



Jesus and Mary College

University of Delhi, India



in collaboration with

Post University, Connecticut, USA

This Fall/ Monsoon Semester 2026

PRESENTS

a

Lecture Series

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

CONVERSATIONS ACROSS DISCIPLINES



PATRON



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Principal, Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi, India

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Dr. Jijo Varghese

*Assistant Professor
Department of Elementary Education
Jesus and Mary College
University of Delhi, India*



Dr. Amrita Sastry

*Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
Jesus and Mary College
University of Delhi, India*



Dr. Alisa Hunt

*Director of International Education
Post University
Connecticut, USA*

Session #1 on 24 Sept 2026

ESG REPORTING: THE NEW MANTRA FOR BUSINESS IN THE AGE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Prof. Ameeta Motwani

Prof Motwani, a PhD from IIT Delhi, has taught business subjects for over 40 years at Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi, and also taught at Universities of Applied Sciences in Finland as a guest/visiting Professor and co-taught a course at San Jose State University as a Nehru-Fulbright Academic and Professional Excellence Fellow.

Unlike earlier, business today is expected not only to produce goods and services but also to discharge its responsibilities to multiple stakeholders – employees, customers, local community and society at large and that too while taking care of the environment. This is what is meant by the term ‘Triple Bottom Line’. These multiple expectations are part of the implicit ‘Social Contract’ between the business (organisation) and society which requires that the positive impacts of a business should exceed its negative impact on the People, Planet and Profits in order to get the ‘License to Operate’ from society. While Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has largely been voluntary so far, most countries now have made reporting on the Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions mandatory. In this background, the proposed lecture will focus on trends in CSR, Business Ethics and ESG reporting globally with special reference to India.

Session #2 on 08 Oct 2026

AUTISM, A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Beth L. Raiola, EdD, BCBA, LBA

Dr. Raiola has been a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst for over ten years. She has worked in multiple settings with children and adults with developmental delays, trauma, and neurodivergences. Dr. Raiola owned and operated her own behavioral health agency dedicated to special needs families. She engaged in and facilitated community partnerships, published articles, spoke on child development, and created course content for Universities. Dr. Raiola is a published author and currently serves as the Program Chair for Applied Behavior Analysis at Post University.



Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is recognized worldwide, yet the experiences of families and professionals, especially in raising and treating a child with autism—share important commonalities across diverse cultures and settings. Regardless of geographic or economic context, parents universally experience heightened stress as they navigate the challenges of understanding their child's needs, advocating for appropriate services, and managing daily life. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) remains a cornerstone of evidence-based intervention globally. These universal strategies not only address skill development and behavior reduction but also empower caregivers across cultures. The commitment to improving quality of life for children with autism and their families is a unifying force. This global perspective highlights both the shared burdens—such as parental stress—and the collaborative progress in autism intervention, underscoring the value of culturally sensitive, family-centered support and international knowledge exchange.

Session #3 on 14 Oct 2026

COMPLEX HEALTH SYSTEMS UNDER STRESS: GOVERNANCE AS A STABILISING MECHANISM



Ms. Megha Jacob

Ms. Megha Jacob, an Assistant Professor of Economics at Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi, has over 10 years of teaching and research experience in economics at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. She is pursuing her PhD in Economics at TERI School of Advanced Studies.

Her research interests lie at the intersection of health economics, governance, econophysics, and conceptual simulation modelling. She has over 36 publications. She has also been part of several government projects in the areas of health, education, and mutual credit guarantee schemes.

Complex Adaptive Systems (CAS) and the Control Knobs framework offer valuable perspectives for understanding how health systems function and adapt during crises. This lecture integrates both frameworks to examine health-system resilience and governance during health shocks, including epidemics such as COVID-19. Drawing on existing literature, a theoretical model is developed and illustrated through simulated data. The simulations demonstrate nonlinear interactions among system components under stress and uncertainty. Findings suggest that systems facing similar shocks may respond differently depending on their institutional and governance capacities. Strengthening governance and institutional capacity can therefore enhance health systems' ability to absorb, adapt to, and recover from crises.

Session #4 on 29 Oct 2026

FROM EXPERIENCE TO POSSIBILITY: LEADING EDUCATION IN A CHANGING WORLD

Madonia, EdD, Peter

Dr. Peter Madonia is Program Chair of the Master of Education program at Post University in Waterbury, Connecticut. An experienced educational leader, professor, researcher, and executive coach, he has dedicated his career to advancing leadership development in education. Dr. Madonia has served as a teacher, principal, and superintendent in Connecticut school districts and has extensive experience teaching and mentoring graduate and doctoral students. His research and professional interests include educational leadership, organizational development, school and district administration, and the preparation of future teachers and instructional leaders



50 Years of Stories, Lessons, and Questions for the Next Generation of Educational Leaders.

What can 50 years in education teach us about leading in a rapidly changing world? Drawing on experiences across Pre K–12 and higher education as a teacher, principal, superintendent, university faculty member, program leader, mentor, and leadership educator, this interactive session explores how educational leadership has changed and what it might become.

Through stories, global perspectives, and conversation, we will consider the changing roles of leaders, the growing influence of women in education, globalization, technology and AI, and the meaning of innovation in the 21st century. Most importantly, students will be invited to consider their own possibilities as future leaders as I offer a glimpse into what I have learned and invite students to consider what we might imagine together. What can we learn from the past, and what will we do differently in the future?

Session #5 on 6 Nov 2026

COMPETENCE OR LOYALTY: WHO GETS TO LEAD THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT?

Anger, MPA, JD, Cynthia

Cynthia Anger is Program Chair of the Master of Public Administration program at Post University in Waterbury, Connecticut, where she teaches ethics, public policy, and administrative law and mentors' graduate students through their final research projects. She has spent over 30 years practicing municipal and administrative law in Connecticut, including arguing appeals before some of the highest courts in the state and federal system. Alongside her legal practice, she has served in a range of public roles, including as a court magistrate, an election official, and an arbitrator for a national financial industry regulator. Her career spans local government, the courts, and higher education, giving her a firsthand view of how public administration functions at multiple levels in the United States.



This lecture examines a foundational and still-unresolved question in American governance: On what basis should the people who actually run government day to day, as opposed to those who are elected, be chosen? Drawing on Woodrow Wilson's 1887 distinction between political and administrative leadership, the lecture traces the origin of the U.S. civil service to the 1881 assassination of President James Garfield and the resulting Pendleton Civil Service Reform Act of 1883, which established merit-based hiring over political patronage. It then examines how that leadership choice is tested in current practice through two contemporary examples (New York City's 2024 "City of Yes" zoning reform and participatory budgeting programs in Boston and Seattle), before turning to the ongoing U.S. federal debate over "Schedule F" (2020–present), which would reclassify tens of thousands of career civil service positions with weaker job protections, presented alongside a brief companion example, the short-lived Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), as a contrasting case of the same underlying question playing out in a faster, outside-the-system form. Both sides of the Schedule F debate are presented fairly and without advocacy. The lecture closes by generalizing the underlying leadership question, specifically, loyalty versus independence in administrative leadership, as one every government must answer.

Session #6 on 14 Nov 2026

AFFAIRS OF STATE AND HEART: GENDERED LOYALTIES, AND POLITICAL AGENCY IN SIXTEENTH-CENTURY MUGHAL EMPIRE IN INDIA



Dr. Amita Paliwal

(Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Fellow)

She is an Associate Professor of History at Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi. A Gold Medalist from Aligarh Muslim University, she specializes in Medieval Indian History, particularly Persian sources, Sind under the Mughals, gender, and emotions. She has published over 20 papers in national and international journals and contributed chapters to scholarly volumes.

The emerging field of history of emotions offers new ways of understanding power, identity, and political agency. Drawing on Persian and regional sources, including Tarikh-i-Sind, Tarikh-i-Tahiri, Tarkhannama, Baburnama, Humayunnama, and Akbarnama, this lecture examines the emotional and political agency of Arghun women such as Mah Begum, Mah Chuchuk Begum, and Nahid Begum. It explores how love, loyalty, honour, and vengeance shaped their political choices and relationships within the royal courts of sixteenth-century Mughal Empire in India. By foregrounding these women as emotional and political actors, the study challenges conventional court-centred narratives and reveals how gendered emotions could function as instruments of negotiation, resistance, influence, and power.

REGISTRATION

Global Perspectives: Conversations Across Disciplines is an international lecture series bringing together scholars, educators, researchers, and students to engage in meaningful academic conversations across disciplines and geographical contexts.

Presented by *Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi, India*, and *Post University, Connecticut, USA*, the lecture series aims to create a collaborative platform for knowledge exchange, interdisciplinary dialogue, and exploration of contemporary academic and societal issues.

The series will feature distinguished experts and academicians who will share their insights, research experiences, and perspectives on emerging themes across diverse disciplines.

Who can register?

Students, research scholars, faculty members, teacher educators, educators, professionals, and anyone interested in interdisciplinary learning and global academic dialogue are welcome to participate.

All registered participants will receive an E-Certificate.

Registration:

Participation is open to interested individuals. Please complete the registration form with accurate details to confirm your participation.



<https://forms.gle/agFVqP7HXPfabS9V6>

Join us in building conversations that transcend disciplines, institutions, and borders.

FOR QUERY: DR JIJO VARGHESE (M: +91 8547501035)