



4TH GRADUATE RESEARCH MEET

The Everyday and Its Interruptions

The Routines and Breakdowns of Ordinary Life

• 2–3 November
2026

• IIT Bhilai · In-person
only

• Concept Note & Call for
Papers

CONCEPT NOTE

The everyday, with its habits, repetitions, and unremarkable routines, is a condition that makes events possible, against which disruption becomes legible. We notice the everyday most acutely when it fails us: when services are disrupted, wages are withheld, and the body refuses to comply as usual. It is in these moments of breakdown that the ordinarily invisible architectures of daily life suddenly become visible, albeit briefly. The Graduate Research Meet (GRM) at IIT Bhilai examines what analyses become possible when we shift our gaze to these spaces of the ordinary everyday.

The study of the everyday has a rich, cross-disciplinary history. Henri Lefebvre's critiques of the rhythms of ordinary life, Michel de Certeau's analysis of the tactics by which people navigate imposed structures, and Erving Goffman's work on the intricacies of social interaction are among many that make the mundane the subject of serious theorization. This attention has found expression in varied forms of writing, such as literary autofiction, anthropological accounts of infrastructure, behavioural economics' attention to the cognitive habits that help shape economic life, and sociological work on precarity. What unites these different domains of study is the premise that ordinary life is not incidental to larger structures of power and capital, but constitutive of them.

This GRM weaves these threads together around routine and the broad spectrum of its interruptions.

At one end of this spectrum are the large, legible disruptions like economic crises, political upheavals, pandemics, and violence, all of which reorganise daily life at a large scale, while on the other end are the smaller interruptions: delayed payments, bureaucratic holdups, and minor illnesses, whose accumulation, absorption, and management reveal the differential distribution of fragility and resilience across geography, class, caste, and gender. This, in turn, shapes whether such interruptions find representation in the forms through which ordinary life is narrated and understood.

The GRM shall particularly focus on South Asia. Everyday life in South Asia has long been shaped by the presence of multiple temporalities: colonial time and indigenous time; agrarian and industrial cycles; the passage of time marked by the state versus the community. Contemporary life in South Asia has inherited these layered temporalities and added its own — the accelerated timeframes of digital capitalism.

The everyday does not remain confined to disciplinary silos. Rather, some of the most innovative work on ordinary life emerges at points of contact between disciplines that do not usually speak to each other. We encourage proposals that cross such lines by applying novel frameworks on familiar material, or that find in the everyday a site where prior disciplinary assumptions can be renegotiated.



THEMATIC AREAS

- ◆ Narrating the ordinary: fiction, diaries, and everyday documentation
- ◆ Domestic space, gender, and the politics of care
- ◆ Disruption, crisis, and the reorganisation of routine
- ◆ Precarity and the interruptible worker
- ◆ Everyday life studies: methods and disciplinary genealogies
- ◆ Media, digital technologies, and the rhythms of everyday life

We invite proposals engaging with, but not limited to, the following themes

- ◆ Language, orality, and the senses in everyday life
- ◆ Economic life: poverty, household economics, and decision-making under scarcity
- ◆ Habit, routine, and mental health
- ◆ Children, routine, and everyday life-worlds
- ◆ Philosophy and phenomenology of the everyday
- ◆ Ritual, religion, and the sacred rhythms of everyday life

APPLICATION PROCESS

We invite abstracts from research scholars and postgraduate students in the humanities and social sciences.

Submit an abstract of **300 words** and a bio-note of **50 words** via the online form by **5 September 2026**.

Please note this is an **in-person event only**.

REGISTRATION

Registration is **free of charge**.

Registered participants will be provided accommodation at IIT Bhilai from **1 to 3 November 2026**, along with lunch and dinner on **2 and 3 November 2026**.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Application	14 Aug – 5 Sep 2026
Intimation of Selection	20 Sep 2026
Registration	22 – 30 Sep 2026
Working Drafts Due	20 Oct 2026
GRM	2–3 Nov 2026



An academic writing workshop will be organised in partnership with the journal *South Asia Research* as part of the GRM.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Dr Ritika Verma

Assistant Professor, Department of Liberal Arts, IIT Bhilai

Dr Anindita Ghosh

Assistant Professor, Department of Liberal Arts, IIT Bhilai

Mr Bhevendra Sahu

Research Scholar, Department of Liberal Arts, IIT Bhilai

Ms Garima Shrivastava

Research Scholar, Department of Liberal Arts, IIT Bhilai

SCAN TO APPLY



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Queries — symposia_la@iitbhilai.ac.in