

**INDRAPRASTHA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

GANDHI STUDY CIRCLE

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES JULY 2020-APRIL 2021

Contents:

- Experience sharing between graduates and current students
- Webinar Series
- Observance of Gandhi Jayanti 2020
- Recruitment of members
- Observance of Martyrs' Day 2021
- Audio visual presentation 'Martyrs' Day in the Time of the Pandemic'
- Student audio visual presentations on Gandhi and the Contemporary World
- Democracy and Social Movements

A report of activities from July 2020-April 2021

Date: 12 July 2020 at 10 am and 20 July 2020 at 7 pm

Online Meeting and brainstorming session to discuss the future activities of the Gandhi Study Circle at IP during the pandemic.

Date: 1 August 2020

Time: 10 am - 12 noon

The Gandhi Study Circle at Indraprastha College: A sharing of experiences with graduates and current students

There was a sharing of experiences and observations with a few graduates of Indraprastha College for Women, who were associated with the Gandhi Study Circle.

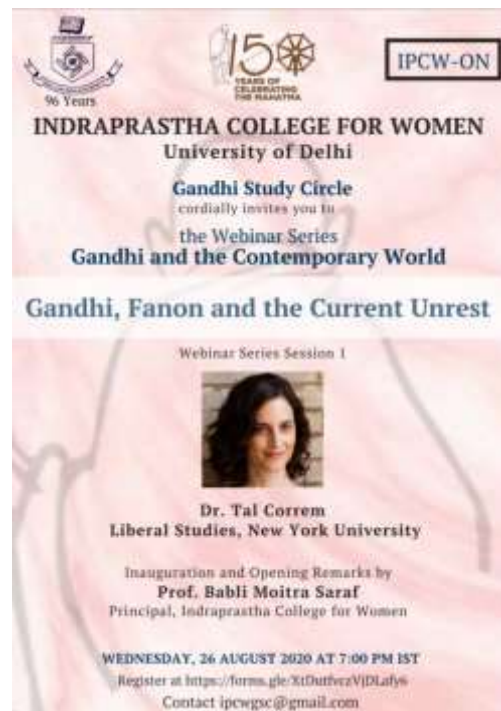
10 August – 29 September 2020

As the culmination of the two year long observance of the one hundred and fiftieth birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi (October 2018-October 2020), a webinar series, “Gandhi and the Contemporary World” was planned by Gandhi Study Circle at Indraprastha College for Women. The series sought to critically engage with Gandhi in the light of the challenges facing the contemporary world. One of the objectives of the series was to encourage student research in areas/fields arising from the sessions of the webinar. The webinar series sought to invite Indian and international scholars.

Date: 26 August 2020

Webinar Series Inaugural Session: “Gandhi, Fanon and the Current Unrest”: Dr. Tal Correm (New York University)

Moderator: Dr. Ankita Pandey (Indraprastha College for Women)



**Gandhi, Fanon, and the Current Unrest
Tal Correm (New York University)**

Abstract

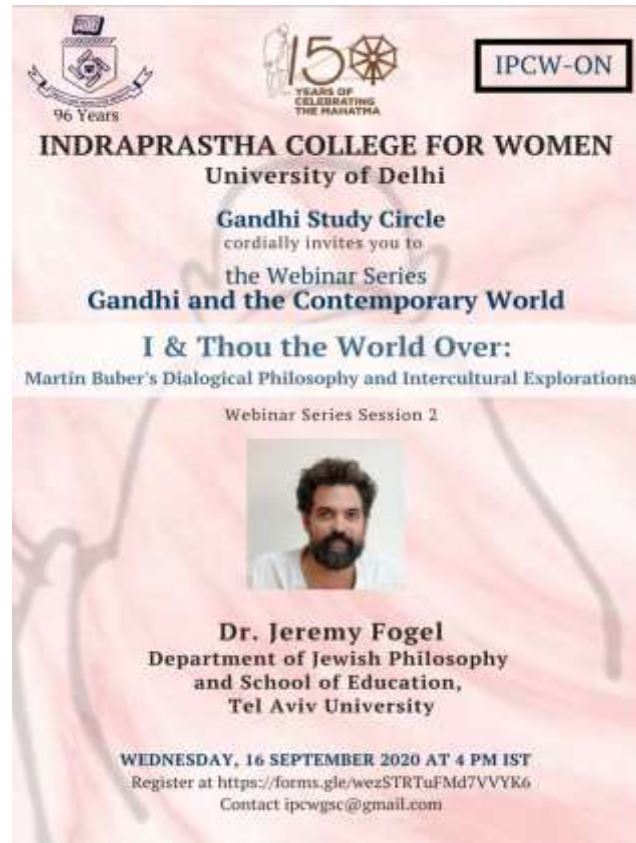
The problem of violence in popular freedom struggles remains relevant in contemporary sites of struggle from the Arab Uprisings to the Black Lives Matter movement. This talk brings together two of the most prominent figures who addressed this problem, M.K. Gandhi and Frantz Fanon. Though largely understood as occupying contrasting stands with regard to the use of violence in political struggles – nonviolent resistance and revolutionary counter-violence, respectively – they share critique against the prevailing of violence in the modern state. Moreover, both set similar goals of independence of the colonized nations, fighting injustices, racism and brutality, and the restoration of dignity to the oppressed. By examining the arguments of Gandhi and Fanon in light of the current wave of civil unrest the aim of this talk is threefold. First, through explication of multiple facets of political violence, it helps to identify continuing structures of violence beyond physical violence. Second, through critical examination of the various justifications for and against the use of violence in political resistance, it helps to understand why political actors use such varying methods. Third, it invites reassessing the thought of such influential figures as Fanon and Gandhi on racism as a structural form of violence.

Date: 16 September 2020

Webinar Series Session 2

“I and Thou the World Over: Martin Buber’s Dialogical Philosophy and Intercultural Explorations”: Dr. Jeremy Fogel (Tel Aviv University)

Moderator: Dr. Praveen Dhanda (Indraprastha College for Women)



**I and Thou the World Over:
Martin Buber’s Dialogical Philosophy and Intercultural Explorations
Jeremy Fogel (Tel Aviv University)**

Abstract

Martin Buber is widely perceived as a major figure in Modern European and Jewish Philosophy. Yet, while his ideas are clearly based on the western Philosophical tradition as well as aspects of the Jewish heritage, he also drew significantly from cultures and spiritual traditions far from those he grew up with; Taoism, Hinduism, Buddhism in particular. In fact, Buber thought his dialogical insight reflected a common element in all of the world's religious traditions. In this lecture, we will explore Buber's own philosophy, analyse the universalistic religious essence it seeks to uncover, and reflect on the ways in which he drew from, and portrayed, a wide variety of religious traditions.

Date: 29 September 2020

Webinar Series Session 3: “Is self-publishing a solution in the time of the pandemic?”: Siddhartha Gigoo (Writer and Filmmaker)

Moderator: Dr. Shubhra Seth (Indraprastha College for Women)



**Is self-publishing a solution in the time of the pandemic?
Siddhartha Gigoo (Author, poet and filmmaker, New Delhi)**

Abstract

This session featured an online ‘Do-it-yourself’ (DYI) workshop by Siddhartha Gigoo on writing and publishing in the age of the Covid-19 pandemic. The visible and invisible restrictions imposed by the quarantine have isolated us from human companionship and intimacy with nature. The quarantine, isolation and social distancing are reconfiguring the nature of communication globally. In another age, Gandhi read, wrote, spoke, published and even communicated through his silences while he was imprisoned, walking, train-traveling and spinning. But every crisis could also be an opportunity, where human ingenuity may flourish – as Siddhartha seems to have done. Gigoo, who is a writer and a poet, spoke on how he converted a crisis of isolation into an opportunity for communication. If that shy teen and the tongue-tied lawyer could eventually become a master communicator, perhaps we too could work around the prison house of the pandemic.

Date: 2 October 2020
Observance of Gandhi Jayanti

The Gandhi Study Circle collaborated with the Students' Union in organizing a programme to observe Gandhi Jayanti online in the context of the pandemic. Ms. Amisha Pareek spoke on 'Health and Sanitation: Excerpts from Gandhi's writings'.

Date: 08 January 2021

Meeting of Gandhi Study Circle members and volunteers, and launch of the recruitment drive for incoming students of first semester.

The recruitment drive was carried out in the months of January and February.

Date: 30 January 2021

Observance of Martyrs' Day and screening of the audio-visual presentation 'Martyrs' Day in the Time of the Pandemic'

The Gandhi Study Circle collaborated with the Students' Union, Indraprastha College for Women in organizing the observance of Martyrs' Day. An online event was organized, and an audio-visual presentation '**Martyrs' Day in the Time of the Pandemic**' prepared by the Gandhi Study Circle was screened. The presentation drew attention to Gandhi's views on modern civilization, on the spread of disease with modernity and colonialism, and on the cooperation, collaboration and solidarity across individuals, communities and nations in the struggle against COVID-19.

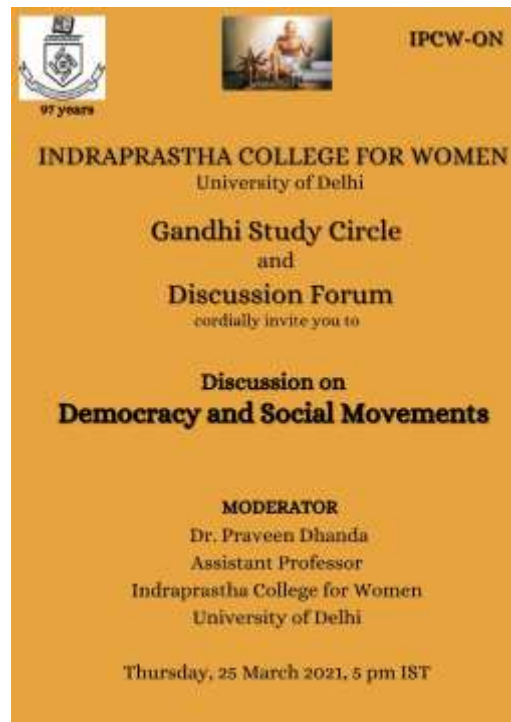
Date: 19-27 February 2021

Screening of audio-visual presentations on the theme 'Gandhi and the Contemporary World' made by students of the course "Gandhi and the Contemporary World"

Audio visual presentations made by students of first semester on various aspects of Gandhi's life and afterlife were screened, followed by discussions. The themes of the presentations included the visual and literary portrayals of Gandhi, Gandhi's legacy on women's movements in India and Gandhigiri.

Date: 25 March 2021

The Gandhi Study Circle in collaboration with the Discussion Forum organized an online discussion on “Democracy and Social Movements”. Dr. Praveen Dhanda of the Department of Political Science, Indraprastha College for Women moderated the session.



Students participated in this very invigorating conversation about the varied notions of democracy and democratization, justice and contemporary social movements of students, workers and farmers.

Advisors

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