

2ND GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON **CASTE, BUSINESS AND SOCIETY**

PROGRAMME

UNIVERSITY OF BATH, UK 19–21 JUNE



WELCOME TO THE 2ND GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON CASTE, BUSINESS, AND SOCIETY

We are thrilled to welcome you to a pivotal conference aimed at exploring the complex interplay of caste, business, and society. This conference seeks to foster a deeper understanding and advance scholarly discourse on how caste dynamics influence various organizational and occupational settings. Our discussions will spotlight the myriad ways caste impacts organizational operations and cultures and the agency of the underprivileged, underscoring the need for inclusive practices across industries.

Our goal extends beyond the enrichment of academic dialogue. We are committed to nurturing the next generation of scholars, facilitating robust networking opportunities, and fostering the exchange of transformative ideas and experiences. In addition to scholarly discussions, the conference will feature a

session that delve into innovative strategies to combat caste discrimination within the business realm. These discussions are increasingly crucial in today's context of rising polarization and deepening inequalities.

The conference meaningfully adds to the ongoing equality and diversity efforts at the Bath School of Management, including initiatives led by members of Embed-Dignity and the Centre for Business, Organizations, and Society. Join us as we engage with this vital discourse, forging pathways to a more inclusive and just society through the lens of business and academia.

Sincerely,

**Professor Vivek Soundararajan,
Professor Hari Bapuji,
Dr Kamini Gupta and Dr Akshay Mangla**

EMBEDDIGNITY

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PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

DAY ONE, 19 JUNE 2024

Venue: School of Management, University of Bath, UK

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
13:00-14:30	Paper Development Workshop Opening remarks – Prof. Hari Bapuji Group 1 Facilitator- Pankhuri Agarwal Participants- Maya Somkuwar, Harish Jyawali, Madhuri Kamtam Group 2 Facilitator – Vivek Soundararajan Participants- Kiran Kumar, Rasipogula Vinod Kumar, Tathagata Bhowmik Group 3 Facilitator – Akshay Mangla Participants - Kritadyuti Choudhary, Shabna P, Pankaj Anand Group 4 Facilitator – Arun Kumar Participants - Astha Mishra, Dhaneswar Bhoi, Abhishek Nemuri, Mrunal Chavda Group 5 Facilitator – Hari Bapuji Participants- Nitin Dhaktode (online), Yashashwani Srinivas (online), Bhawesh Pant (online)	0.11
14:30- 15:00	Tea/Coffee break	Pavilion
15:00-16:30	Paper Development Workshop (contd.)	0.11
17:00-18:00	Conference Registration	School of Management reception
18:00-20:00	Socialisation and Networking	Pavilion

DAY TWO, 20 JUNE 2024

Venue: School of Management, University of Bath, UK

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9:00-10:30	Inauguration and Keynote Chair: Hari Bapuji Welcome: Steve Brammer, Dean, School of Management, University of Bath Keynote by Prof. Surinder Jodhka Teams meeting link Meeting ID: 335 250 358 899 Passcode: pUkmXR	0.18 (hybrid)
10:30-11:00	Tea/Coffee break	Pavilion
11:00-12:30	Session 1: Paper presentations Chair: Pankhuri Agarwal Mridula Garg – ‘In-between of Baniya Capital: Vulnerable Lifeworld of Real Estate Developers in Punjab’ Divya Tyagi – “The caste-work arrangement: Dirty workers’ work and non-work-related outcomes through the lens of caste” Deepak Malghan – “Caste inequality in occupational exposure to heat waves in India”	0.24
12:30-13:30	Lunch	Pavilion
13:30-15:00	Session 2: Paper presentations Chair- Vivek Soundararajan Allan Bird – “Caste, Credit and Capital: Signaling Creditworthiness in India” Aiman Nida – “Navigating Caste Based Discrimination – Role of Relational Work” Shubda Arora – “Workers of Cloud Kitchens: Affordances and Transience of Caste Agnostic Spatialities” (online) Teams meeting link Meeting ID: 313 541 941 041 Passcode: Z4LFR8	0.24
15:00-15:30	Tea/Coffee break	Pavilion

DAY TWO, 20 JUNE 2024		
Venue: School of Management, University of Bath, UK		
TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
15:30 – 16:30	Impact Panel Chair – Kamini Gupta Participants - Dolly Arjun, Raju Kendre, Nethrapal M.S., Dilraj Singh Teams meeting link Meeting ID: 366 534 392 802 Passcode: K3HQZo	0.18 (hybrid)
16:45-18:15	Session 3: Paper presentations Chair- Akshay Mangla Dipsikha Guha Majumdar – “Beyond promises of entrepreneurship: Examining the role of intermediaries in governing entrepreneurship programs in Global South” Zehra Sayed – “Startup economy and class/caste consolidation: Negotiating ideals of respectable femininity (Sharafat) as an Indian Muslim woman founder” Angarika Rakshit – “Entrepreneurship and Marginalised Social Identities in India” Teams meeting link Meeting ID: 314 198 573 566 Passcode: 4Q9X42	0.24 (hybrid)
19:00-21:00	Conference Dinner Venue – The Sepoy Club, York Buildings, 1 George St, Bath BA1 2EB	The Sepoy Club

DAY THREE, 21 JUNE 2024		
Venue: School of Management, University of Bath, UK		
TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9:00-10:30	Session 4: Paper presentations Chair: Divya Tyagi Poonam Barhoi – “In the Liminality of Ethnic and Occupational Identity: Identity Struggles of Adivasi Laborers in Tea Gardens” (online) Sumeet Mhaskar – “Caste and Occupational Choices in the Modern Indian Industry, 1870s-2006: A Study of the Social Structure of Mumbai's Textile Workforce” Surbhi Dayal – “Caste, culture, and occupation among the Kanjars of northern India” Teams meeting link Meeting ID: 359 684 455 318 Passcode: AGmTex	0.24 (hybrid)

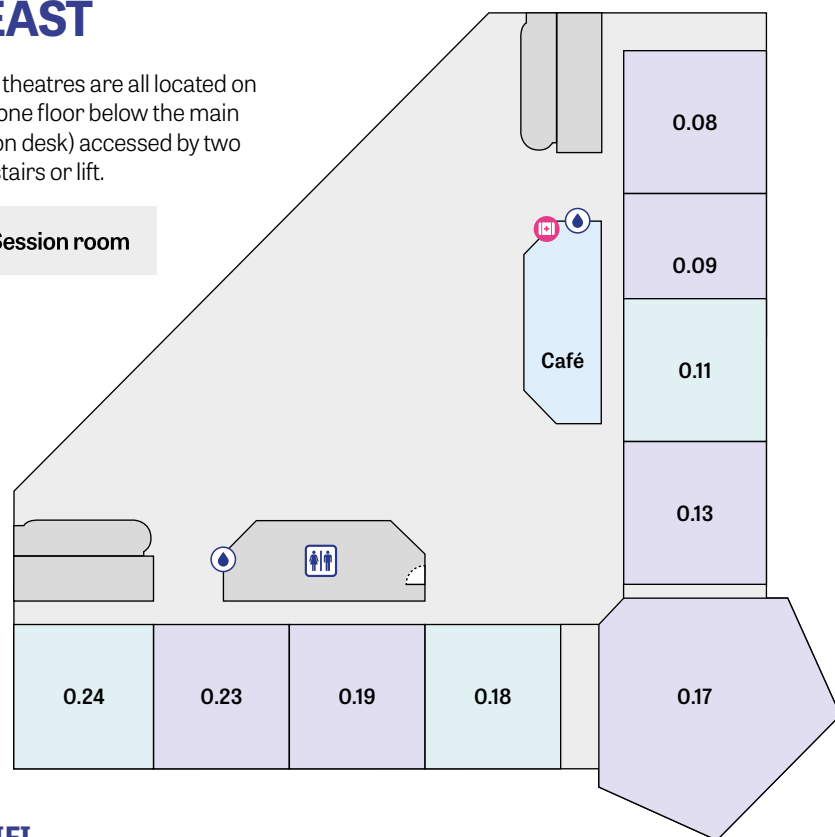
DAY THREE, 21 JUNE 2024		
Venue: School of Management, University of Bath, UK		
TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
10:30-11:00	Tea/Coffee break	Pavilion
11:00-12:30	Session 5: Paper presentations Chair: Arun Kumar Arun Kumar Bairwa – “Unveiling Hierarchies: Navigating Authority Dynamics in the Indian Service Sector” (online) Arvind Kumar – “Showing Caste: An Analysis Of Increasing Use Of Caste Indicating Surnames” Rikhia Bhukta – “Does Financial Inclusion Mitigate Social Exclusion?” Teams meeting link Meeting ID: 316 948 827 917 Passcode: wTuA4W	0.24 (hybrid)
12:30-13:30	Lunch	Pavilion
13:30-15:00	Session 6: Paper presentations Chair: Akshay Mangla Ajit Dayanandan – “Caste and Corporate Board Member's Selection in India: -In-Group Favouritism?” Kritadyuti Choudhary – “The Invisible Ties That Bind: Social Homophily in Indian Corporate Boards and Its Impact on Information Asymmetry” Kiran Kumar – “Caste and Entrepreneurship: A Study of the Caste-based Chamber of Commerce in the Neoliberal Economy”	0.24
15:00-15:30	Tea/Coffee break	Pavilion
15:30-17:00	Conclusion and Way forward Chair – Hari Bapuji/Vivek Soundararajan Teams meeting link Meeting ID: 353 735 926 258 Passcode: MDr2TW	0.24 (hybrid)

GROUND FLOOR LECTURE THEATRES 10 EAST

Lecture theatres are all located on level O (one floor below the main reception desk) accessed by two sets of stairs or lift.

 Session room

 Toilets  Water point  First Aid



WIFI

Guest

Everyone can use the 'Wi-Fi Guest' network. To connect first register to use 'Wi-Fi Guest'. You do not need a University email address to connect. 'Wi-Fi Guest' is provided by The Cloud. If you already have an account with The Cloud you can use this to log in.

- Open the Wi-Fi settings on your device
- Select 'Wi-Fi Guest'
- Once connected, open your web browser and refresh the page. Your browser may open automatically
- Select your authentication method to continue, there are various options available, including social media

Eduroam

Eduroam is a free, global Wi-Fi service for students and university staff. You can also use it at many other universities around the world.

If you are visiting from another university which uses eduroam, you can connect to the service here using your own university login details.

- Your university email address
- Your university password

PAPER ABSTRACTS

Mridula Garg *'In-betweens of Baniya Capital: Vulnerable Lifeworld of Real Estate Developers in Punjab'*

In this essay, I foreground vulnerabilities that exist in the capital accumulation processes for Baniya real-estate developers to show how their worlds are fractured and gray. Keeping caste central, I situate this study in conversation with the literature around recent works on real estate linked to urbanization and embed it in a historical analysis of the colonial and post-colonial agrarian regimes in Punjab to chart out the sedimentation of the current land and caste relationships in the region. I trace histories of how these have come to overlap in distinct ways in Punjab especially through the figures of the landed Jatts, the non-landed but wealthy Baniyas and the landless Dalits. These relationships inform the social worlds in which the Baniya real estate developers operate. I characterize the in-betweens of Baniya capital to highlight how - a) the comfort of intra-caste trust is undermined through the need for inter-caste appeasements, and b) the anxieties to craft portrayals of the ideal real estate developer are supplemented with casteist notions of pre-determined destiny. Thus, I make an overall claim for unpacking the fragility of Baniya capital by foregrounding their anxieties and vulnerabilities to foster imaginations of anti-caste present and futures.

Divya Tyagi *"The caste-work arrangement: Dirty workers' work and non-work-related outcomes through the lens of caste"*

In the present research, we have considered the concept of caste-based deprivation and assessed its linkage with three important outcomes, namely occupational disidentification, life satisfaction, and reluctance to discuss work. We further propose the role of job dissatisfaction as the mediator between caste-based deprivation and the outcome variables. To test the proposed model, we conducted a time-lagged study (Study-1) with 190 cleaning and sanitation workers employed at an academic institute and found support for the hypothesized relationships. Building upon our first study, we hypothesized the influence of gender on the linkage between caste-based deprivation and job dissatisfaction. To test the hypothesized relationships, we have conducted our second time-lagged study (Study-2) with 249 cleaning and sanitation workers employed at a Municipal Corporation. The results from Study-2 also confirm the proposed relationships, except for the direct linkage between caste-based deprivation and workers' reluctance to discuss work. Finally, we posit that workplace dignity can alleviate the negative effects of caste-based deprivation. We have tested our final model by conducting a third time-lagged study (Study-3) with 288 cleaning and sanitation workers working for the Municipal Corporation at a different location than the previous two organizations. The results from this study also corroborate the posited relationships except one, as in the case of Study-2. Rooted in the responses of 727 cleaning and sanitation workers employed in three different organizations located at two different locations, the present research makes three significant contributions. One, it augments the caste literature by expounding the implications of downward occupational mobility, which has largely remained an under-researched topic. Two, it addresses the call for research to better understand how caste manifests itself in the context of work. Three, it answers the calls made in the dirty work literature by advancing the understanding of the embodied aspects of this work.

Deepak Malghan “Caste inequality in occupational exposure to heat waves in India”

India is a leading global hotspot for extreme heat waves induced by climate change. The social demography of India is centered on its caste hierarchy rooted in endogamous occupational groups. We investigate the association between caste and climate inequality by studying occupational exposure during the 2022 heat wave. We combine high spatio-temporal resolution heat stress information from satellite imagery with a large nationally and regionally representative labor force survey with rich socio-economic and demographic information ($n > 100,000$ individuals). The slope of the heat stress dose – workhours curve corresponding to the marginalized caste groups is between 50–150% steeper than that for dominant caste groups for UTCI (Universal Thermal Climate Index) thresholds between 26°C and 35°C. Our models control for other economic-demographic confounders, including age, gender, education, and economic status, besides political-geographic controls and fixed effects. Our robust evidence for the association between caste identity and exposure to heat stress shows why adaptation and mitigation plans in India must account for the hierarchical social order characterized by the “division of laborers” along caste lines rather than the mere division of labor. Methodologically, our analysis demonstrates the utility of pairing satellite imagery and detailed demographic data.

Allan Bird “Caste, Credit and Capital: Signaling Creditworthiness in India”

Prior empirical research posits a link between caste identity and access to formal credit markets, but theoretical development on this subject is scant. We address this gap by examining structural mechanisms and proposing an explanation of the relationship. There is general agreement that caste affects borrowers’ access to bank credits in rural India. However, the explanation for this condition, other than that it reflects caste discrimination, has remained largely unexamined. We argue for a more granular investigation that applies signaling theory in the context of borrower-lender relationship in formal credit markets.

Aiman Nida “Navigating Caste Based Discrimination – Role of Relational Work”

This paper examines how women domestic workers navigate caste-based discrimination and negotiate their work relationships with household employers and peers. We posit that women domestic workers navigate caste-based discrimination by engaging in relational work, i.e., investing efforts in establishing, maintaining, and at times terminating interpersonal relations with others and thereby adjusting mutual expectations and engagement levels. To explore the role of relational work, we present an inductive study of women domestic workers in Lucknow, India. This study identifies key dimensions of relational work deployed by domestic workers to navigate caste-based discrimination: (1) Building Personal Rapport, (2) Negotiating Boundaries, and (3) Cultivating a Support Network. Building personal rapport with employers and peers helps alleviate caste prejudices and enables mutual respect and understanding. Negotiating boundaries highlights the workers’ efforts to tactfully negotiate their work conditions and employ distancing mechanisms to uphold social boundaries amidst caste-based norms. Lastly, cultivating a support network illustrates how women forge connections of solidarity and mutual assistance, often influenced by caste affiliations, to provide emotional and material support. Using the relational work lens, we theorize how relational work allows informal sector workers to navigate through caste-based discrimination and establish meaningful relationships within the constraints imposed by caste.

Zehra Sayed “Startup economy and class/caste consolidation: Negotiating ideals of respectable femininity (Sharafat) as an Indian Muslim woman founder”

Various studies have shown how India’s economic liberalization has both enabled and legitimized the movement of middle-class, upper-caste women into public spaces of professional work. Sheltered and gated communities of corporate workspaces along with tailor-made timings and cab pick-ups allow middle-class women to reinscribe their “respectability” by maintaining the spatial segregations integral to maintaining caste status and class privilege (Radhakrishnan, 2011, 2009; Raju, 2013; Parikh, 2018; Shakthi, 2022). As the urban womanhood is increasingly coded as Hindu and upper caste, other community and religious identities continue to be overlooked in this research (Belliappa, 2013). Moreover, these studies have largely focussed on the context of modern corporate workspaces, overlooking other emerging work contexts devoid of corporate patronage, such as startup economy. This study examines how “caste and class capital” encoded in ideals of “respectable femininity” is recognized and used by Indian Muslim women startup founders in gendered entrepreneurial sites. Using an intersectional positional lens and building on theories of symbolic capital, the study (1) investigates how judgements and expectations about respectability norms impact Muslim women’s opportunities for exercising choice as startup founders, (2) explores how Muslim women frame and enact respectability ideals while building supportive networks, and (3) identifies instances/spaces in which Muslim women founders challenge respectability ideals.

Angarika Rakshit “Entrepreneurship and Marginalised Social Identities in India”

We examine the nature and extent of under-representation of marginalised caste groups in enterprise ownership in India. We find that exclusion takes place in three distinct stages. First, the share of SC, ST or OBC individuals in ownership of any enterprise is less than their share in the workforce. Second, among those who do engage in entrepreneurial activities, a disproportionately higher share of entrepreneurs from the marginalised identity groups are engaged in enterprises which are not purely commercial and are likely to be subsistence-oriented. And finally, even within the owners of purely commercial enterprises, those from marginalised groups tend to be concentrated in the smaller enterprises and are severely under-represented in the larger and more productive ones. We quantify the penalty paid by these groups due to their exclusion from ownership of larger enterprises. Finally, we also examine exclusion at the intersection of caste and religious identity by comparing outcomes for Muslims and non-Muslims within caste groups.

Poonam Barhoi *"In the Liminality of Ethnic and Occupational Identity: Identity Struggles of Adivasi Laborers in Tea Gardens"* (online)

While who is 'Indigenous' lacks consensus among scholars, indigenous identity has been

researched less in MOS literature. This study explores the identity struggles of a laborer group that has lost recognition as an indigenous tribe during British colonization in India by studying their liminal experiences of being stuck in 'occupational identity as laborer' and 'ethnic identity as Adivasis'. I delve into the identity struggles faced by tea plantation laborers in Assam, who identify themselves as 'Adivasi' (under-institutionalized identity) and 'Laborers' (institutionalized identity). I conducted twenty-five in-depth interviews with the Adivasi laborers. The findings show variations in identity work for institutionalized and under-institutionalized identities: for ethnic identity (institutionalized), participants engage in identity work with higher cultural and political involvement; however, for occupational identity, participants engage in higher political involvement only. The study brings novel insights into the clash of institutionalized vs. under-institutionalized identities and intergenerational impacts of colonization on indigenous communities.

Sumeet Mhaskar *"Caste and Occupational Choices in the Modern Indian Industry, 1870s-2006: A Study of the Social Structure of Mumbai's Textile Workforce"*

The location of caste in urban settings has been historically viewed as an aberration. Initial scholarship, influenced by the modernisation framework, attributed the weakening of caste in cities to the expansion of large-scale manufacturing industries and the rapid urbanisation process. Scholars expected the twin processes to make caste irrelevant as employers prioritise individuals' skills rather than their social background, such as caste, religion, and gender. Later scholarship advanced similar claims when the Indian state adopted economic liberalisation policies in the 1990s. However, such claims were rarely tested with detailed empirical evidence. While such an approach only contributed to the invisibilisation of caste in urban settings, arguments about the disappearance or weakening of caste in urban settings remain part of the intellectual discourse. Most commentaries on caste and urban industry relied on a particular moment with little attention given to long historical trends. This paper fills a significant empirical and analytical gap in examining the role of caste in large-scale urban modern factories from the 1870s to 2006. I use census data (1870-1931), newspaper reports, data from scholarly studies, and survey data on 924 Mumbai's ex-millworkers' households gathered in 2009. I also use qualitative evidence gathered over 14 months between 2008 and 2009 and several visits between December 2010 and January 2014. I show how, compared to the village political economy governed by the jajmani or balutedari system, modern industrial sites became the site for contestations over occupational choices. Members of the superior castes successfully deployed their position to corner the largest share of best-paid jobs inside the modern textile industries. Thus, the caste norms embraced the urban settings, enabling the higher castes to access better jobs and hold on to them during rationalisation. The modern urban settings allowed Dalits to stake a claim for those well-paid jobs, which was nearly impossible in the village settings. While the marginalised groups could not hold on to their jobs during the downsizing process, the factory jobs empowered them politically, which had wider social and political consequences.

Surbhi Dayal *"Caste, culture, and occupation among the Kanjars of northern India"*

Sex work is widely seen as an immoral activity in India. It is widely believed that sex work is not an option in traditional communities. The belief would be that either people are victims of trafficking or they take up sex work due to the unavailability of other options. Linked would be the belief that people who pursue sex work live in brothels and solicit sex work outside their homes. This research argues to the contrary and draws upon an ethnographic study of the Kanjar community of northern India. The paper shed light on how caste and occupation are intertwined in the Kanjar community, and the culture of the community encourages young girls to take up sex work instead of married life. How an unmarried woman's labour as Dhandhewali is recognised and appreciated by the community, but the domestic labour of married women is invisible. The entire family economy is built around the labour and earnings of unmarried Dhandhewali (sex workers). Here sex work is not an option but primary source of income for families.

Arun Kumar Bairwa *"Unveiling Hierarchies: Navigating Authority Dynamics in the Indian Service Sector"* (online)

In this research, we investigate the impact of caste-based disparities on the attainment of high- authority positions within the Indian service sector. Specifically, high authority positions are analysed against low authority or low position jobs of Indian service sector. We used periodic labour survey dataset of 2019-20, which is a representative sample of aggregate Indian population. Employing binary logit regressions, accompanied by analyses of predicted probabilities and marginal effects, our study illuminates substantial variations in the likelihood of securing high-authority roles between individuals from lower and upper castes. The study provides a clear domination of upper caste people in India's high authority positions, while most of the low authority jobs are left to the lower caste people. Unadjusted for other variables, upper-caste individuals exhibit a 12% higher probability of securing high-authority positions, and a 3% advantage persists even after controlling for education, gender, location, and industry of employment. Further, differences in predictive probabilities are higher among educated people, compared to low educated people of lower and upper castes. Consequently, our findings advocate for the expansion of affirmative action policies, currently confined to the government sector, to encompass the private sector as well.

Arvind Kumar – “Showing Caste: An Analysis Of Increasing Use Of Caste Indicating Surnames”

The use of caste surnames has long been identified as indicative of caste and associated identities within Indian society (Sebring, 1969). An experimental study conducted by Thorat and Attewell (2007) demonstrates that surnames indicating caste play a significant role in discrimination within the job market. This phenomenon has also been observed to influence the production of situated knowledge (Patel, 2017). Efforts have been made to investigate the role of caste-indicating surnames in people’s decision-making processes. Specifically in the context of voting decisions where Vaishnav (2017) finds that approximately one-third of voters are unable to identify the exact caste of candidates, suggesting a diminished importance of caste in decision-making. In contrast, Chauchard (2015) demonstrates through an experimental study that caste-indicating surnames play a pertinent role in decision-making about voting by categorizing candidates within upper social strata. While existing studies have focused on exploring the relationship between caste and individual decision-making, with caste-indicating surnames playing an intermediary role, there exists a research gap regarding changing patterns of caste-indicating surnames. This article fills this gap by examining how use of caste-indicating surnames has become a prevalent practice in electoral politics since the 1990s. Based on data collected through fieldwork about the caste backgrounds of candidates from four political parties, BJP, BSP, INC, and SP, since the 1989 assembly elections, it reveals that after the 1989, the use of caste-indicating surnames has surged, whereas the use of surnames not indicating caste has declined. The findings of this research can have wider implication about human behaviour (decision making) in democracy as well as market.

Rikhia Bhukta – “Does Financial Inclusion Mitigate Social Exclusion?”

This paper examines the impact of financial inclusion in reducing social exclusion. Utilizing a quasi-experimental setup involving a 2005 Reserve Bank of India policy incentivizing bank branch openings in underbanked districts, we employ regression discontinuity design analysis with data from three nationwide surveys and censuses. Our findings reveal significant consumption increases and poverty reduction among marginalized castes compared to non-marginalized castes, narrowing caste-based welfare inequality. We also observe enhanced social inclusion for marginalized castes. Three channels—informal finance, business finance, and the labor market—are found to contribute to the welfare gains of marginalized castes. Our results withstand various RD design checks. In conclusion, this study underscores the role of inclusive formal banking sector in mitigating deep-rooted social norms like caste-based discrimination within society.

Ajit Dayanandan “Caste and Corporate Board Member’s Selection in India: -In-Group Favouritism?”

This study examines whether caste affiliation persists in board elections using data from 2013 to 2022. This study suggests there is a preference for in-group favouritism through the nomination of board members from the same caste. Nearly 37 percent of board members elected are Brahmins, 38 percent Vaishya’s and 13 percent Kshatriyas. The study finds that the forward caste affiliation of elected board members is positively correlated with the caste affiliation of existing boards in India. The study also finds that various affiliation of caste groups is also positively related to the corresponding board caste composition.

Kritadyuti Choudhary “The Invisible Ties That Bind: Social Homophily in Indian Corporate Boards and Its Impact on Information Asymmetry”

Corporate boards in India conspicuously lack diversity and representation. Policy formulations have mandated gender diversity, but in a diverse nation like India, there are other dimensions of board diversity that need to be understood. This study builds on sociological theories of Social Identity and Homophily to examine the impact of multiple innate social ties, namely religion, caste, and native language among board members, on the information asymmetry prevalent between the firm and market. The study examines the impact of board diversity, defined by the Blau Index of Religion, Caste, and Native Language, on the extent of information asymmetry. Asymmetric information is measured with the help of market microstructure proxies like Probability of Informed Trading (PIN), the Adverse Selection component of the Bid-Ask Spread, and the Illiquidity Ratio. Analysis of 55 firms shows that an increase in the social diversity of the board helps in decreasing the extent of asymmetric information prevalent between the firm and market. This study attempts to broaden the definition of board diversity, moving beyond the existing narrow lens of gender to include diversity based on religion, caste, and linguistic affiliations.

Kiran Kumar “Caste and Entrepreneurship: A Study of the Caste-based Chamber of Commerce in the Neoliberal Economy”

The article presents a comprehensive mapping of the entrepreneurial trajectories of the Saraswat Brahmins from the 17th century to the contemporary neoliberal economy. It contends that the caste needs to be understood as an agile and dynamic identity to grasp its role in the neoliberal economy. In this direction, the article studies the economic basis of the Saraswat Brahman caste with respect to its changing articulations and self-fashioning in the different political economies. The present article argues that the Saraswat attempts to build a close-knit business community in the neoliberal economy through the chamber of commerce which apart from enhancing the entrepreneurship also strives to refashion the community as patriotic and part of the nationalist movement.

