

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

SPECIAL ISSUE ON DALIT CULTURAL STUDIES - TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE JOURNAL *CULTURAL STUDIES* (SCOPUS Q1)

Special Issue Editors:

Prof. (Dr.) Arindam Das, Professor and PhD Program Director, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Director - Centre of Excellence for Cultural Studies, Alliance University, Bangalore, India.

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=o5ptDYAAAAAJ&hl=en>

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<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=dUSr6IIAAAAAJ&hl=en>

Concept Note:

We invite submissions that approach Dalit Cultural Studies not as a discrete subfield but as a critical framework that unsettles dominant epistemologies and methodological assumptions. The emphasis is on moving beyond tokenistic or additive approaches toward more substantive interdisciplinary engagements that can account for the heterogeneity of Dalit cultures. By bringing together scholarship from cultural studies, sociology, anthropology, media studies, literary studies, political science, digital humanities, medical humanities, disability studies, ecology, law and policy, labour studies, and the arts, this issue interrogates how caste operates across interconnected domains of social and cultural life.

The special issue advances two interrelated interventions. First, it repositions caste as a central analytic within cultural studies, demonstrating how it fundamentally reshapes inquiries into power, representation, embodiment, and violence. Second, it foregrounds Dalit cultural production—across literature, visual and performing arts, archives, business practices, and digital spaces—as generative of new theoretical insights that are intrinsically intersectional and globally resonant. These cultural forms are not only modes of resistance to caste oppression but also sites of epistemic production that articulate alternative aesthetic frameworks and modes of world-making.

By situating caste within a wide array of disciplinary and methodological approaches, this issue aims to consolidate Dalit Cultural Studies as an emergent field while simultaneously contributing to the ongoing reconfiguration of cultural studies as a globally responsive and politically engaged intellectual project. In doing so, it challenges the persistent marginalization of caste as a merely regional concern and instead positions it as central to rethinking the analytic, methodological, and political horizons of cultural studies on a global scale.

Areas and Key Themes:

The special issue invites submissions on broad areas like Cultural Studies, Dalit Studies, Critical Caste Studies, and Postcolonial Studies, alongside contributions from but not limited to:

1. Anti-caste Cultural Imaginaries and Narratives
2. Cultural Representation of Dalit Knowledge System and Epistemologies
3. Dalit Visual Culture/s, Performing Arts and Aesthetics
4. Urban Culture and Caste Practices
5. Digital Surveillance and Caste Discipline
6. Dalit Representations in Media, Film and Digital Humanities
7. Dalit Oral Histories, Archives and Ethics of Representation
8. Dalit Gender Studies and Dalit Queer Studies
9. Dalit Marginalisation and Governmentality
10. Dalit Studies and Consumer Culture
11. Dalit Critical Food Studies
12. Dalit Health Inequalities and Medical Humanities
13. Dalit Realities and Environment and Sustainability Studies
14. Dalit and Disability Justice

We are particularly interested in submissions that treat Dalit cultural production and lived experience not merely as objects of study, but as sites of theory, critique, and knowledge production.

Key Themes (but not limited to):

- Caste and Cultural Theory
- Dalit Aesthetics and Creative Practices
- Media, Technology, and Digital Culture/s
- Violence, Embodiment, and Everyday Life
- Archives, Memory, and History
- Law, Politics, and Policy Making

Submission Instructions:

Abstracts should be 500 words (excluding Article title, Name and affiliation, bibliography and 100-word bio note) and sent as a single MS Word file along with the biodata of the author/s to special issue editors Dr. Arindam Das and Dr. Jyothi Justin at: jjyothipdf26@stu.alliance.edu.in no later than **September 30, 2026**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the special issue editors.

Note: Selected abstracts will be submitted to the Journal *Cultural Studies* (Scopus Q1). The decisions of the Chief Editors with regard to the abstract potential for a full paper remains final.

Important Dates

Abstract Submission Deadline

September 30, 2026