

LIST OF CONTESTANTS WITH BRIEF CVs

	Name	Brief CV
1.	Aishika Chakraborty	Aishika Chakraborty, Associate Professor, School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, has a PhD (University of Calcutta), on <i>Widowhood in Colonial Bengal</i> . Her current research on contemporary feminist dancers/ choreographers is funded by the India Foundation for Arts, Bangalore. She has several publications on themes related to dance, marriage, widowhood, and caste. She is also a trained dancer/ performer. She has participated and performed in several national and international conferences and dance festivals all over India. She has experience in teaching courses in history, as well as women's studies at both the undergraduate and the postgraduate and research levels.
2.	Anagha Tambe	Anagha Tambe teaches at the Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule Women's Studies Centre, SP Pune University, developing curriculum and pedagogies for degree and short-term courses, preparing teaching learning resources, especially in Marathi, and working with women's movements and colleges in the region. Her areas of interest include gender, caste, sexuality, the devadasi question, inequalities and democracy in higher education. An active member of the IAWS, she feels the organization has a crucial role to play at this juncture when women's studies is expanding, and becoming more democratic, even though institutional support is sometimes limited.
3.	Asha Achuthan	Not Available
4.	Avantika Shukla	Avantika Shukla, Assistant Professor, Mahatma Gandhi Antarashtriy Hindi Vishvavidyalaya, Wardha, Maharashtra. She has completed her M.A. M.Phil and PhD from the same university. She has administrative experience also. She has keen interest in women's studies and the women's movement. She is interested in understanding patriarchal, caste and class issues in different regional structures, and especially to understand the challenges, struggles and the potential of the students who completed their education in Hindi medium or any other regional language. She is especially interested in understanding these issues in terms of the marginal sections of society.
5.	Deepa Tak	Not Available
6.	Elizabeth V.S	Elizabeth, MA (History, Bangalore University), PhD (Mangalore University), LLB (Bangalore University), teaches at the National Law School of India, where she also holds several important administrative posts. She has experience in teaching history as well. Her research interests include women's history and law. She has several publications and has participated in both national and international conferences. She is associated with the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal, National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, Bangalore, St Martha's Hospital, and the Gujarat National Law University. She has served as coordinator of the Centre for Women and Law, Sexual Harassment (Prevention) Policy Advisor,
7.	Geetha V.	V. Geetha is a feminist historian, translator and publisher, who has been active in women's movements for three decades. She writes occasionally for Tamil theatre, dramatizing aspects of women's history and contemporary political struggles. Since 1991, she has done public teaching with women's and teachers' groups - focusing on feminist histories, ideas and movements. Her latest pedagogic effort addresses fellow citizens and is titled 'Let's Read Ambedkar'. Her publications including pioneering work on the Tamil Self- Respect movement, translations into English of contemporary Tamil fiction and poetry; and writings on Tamil popular culture, caste, labour, sexual violence, gender and patriarchy.
8.	Ishita Mukhopadhyay	Ishita Mukhopadhyay, Professor in Department of Economics, University of Calcutta, was Director of Women's Studies Research Centre of the University from 2000 till April 2017. She is an activist in the women's movement as well as a researcher in gender issues. She works on issues of gender and development, especially labour, employment, education, women's participation in development and politics. She has worked extensively on violence against women, trafficking of women and children, child labour, women and disability issues. She was also a member of the team that prepared the Shadow Report of CEDAW by NGO-academia groups under NAWO. She is an activist and networks with all NGOs working on gender issues in the country.
9.	Jasbir Singh	Jasbir Singh teaches in the Dept. of Economics, University of Jammu. Sensitive to the issues and concerns of women, he has worked on gender economics and human development. Through community service, extension and field outreach activities,

		he has worked to create gender sensitization and awareness among the youth and marginalized sections of society. He has introduced a paper on Economics of Gender at the PG level and is associated with CWS in Jammu University. He has presented papers in 93 conferences and seminars; published 4 books; 49 research articles in national and international journals; and delivered 108 extension lectures. He is Vice President of World Centre for Women Studies, New York, since 2015.
10.	Kiran Moghe	Kiran Moghe combines activism with research and writing on issues of women and work, unorganised sector, domestic workers, MNREGA and scheme-workers. Currently, she is a National Joint Secretary of the AIDWA and is particularly active on issues such as sex selection, caste violence, honour crimes, food security, sexual harassment at the workplace and women's policy. She has been a member of the IAWS since 1993 and was its Vice President during 2014-2017. She holds a Master's degree in Development Economics from the London School of Economics.
11.	Manimekalai N.	N. Manimekalai, Founder, Director and Head, Dept of Women's Studies, Bharatidasan University, Tiruchirapalli, has 25 years of teaching and research experience, around 70 publications, and 10 major research projects completed with national and international support. Areas of research include a special focus on marginalized girls/ women, health, employment, education, political participation, domestic violence. Many of these lead to action research projects conducted in several universities. She has considerable administrative experience serving on academic and other committees of universities, including committees for the prevention of sexual harassment. She has worked to introduce foundation courses on gender, and networked with the community. Currently treasurer of the IAWS, she is also active in the Regional Association for Women's Studies (RAWS) and the Tiruchirapalli Women's Forum (TWF).
12.	Meera Velayudhan	Meera Velayudhan, a Ph D in history, has been involved in gender studies since its inception in the early 1980s, with a focus on labour and women's organization. Presently Policy Analyst, Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, she has researched and done advocacy work on a variety of issues including the dalit movement. Actively involved in the IAWS since its inception, she perceives its current concerns as including issues of diversity, intersectionalities, power relations and agency. She brings in her experience as editor of the IAWS newsletter as well as an EC member, to suggest how linkages can and need to be built within and across regions. She feels that the IAWS has played a crucial role in strengthening democratization within women's studies, and visualizes that leadership in IAWS will be key in carrying forward its stated goals and journey.
13.	Padma Venkataraman (Mangai)	V. Padma (pseudonym A. Mangai), taught English at Stella Maris College, Chennai. She has been active in Tamil theatre as an actor, director and playwright for over three decades. Her fields of interest are theatre, gender and translation studies. The recipient of several prestigious international fellowships, she has also taught in the University of California and King Alfred's College, Winchester. She has directed more than 15 plays. Most of these are in Tamil, drawing on classical and contemporary themes; some have been translated into English. She has been actively involved with the marginalized, including the transgender community. Her publications include plays, translations, and <i>Acting Up: Gender and Theatre in India</i> , as well as <i>Listen to the Flames</i> , a textbook on dalit writing (co-edited).
14.	Paromita Chakravarti	Paromita Chakravarti, Professor, Dept. of English, Jadavpur University, Kolkata has been Joint Director and Director of the School of Women' Studies, and convenor of the cell against sexual harassment. Her work in SWS focused on education and sexuality. She has led national and international projects on gender representation in school textbooks, sexuality education, women's higher education, women and HIV and AIDS, single and homeless women. Closely associated with the women's movement in Kolkata, she is active in the queer, sex worker, homeless and single women's movements. She has introduced one of the first post-graduate courses in Queer Studies in the Department of English. Her book, <i>Women Contesting Culture</i> , co-edited with Kavita Panjabi, was published by Stree in 2012.
15.	Praveena Kodoth	Praveena Kodoth researches and teaches at the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, with which she has been associated for nearly 20 years. Her PhD was on property relations amongst matrilineal castes in the Malabar region. She has researched and published extensively on land rights, mobility and migration, marital choice, the implications of globalization, using an inter-disciplinary approach and fieldwork. Her findings have been published in <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i> , <i>Indian Journal of Gender Studies</i> , <i>Interdisciplinary Journal of Economics</i> , <i>Modern Asian Studies</i> , as well as in edited volumes. Her research has been supported by both national and international fellowships/organizations. She considers work and

		mobility as key concerns to be addressed by the IAWS, and advocates research on the contemporary challenges for women's work in the context of globalization, rapid mobility and technological innovation for a richer and enabling policy discourse.
16.	Putul Sathe	Not available
17.	Rimple Mehta	Rimple Mehta, Assistant Professor, Tata Institute for Social Sciences since 2017, taught at the School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University, from 2013 to 2017. She studied Sociology, Social Work, and Women's Studies, and has written on gender, borders, sexuality and prisons, Her paper, titled "So Many Ways to Love You/ Self: Negotiating Love in a Prison" won the 2013 Enloe Award. She has worked with organizations such as Swayam and networks such as Maitree against violence on women in West Bengal as well as with women prisoners in Mumbai, Kolkata and the Netherlands.
18.	Sangita Chandu Thosar	Sangita Thosar, Assistant Professor in the Advanced Center for Women's Studies, School of Development Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, has been working in the field of Women's Studies from 2007 and teaching Women's Studies from 2009. She is pursuing a Ph.D on "Politics of Contemporary Reconstruction of Caste: A Feminist Study of Caste Organization in Maharashtra". She received the SARAI fellowship in 2006 for independent research. She has been associated with the anti-caste movement from 1999. Her research areas are caste and gender, women's role in various social movements, and dalit-advansi women's questions. She has published widely in Marathi and English.
19.	Shobha Shinde	Shobha Padmakar Shinde, Head, Women's Studies Centre, North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon, has published more than 40 research articles in national and international journals. She has also completed a research project on "The Social Reform Movement and the Nationalist Movement in the Context of Indian Feminism." She has held many academic and administrative positions, and has made presentations in several international conferences. She has initiated and established the Women's Studies Centre, North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon, organized national conferences, workshops, seminars, mahila melavas and protest marches. Tthe founder member of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace, she has organized workshops for women in higher education, as well as for SC/ST women. She has conducted several public lectures for consciousness raising and sensitization issues and is trained in HRD and group and individual counseling.
20.	Sita V	Sita Vanka, Joint Professor of Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad, has over three decades of teaching and research experience in the areas of Gender/ Women Studies. As the chairperson of Gender Sensitization and CASH, she takes care of the safety and security of girls/ women on campus. She has completed six research projects, presented more than 60 papers and published 75 papers in reputed journals. She has guided about 25 research scholars towards their PhD. She has organized the Women's World Congress in 2014 where 850 women from 58 countries participated. Traveled widely, she visited many countries on academic assignments. She has won several awards including the AIMS International Best Woman Researcher Award in December 2015.
21.	Smita M. Patil	Smita M. Patil, Assistant Professor, School of Gender & Development Studies, IGNOU, New Delhi, earned her M.Phil and PhD from the Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She has received several national and international fellowships. Her publications include 'Caste. Class and Gender', (<i>The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality Studies</i> , ed. Nancy A, Naples, 2016), 'Reading Caste, Gender and Sexuality in Dalit Writings', <i>Intersections</i> , 34, 2014, and 'Revitalizing Dalit Feminism', <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i> , Vol, 58, No. 18, 2013. Her areas of interest are women's and gender studies, law, political theory, social theory, caste, identity politics and education. She feels women's studies should be attentive to the universal as well as specific aspects of neo-liberalism driven denationalized legal driven political arena/ practices as these colonize our lives and critical education.
22.	Sudeshna Mukherjee	Sudeshna Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Centre for Women's Studies, Bangalore University since 2007, PhD, is a trained sociologist with specialization in gender issues from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Apart from engaging in research and teaching, she has actively worked in various policy making bodies. She has been the member coordinator for the drafting committee of the Karnataka State Women's Empowerment Policy. She has been tirelessly engaged in mainstreaming and increasing the visibility of Women's Studies Centres in academia.
23.	Suganda Ramamoorthi	Sugandha Ramamoorthi, Associate Professor of Economics, Lady Doak College, Madurai, has a Ph. D in Gender Economics. She is a member of several boards and advisory committees of educational institutions in South India.

24.	Suneetha A	Suneetha A, PhD, is a Senior Fellow and coordinator of Anveshi Research Centre for Women's Studies. Her research interests include feminist theory and violence against women, secularism and Muslim women's question and Muslim political discourse in the Telugu region. She has co-edited (with Susie Tharu), <i>Towards a World of Equals: A Textbook of Gender Sensitization</i> which is a mandatory textbook in JNTU Hyderabad and also many undergraduate colleges in the Telangana state.
25.	Suneetha Rani K.	Suneetha Rani K. teaches at the Centre for Women's Studies, University of Hyderabad. Her PhD is on Australian aboriginal women's autobiographies. Her areas of interest include Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, New Literature in English, Comparative Studies and Translation Studies. She writes in both English and Telugu, and participates in discussions on electronic media. Her publications are on Australian aboriginal women's writing as well as dalit women's writings. She has headed the Centre for Women's Studies (2013-2015) and was active in strengthening GSCASH in the university. Her concerns include the future of women's studies as well as issues of employability. She feels the IAWS can work towards meeting these challenges and bring together the academics and activism related to the gender question by emphasising academic activism.
26.	Uma Chakravarti	Uma Chakravarti is a feminist historian, teacher and activist who taught in Miranda House, University of Delhi, and has been associated with the movements for women's rights and democratic rights since the 1970s. She has mentored generations of students, teachers and activists. Her scholarship includes several books, both authored and edited. She writes on gender, caste, and marginalized groups and has also been on several fact-finding committees including in Gujarat and Kashmir. As a feminist film maker she has made three films on women's elusive histories titled <i>A Quiet Little Entry; Fragments of a Past; and Ek Inquilaab Aur aayaa: Lucknow 1920-1949</i> . She has been an active member of the IAWS for many years.
27.	Vahida Nainar	Vahida Nainar studied Women and Development Studies at the Institute of Social Studies, the Netherlands. She has been part of networks and campaigns on domestic violence, health and reproductive rights, sexuality, as well as violence against women in conflict situations. She has experience in networking at both the national and the international level. She has co-edited a book on law in India (Oxford University Press), and has administrative and managerial experience. She sees IAWS as having made significant contributions to the field. However, the present moment is one of challenges posed by neo-liberal policies. Enhanced working collaborations and partnerships with movements in similar struggles addressing restructured inequalities in labour and employment, in education and health, in land and agricultures, in sustaining environment, and within and between real and imagined identities to evolve scholarship and research may be the way forward.
28.	Vasavi Kiro	Vasavi Kiro, PhD, Dept of Political Science, Ranchi University, is secretary, Torang Trust, Jharkhand, was member, Jharkhand State Commission for Women (2010-2013), and is life member, Society of Ethno Botanists, and IAWS, general secretary, Hodopathy Ethno Medicine Doctor's Association of India (HEDAN), coordinator, National Alliance for Maternal Health and Human Rights (NAMHR) and secretary, All India Union of Forest Working Peoples (AIUFWP). She has received national and international fellowships and authored books in Hindi, Santhali and English on women's issues. She edits journals such as <i>Janhak, Adivasi Aawaj, Desaj Adhikar, Indigenous News and Features</i> . She has vast experience as an activist, and has won many awards including the Chameli Devi award, Shaheed Shankar Guha Niyogi award and Jharkhand Ratna. She has participated in several national and international conferences.
29.	Wandana Sonalkar	Wandana Sonalkar Professor, Advanced Centre for Women's Studies at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences since 2013, retired in February 2017. She has been active in the women's movement since her student days in Cambridge, UK, She taught at Sangamner College Maharashtra, and joined Marathwada University, Aurangabad, as lecturer in Economics in 1979, where she was director of the Women's Studies Centre from 2006. Her publications relate to gender and caste, and she does translations with the objective of widening the scope of resources used in women's studies teaching and research.