अप्रमत्तेन वेद्धव्यम्

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Ten-Day Research Methodology Course in the *New Critical Humanities*

ICSSR
Indian Council of Social Science Research

Department of English

COTTON UNIVERSITY, GUWAHATI

Sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi

15 – 24 December, 2026 | Mode: Offline (In-Person at Cotton University, Guwahati) | Notification Date: 24 November, 2026

1. Concept Note & Academic Rationale

Contemporary scholarship across the Humanities and Social Sciences is undergoing a decisive methodological transformation. Traditional disciplinary boundaries are increasingly porous as urgent global challenges—ecological crisis, public health disparities, algorithmic governance, artificial intelligence, and contested human rights—demand rigorous, cross-disciplinary analytical frameworks. Sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and organized by the Department of English, Cotton University, this ten-day Research Methodology Course (RMC) in the **New Critical Humanities** aims to unhinge some of those borders and divides while also complicating the discourse around climate change, mass media, digital humanities , rights and literary cultures that have witnessed major shifts around the humanities and social sciences. New Critical Humanities, in the main, situates the Critical Humanities at the centre of intellectual and envisioned collective responses to the fundamental demands of the twenty-first century world. This course is consequently designed to equip early-career researchers with a robust theoretical grounding and hands-on methodological competence to address these transitions.

The course maintains a deliberate, balanced focus between Literature/Humanities and the Social Sciences, bridging textual and cultural critique with empirical, sociological, and policy-oriented inquiry. Participants will engage intensively with emerging paradigms in Environmental Humanities, Medical Humanities and Graphic Medicine, Posthumanism and Vulnerability Studies, Digital Humanities, Human Rights in the Age of AI, Gendered Methodology, and Social Science Research Design, alongside dedicated practical training in Advanced Research Tools, AI-assisted academic workflows, and digital/online library ecosystems.

This RMC on New Critical Humanities, hosted by the Department of English, Cotton University will be led by Prof. Pramod Nayar, Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts, IIT Hyderabad and Professor of English and UNESCO Chair in Vulnerability Studies, University of Hyderabad.

2. Core Thematic Modules & Skill-Building Components

01. Critical Humanities & Posthuman Vulnerability Foundational shifts in critical theory, posthuman subjectivity, precarity, and vulnerability studies.	**02. Environmental & Medical Humanities** Ecological criticism, environmental poetry workshops, narratives of health/illness, and graphic medicine.

03. Human Rights, Literature & the Age of AI
Cultural representations of rights, ethical challenges of artificial intelligence, and algorithmic accountability.

04. Social Sciences & Gendered Methodology
Interdisciplinary qualitative and quantitative research design, feminist/gender frameworks, and field inquiry.

05. Advanced Research Tools & AI Workflows
Hands-on workshops on scholarly databases, ethical AI tools for literature review, and reference management.

06. Online Library Resources & Digital Archives
Practical training on navigating e-libraries, institutional repositories, open-access corpora, and citation metrics.

3. Important Dates, Eligibility & Selection Procedure

Key Timeline

- **Release of Notification:** 24 November, 2026
- **Last Date for Expression of Interest:** 2 December, 2026
- **Intimation to Selected Participants:** 5 December, 2026
- **Course Duration:** 15 – 24 December, 2026 (Ten Days)

Eligibility & Google Form Application

- **Eligibility:** Registered Ph.D./M.Phil. scholars and early-career researchers in Humanities, Literature, Social Sciences, and allied disciplines.
- **How to Apply:** Submit your Expression of Interest online via the official Google Form: https://forms.gle/j1TscLUzYNL4Sa6s9
- **Selection Criteria:** Applicants must provide academic/personal details and answer brief screening questions on their research area and motivation.

ACADEMIC RIGOUR, MANDATORY ATTENDANCE & CERTIFICATION NORMS

Compulsory Full-Day Attendance: This is an intensive, full-time capacity-building workshop comprising morning lectures, afternoon hands-on labs, and daily methodological assignments. 100% attendance across all sessions on all ten days (15–24 December, 2026) is strictly compulsory. Partial attendance, late arrivals, or early departures will disqualify participants from receiving the ICSSR RMC completion certificate. Selected participants must bring personal laptops for hands-on sessions on AI research tools, e-libraries, and graphic/textual analysis.

4. Participant Preparation & Workshop Logistics

Pre-Workshop Readings & Deliverables

Selected candidates will receive a curated reading dossier for different thematic sessions and content of the course during the RMC.

Venue & Registration Details

Venue: Cotton University, Panbazar, Guwahati.
Registration Fee / TA-DA Norms: Nil/ As per ICSSR Guidelines
Application Portal: https://forms.gle/j1TscLUzYNL4Sa6s9

5. Host Institution & Organizing Committee Contacts

Course Director & Organizing Team

Course Director: Prof. Rakhee Kalita Moral
Co-Course Director: Dr Payal Jain
Department of English, Cotton University
Panbazar, Guwahati – 781001, Assam, India

Queries & Official Correspondence

Official Email: nchicssrrmc@gmail.com
Contact number (WhatsApp only): 98719-28887/98641-04808
University Website: https://cottonuniversity.ac.in