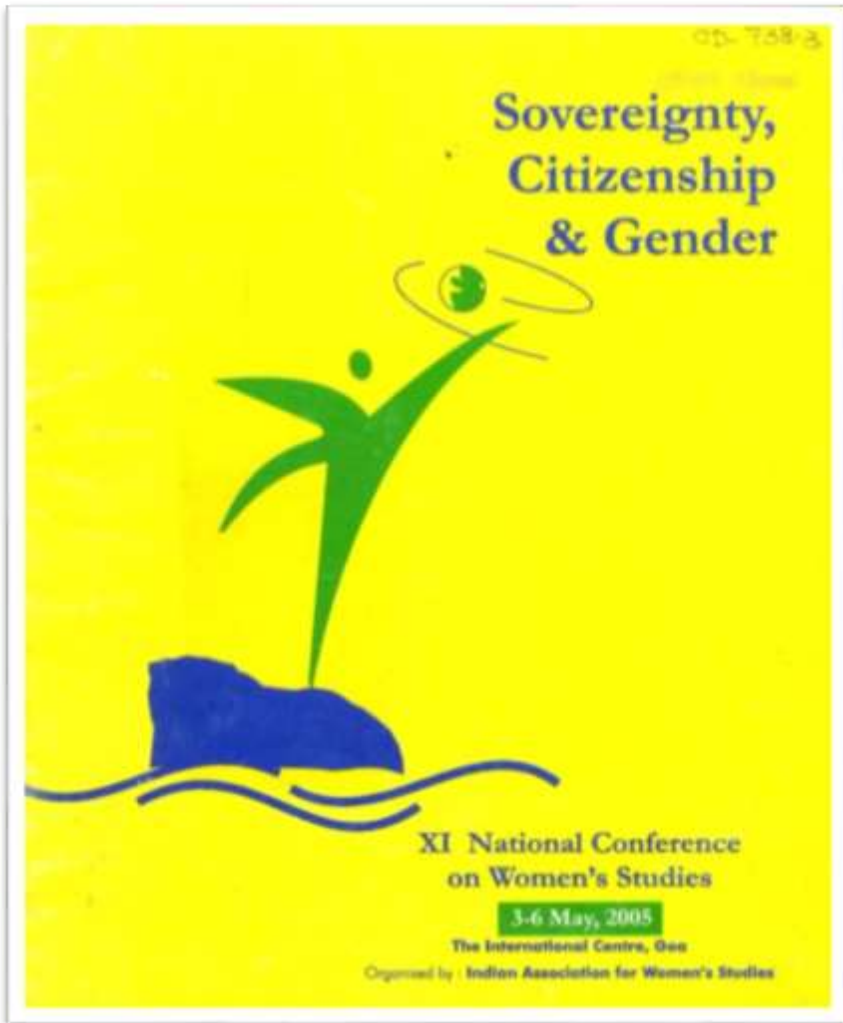
SUB-THEMES

- The Female Body: An Arena of Contestation
- Promoting Democracy within the Family
- Girl Child: A Neglected Agenda
- Gender and Governance for Sustaining Democracy
- Confronting Hunger: Issues of Food Security and Nutrition
- Fundamentalism & Communalism
- Gender and Livelihoods
- Sustaining Democracy: Challenges for Education
- Doing Women's Studies: Dilemmas and Possibilities
- Women's Movement in a Changing Socio-political and Economic Context: Striving for new directions

XI National Conference

3-6 May, 2005, The International Centre, Goa

SOVEREIGNTY, CITIZENSHIP & GENDER

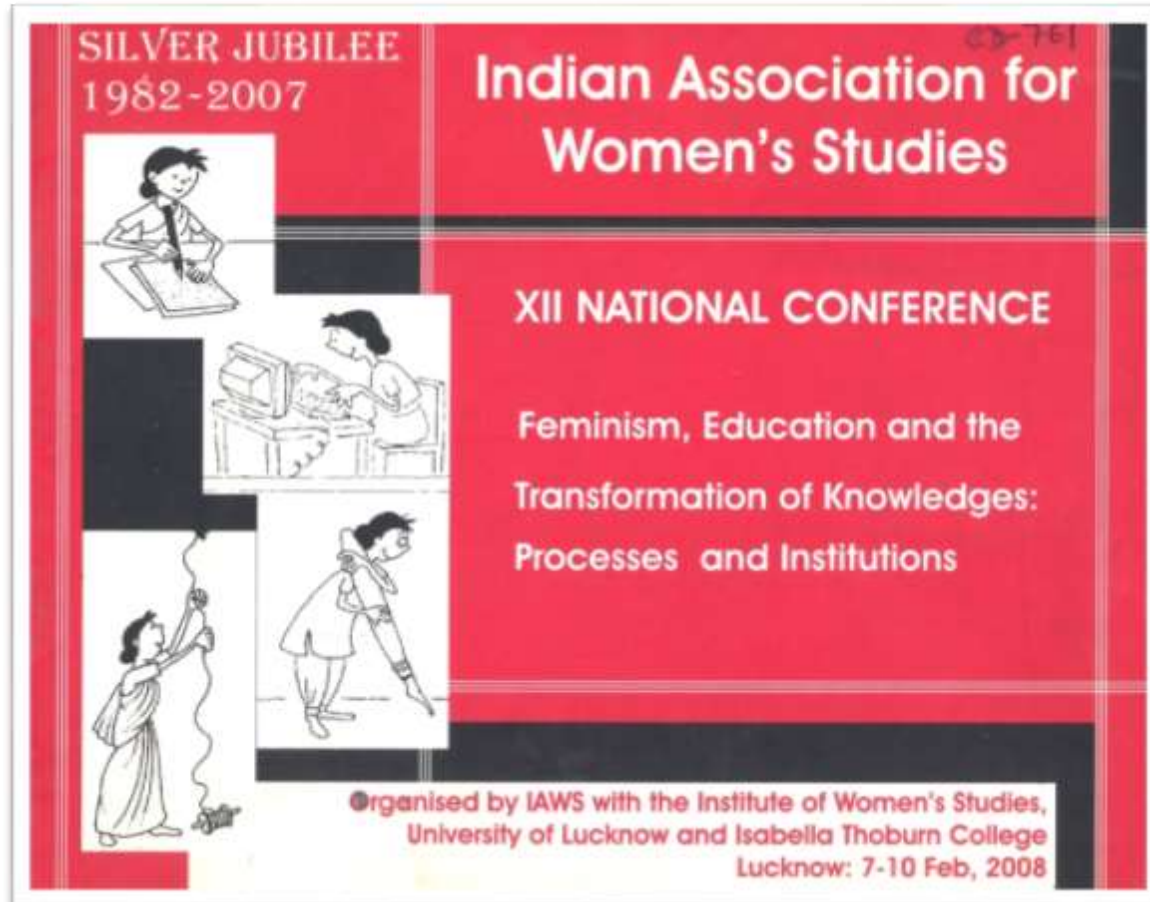


SUB-THEMES

- Pluralism, Nationhood and Differential Citizenship: Contemporary Issues
- Citizenship, Livelihoods, Work and Natural Resource Rights
- Citizenship and the Politics of Sexuality
- Women in Conflict and Militarization
- Development-Induced Displacement: Impact on Women
- Migration, Displacement and Borders
- Education and Citizenship
- Impaired Citizenship and Forms of Exclusion
- Engendering Legal Education: Citizenship and Entitlements

XII National Conference, 7-10 February, 2008, University of Lucknow and Thoburn College, Lucknow

FEMINISM, EDUCATION AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF KNOWLEDGES: PROCESSES AND INSTITUTIONS

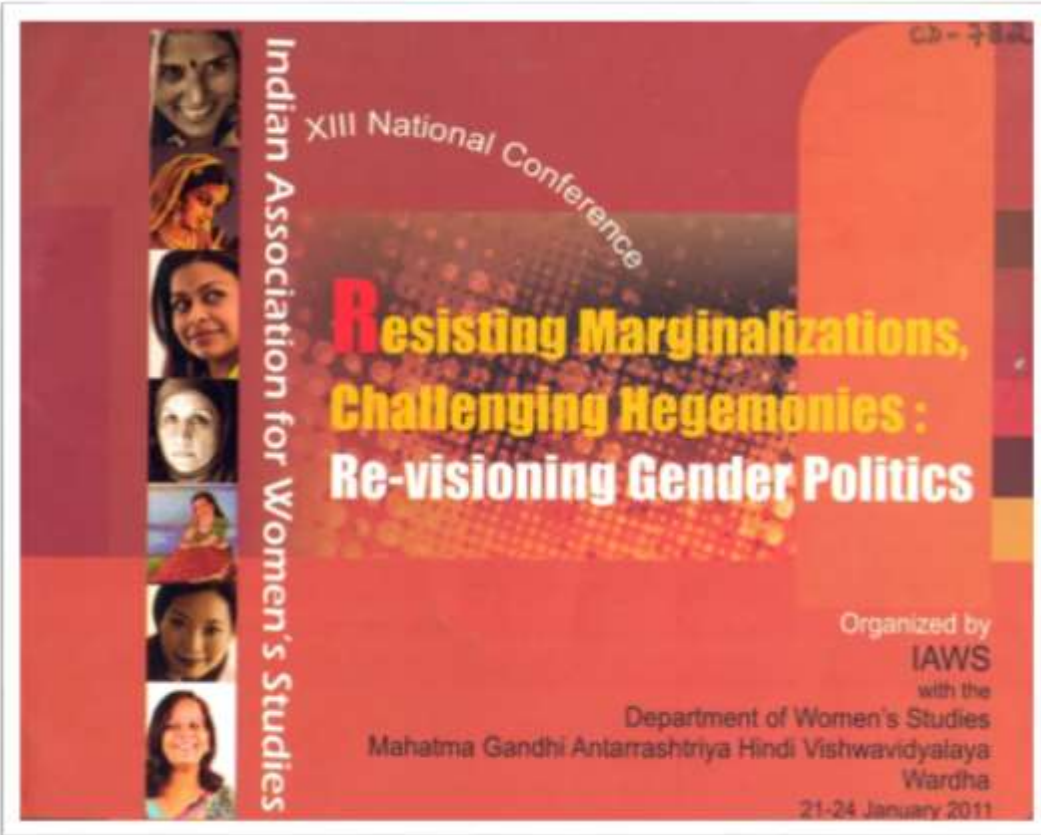


SUB-THEMES

- Issues of Gender and Development
- Feminism and Knowledges of Violence
- Rethinking Feminist Methodologies in Contemporary Research
- Interface between Action and Research
- Gender, Science and Technology
- Generating New Knowledge around Sexualities and Genders
- Pedagogies, Schooling, Gender Studies
- Tribe, Caste and Minority: Structures and Exclusions
- Language, Literature and Cultural Production

XII National Conference: 21-24 January, 2011, Mahatma Gandhi, Antarashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha

RESISTING MARGINALIZATIONS, CHALLENGING HEGEMONIES: RE-VISIONING GENDER POLITICS

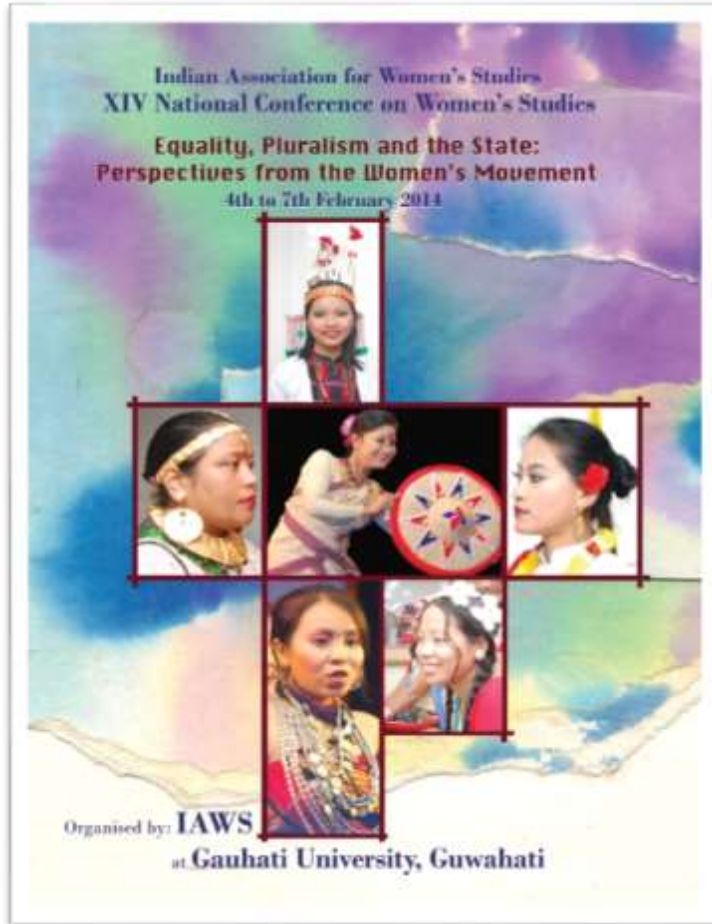


SUB-THEMES

- Controlling Resources: The Politics of Exclusion
- Conflicts and Resistances: Challenges before the Women's Movements
- Sites of Justice
- Composite Cultures and Hegemonic Ideologies
- Languages, Voices, Representations
- State, Nation and Citizenship
- New Markets and Interlocking Inequalities: Labour, Education, Health and Marriage
- Re-imagining Relationships, Transending Boundaries
- Body Talk: Interrogating Boundaries and Hierarchies in Feminist Discourse
- Women, Labour and Questions of Marginalization

XIV National Conference: 4-7 February, 2014, Gauhati University, Guwahati

EQUALITY, PLURALISM AND THE STATE: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT



SUB-THEMES

- Women's Rights and Entitlements to Land and Land-based Resources
- Encountering Globalisation: Women and Social Security
- Women in Urban India: Debating Labour/ Employment, Poverty and Violence
- Pluralities: Caste, Inclusion and Intersectionalities
- Pluralities: Ethnicity, Language and Gender
- Equality, Conflict, Pluralism and Women's Studies
- Education, Knowledge and Institutional Space(s)
- Culture and Region
- Women, Peace and Security in India
- Documenting Gendered Histories: Nation, State, Region and Local
- Women's Movement's Engagement with Policy















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Home _____ Business T. _____

Office T. _____

Education _____

Address/Institute _____

Interested in Women's Studies program and research opportunities _____

Executive Member _____ Organizational Secretary _____

Member/Contributor _____

For Other roles see site _____

Please tick if you prefer getting the correspondence _____

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Indian Association for Women's Studies

www.iaws.org

Registered Office:
INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES
 CO CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
 25 BHAI VEER SINGH MARG
 NEW DELHI 110 001
 TELEPHONE: +91-11-23065311, +91-11-23066030
 FAX: +91-11-23068044

Membership

As a pioneer in the field of Women's Studies, IAWS provided a...



Activities

- The IAWS aims to:
- strengthen women's rights and equality;
 - facilitate dialogue and discussion from a women's perspective across disciplines within academia;
 - facilitate linkages with the women's movement at different levels;
 - provide a forum for interaction through national and regional conferences and workshops;
 - collaborate with institutions and groups working for similar objectives;
 - provide a platform for an active engagement with the social sciences and a dialogue to promote critical thinking from a gendered perspective within the natural sciences; and
 - organise conferences which combine structured academic discussions and debates on contemporary challenges along with cultural events that foreground other ways of knowing through film screenings, exhibitions, drama, music and craft.

About Us

The evolution of the Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS) can be traced back to the emergence of the women's movement in India in the mid-1970s and the publication of Towards Equality in 1973, the path-breaking report of the Government of India's Committee on the Status of Women in India. In April 1984, the First National Conference on Women's Studies, defined Women's Studies as a critical perspective and re-examined the curriculum of women's education in all disciplines. It adopted a resolution to establish the Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS). The IAWS was set up in 1984, as a membership-based body that seeks to develop Women's Studies as an interdisciplinary academic field as well as to deepen Women's Studies engagement with issues facing the women's movement.

IAWS Executive Committee (2011-12)

1. Dr. Sun, President & Coordinator, Central Region, (M.D.), Warital, sun.jagadipati@gmail.com
2. Dr. Sun, Vice President, Eastern Region, (M.D.), Warital, sun.jagadipati@gmail.com
3. Dr. Sun, Secretary, Eastern Region, (M.D.), Warital, sun.jagadipati@gmail.com
4. Dr. Sun, Treasurer, Eastern Region, (M.D.), Warital, sun.jagadipati@gmail.com
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9. Dr. Sun, Secretary, Northern Region, (M.D.), Warital, sun.jagadipati@gmail.com
10. Dr. Sun, Treasurer, Northern Region, (M.D.), Warital, sun.jagadipati@gmail.com

CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

**XIV National Conference: 4-7 February,
2014, Gauhati University, Guwahati**



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EQUALITY, PLURALISM & THE STATE :
PERSPECTIVES FROM THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

4-7 February 2014

Guwahati















POEM (On the outgoing EC of IAWS)

By Kumkum Roy

We see
The EC
It has been a wonderful place to be
In and a part of our lives together
As we figured out why, when and whether
Things should be done or left unsaid
Working our way towards roses and bread.

Before I begin I must apologize
To Geeta who is both young and wise
For not finding a picture of hers
And not powerpointing a verse
In her honour and praise.
May the young feminists continue to thrive
As towards our goals we strive

Anita, for reminding us constantly
Of issues we push beyond memory
That disabilities are a part of our lives
Energetic, strong, courageous and brave
Ensures that we enjoy, think and we save

Chhaya is always pragmatic and wise
Willing to pare down our dreams to right size
Reminding us of what the IAWS can mean
To women in villages, town, in between
The big bad cities where most of us live.

Veena energetic, quiet and precise
Has taught us that in documentation lies
Perhaps the most important way
To preserve the histories of the everyday
Of organizations and ourselves
So we look forward to sifting through the shelves
Of the archives that she has taught us to treasure

Shaila caught in a reflective mood
We may not quite know what makes her brood.
Is it the website, the accommodation?
Is it the call of the wild or the nation?

Ritu our financier par excellence
Is found here in a reflective stance
Perhaps the funds haven't flowed in yet
Or may be there are loose ends to be knotted
And matters of importance to be sorted

Of course we know it is Nandini's job
Sundry creditors to charmingly fob
But she's perhaps contemplating the subthemes
Which range from nightmares to lovely dreams

Irina steering the motley team
As well as the multitude and the stream
Touching hearts and minds of women and men
As she sang, and will sing again
Of bread and roses...

Not to miss the attentive Samita Sen
Indomitable, resourceful, I could say it again
The big picture, the details, nothing escape her
As she helps us realize our dreams for the future

Indu, of course, multi-tasking as usual
I leave you to decipher what she's doing in the visual
Is she talking, listening, catching a nap?
May be we should ask the photographer who took the snap.

Meera reflecting and news lettering us all
We wait for her mails, we wait for her call
She pushes us beyond the matter of fact,
Compelling us to think, write, and act.

And then...
Finally, ending with my favourite one
Of battles we fought, of wars that were won
Of the spirit that animated our team
And which made these three years seem
Pleasurable, even as we pushed against odds,
Perhaps with the goddesses if not with the gods.

If you are wondering who is this poetess,
It is Kumkum, the historian, no less.
She watches, quiet in the melee of EC
She rhymes, she writes minutes for us to see
All done in a moment in the quite of the capital city,
Overall, all in all, wonderful in simplicity!

