

INAUGURATION
OF THE THIRD EDITION OF THE COURSE ON
“Production of Knowledge in the Natural and Social Sciences”

Co-hosted by

Centre for Contemporary Studies, IISc, & Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore
on

Saturday, 7th August 2010, 2:00 p.m.

at the

Centre for Contemporary Studies,
(Formerly TIFR Mathematics Building), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

PROGRAMME

Introduction and Welcome:

Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar, CCS and Prof. Tejaswini Niranjana, CSCS

Inaugural Address:

Prof. Sanjay Kumar Biswas, Professor and Chair, Dept. of Mech. Eng., IISc

Tea/Coffee and Snacks (at 3.00 p.m.)

Followed by the First Session of the Course

**Session 1 A: Integrating Higher Education:
Thinking Beyond the Disciplines**

This session will discuss the current situation of Indian higher education and speculate on what has given rise to the predicament in which we find ourselves. Taking the example of the human sciences, we will explore some of the key challenges being faced by both pedagogy and research, and suggest what this might mean for emergent configurations of knowledge production.

By Prof. Tejaswini Niranjana

Senior Fellow, Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore

Session 1 B: The very idea of knowledge as production

Today, we all seem to agree that knowledge is not a neutral mirror image of the world but the product of the creative acts of a finite subject which is subjected to certain *a priori* conditions. The stand point from which to ask questions about knowledge has shifted from the object to the subject. Imagination has come to occupy a central place in our conception of knowledge. This is the meaning of the famous Copernican revolution in philosophy. Many predicaments of contemporary thought – the separation between natural and social sciences, suspicion of absolute knowledge, rejection of speculative metaphysics etc – can be traced to this revolution. This session will discuss some questions concerning knowledge, production and the subject.

By Prof. Sanil V.

Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT, Delhi

All are cordially invited