NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY
Accredited 'A' Grade by NAAC
School of Social Sciences
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NOTICE

CALL FOR CHAPTERS

NSOU SERIES IN STUDIES ON MARGINALITY
Volume II

Title of the Volume: Knowing Marginality: Methods, Voices and the Politics of Evidence

Publisher:
Netaji Subhas Open University, DD-26, Sector-I, Kolkata-700064.

Editors
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Prof. Barnana Guha Thakurta Banerjee

About the Volume

Social inquiry begins with decisions about what deserves attention, whose experiences warrant investigation, and what constitutes credible evidence. These decisions acquire particular significance in the study of marginality. Categories may obscure the lives they seek to describe. Numerical distributions may disclose inequalities that individual accounts cannot establish. Narratives may reveal relationships that standardised indicators fail to capture. Every method opens possibilities of understanding while placing limits on others.

Following *Drifts from the Dens of Democracy*, the second volume of the **NSOU Series in Studies on Marginality** turns to the production of knowledge about unequal social worlds. It invites contributions that examine how marginality is conceptualised, investigated, measured, interpreted and represented across the social sciences. The volume asks how research practices make marginalised lives intelligible and how encounters with those lives can reshape the premises and procedures of inquiry.

Bringing quantitative, qualitative and mixed-method approaches into conversation, the collection will engage the relationship between theory and research, the design of inquiry, the construction of evidence, and the responsibilities of interpretation. It welcomes contributions that combine philosophical reflection with close attention to research practice. Questions of rigour, ethics and reflexivity will inform the volume throughout.

Marginality is neither a uniform condition nor a self-explanatory category. Its meanings emerge through historically situated relations of power, belonging and exclusion. Research must therefore attend to differences within communities, the circumstances under which accounts are produced, and the authority through which particular interpretations become accepted knowledge. The volume seeks to advance this engagement through original methodological arguments and substantive research illustrations.

Indicative Themes

1. Knowing from the Margins: Theory, Paradigms and Research Questions
The philosophical foundations of social inquiry; relationships between theory and research; deductive and inductive reasoning; and the movement from a social concern to a researchable question.

2. Naming Inequality: Concepts, Categories and Measurement
The conceptualisation of marginality; constructs and operationalisation; the adequacy of indicators; and questions of validity and reliability when researching complex and unequal social realities.

3. Locating the Uncounted: Research Design, Sampling and Social Change
Units of analysis and the boundaries of research populations; sampling and representation; and the possibilities of cross-sectional, longitudinal and trend studies for understanding persistent and changing disadvantage.

4. Reading Inequality through Numbers: Surveys and Statistical Reasoning
Survey design and the production of quantitative evidence; central tendency and dispersion; hypothesis testing and statistical inference; and the interpretation of variation, uncertainty and patterns of exclusion.

5. Entering Social Worlds: Ethnography, Case Studies and Field Encounters
Qualitative traditions and research practice; ethnographic engagement; case selection; interviews and observation; and the relationships through which situated accounts of marginality emerge.

6. Gendering Inquiry: Feminist Perspectives and Situated Knowledge
Women's and gender studies; feminist methods and methodology; the authority of experience; and the implications of gendered and intersecting inequalities for research relationships and interpretation.

7. From Accounts to Arguments: Documents, Narratives and Qualitative Analysis
The character and provenance of social data; documentary evidence;

transcription and data management; thematic, content and narrative analysis; and the development of defensible interpretations.

8. Bringing Evidence into Conversation: Mixed-Method Inquiry
The theoretical foundations, applications and emerging directions of mixed methods; the integration of numerical and qualitative evidence; and the analytical significance of convergence, contradiction and unresolved findings.

9. The Responsibilities of Knowing: Ethics, Politics and Reflexivity
Consent, confidentiality and unequal power; researcher location; access, silence and refusal; and accountability across the successive stages of research.

10. Writing Marginality: Representation and Scholarly Practice
Academic writing and research reporting; the relationship between evidence and argument; the representation of participants' voices; and the acknowledgement of uncertainty, limitations and intellectual debts.

These themes are interconnected and indicative. Contributions may engage more than one theme. Research concerning caste, class, gender, disability, minority communities, migration, labour, displacement, education, and rural or urban exclusion is welcome. Each chapter should establish a clear relationship between its substantive concern and its methodological argument.

Nature of Contributions

We invite original conceptual essays, empirically grounded methodological discussions, comparative examinations of research approaches, and critical reflections on research practice. Contributions should engage relevant foundational and contemporary scholarship and explain how research decisions influence the knowledge produced. Concrete illustrations and worked examples are encouraged.

The volume seeks scholarly depth alongside clarity of exposition. Chapters should offer a distinctive argument and demonstrate its value for researchers and advanced learners. Contributors from sociology and allied social science disciplines are welcome.

Submission Guidelines

Authors are invited to submit the chapters according to the following format.

- **Length:** Within 3,000 words, including notes and references.
- **Language:** English.

- **Referencing:** APA seventh edition.
- **File format:** Editable Microsoft Word document.
- **Title page:** Chapter title, author name(s), institutional affiliation(s), and contact details.
- **Biographical note:** Approximately 100 words for each author, supplied separately.

Submissions must be original and must not be under consideration elsewhere. Any overlap with previously published material must be disclosed. Authors are responsible for accurate attribution, necessary permissions and the ethical handling of research materials.

Editorial Review

All chapters will undergo editorial assessment and external peer review. Selection will consider originality, methodological substance, thematic relevance and clarity of argument. Final selection and inclusion will depend on scholarly merit and satisfactory revision in response to editorial and reviewer comments.

Full Chapter Submission Deadline: 20th November 2026

Submission and Enquiries: csrabanti91@gmail.com