

## History

### Arts and Aesthetics in Everyday Life

**Course Outline:**

This course is designed to engage non-specialist, graduate students in a dialogue about the politics, aesthetics and histories of art and architecture. The proposed set of works and objects have been chosen because they are iconic and thus extremely influential in the making of history and culture. For students entering or working in the development sector, these works provide ways to complicate and re-vision important questions and axioms about power, economy, urbanism, ecology, gender and systems of value, which they will confront on a regular basis. The course will enable students to acquire an ability to look at, interpret and write about the inter-connection between aesthetics and experiences of everyday life.

**Profile: Dr. Annapurna Garimella**

Dr. Annapurna Garimella is a designer and an art historian who focuses on the art and architecture of India and is based in Bangalore, India. She heads Jackfruit, a research and design organization, with a specialized portfolio of design and curatorial projects for artists, museums, government and private organizations and non-profits. She is also founder of Art, Resources and Teaching Trust, a not-for-profit organization that gathers resources and promotes research and teaching in art and architectural history, archaeology, crafts, design, and other related disciplines in academic and non-academic fora. She has to her credit several publications on contemporary art.

### Embodiment of Death in World Archaeology

**Course Outline:**

This course will enable students to learn about world archaeology through the universally important questions of embodiment and death as human bodily, emotional, material, sexual and social experience. The themes of embodiment and death have been chosen for the way they

allow us to study larger questions of social status, rank and organization as well as agency and aesthetics. This approach to world archaeology is designed to be broad in scope, with appropriate specific case studies that allow students to gain a deeper perspective on a set of issues that prevail cross-culturally and across time and geography.

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## **Modern, Contemporary & More Categories in Art: Primitive, Classical, Vernacular,**

### **Course Outline:**

Since the advent of modernity, common sense categories such as “primitive,” “classical,” “Vernacular,” “folk”, “tribal,” “modern,” “contemporary,” “heritage,” “tradition” and others have been used to identify, describe, evaluate, develop and conserve cultural and social forms and the lives of the people who practice them. This course introduces its participants to deeper history of these categories and the concepts that animate them through the specific practice of art, including painting, sculpture, photography, performance, film, craft, etc. It will also discuss the impact these ideas have had on other discourses such as education, development, social conventions and government policy.

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## **Renaissance-an Introduction**

### **Course outline:**

Most popular descriptions of Renaissance leaves a number of questions unanswered: did the figures of this period realize that they were creating a set of radically different works? How did they characterize their own age in the light of the past? Why did they create the works they did? Did the artists of this period have a shared vision? Did they have a model that they aspired for? If they did, why did this model turn out to be more acceptable than others? How did writers and artists of this period conceive of the world and the place of man in it? Was this picture of the world radically different from the existing one? What did this imply for a range of domains such as polity, religion, and so on? In what way did the developments in this period prepare for the birth of modern world? This course is an attempt to make sense of this period. Apart from being informative about Renaissance art, literature, science, religion, the course will also help students gain exposure to reflecting on issues in historiography.

### **Profile:**

Mr. Prakash Iyer and Dr. Varadarajan Narayanan are Faculty Members at the Azim Premji University. Their profile may be viewed at:  
<http://www.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/people>.

## **Sign Language - The world of non-verbal communication**

### **Course Content:**

A “normal” perspective on communication assumes directly heard and created sounds as an integral part of the communication process. There is, however, a subjective experience and perspective where sound does not play a part, yet communication which is effective and rich in vocabulary is achieved. The course introduces students to appreciating the space of non-verbal communication, including gesture, mime and sign language, its history and place in today’s world with a special focus on India. A second and important outcome of this course would be to enhance sensitivity to one segment of a differently abled community.

### **Profile:**

Himanshu U. is a Faculty Member at the Azim Premji University. His profile may be viewed at:  
<http://www.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/people>.

# Everyday City

## Course Content:

In India, as in other parts of the world, formal urban spaces are continually transformed by social, cultural, religious, political, economic and other everyday practices. This course, first, draws attention to these informal spaces in the city – spaces which do not really feature in the formal plan of the city. It introduces students to techniques of observing, and recording the informal spaces of a city in order to begin to see and value what gets left out of planning, and also understand inequality in cities. Second, while we find that there is informality around us, we must also realise that our own actions may be contributing to this informality. In this course, we will therefore also reflect upon how we walk in the city and how it makes us who we are, and the city what it is.

## Faculty Profile:

Kiran k



Muthatha R.



Kiran Keswani is an architect with an interest in urban design. She has been visiting faculty at Architecture colleges in Hyderabad, Chennai and Bangalore. In 1996, she was a Netherlands Fellow at the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies at Erasmus University, Rotterdam.

Muthatha Ramanathan is a human geographer. She completed her Ph.D in Geography at University of Washington, Seattle in 2013. She lives in Bangalore and is a research associate at The Indian Institute of Geographical Studies (TIIGS), Bangalore.