

# ALL ABOUT AMBEDKAR: A JOURNAL ON THEORY AND PRAXIS

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## THE JOURNAL: INTRODUCTION, AIMS & SCOP

*All About Ambedkar: A Journal on Theory and Praxis* is an open access peer-reviewed online English-language journal. It publishes two issues per year and comprises both general and theme-based special issues. The journal started its journey in 2020.

The philosophy behind the journal is based on a simple premise: B. R. Ambedkar deserves to be read. In his masterpiece *Who Were the Shudras?* Ambedkar observes, “I do not despair of success. For I take consolation in the words of the poet Bhavabhuti who said, ‘Time is infinite, and earth is vast, someday there will be born a man who will appreciate what I have said.’” Forget about appreciating his works, for decades we have experienced the most fundamental problem, i.e., accessing his texts. From being suppressed and not published for decades to being ignored in the academic space, Ambedkar’s books have not reached us. But times are changing. Ambedkar is no longer considered to be just a “reservation leader” but, as many argue, “the father of modern India.” For us, Ambedkar is primarily a thinker—perhaps, the most original, rigorous, and provocative thinker India has produced. One wonders how many intellectuals, or even “organic intellectuals,” in the history of humanity, have balanced theory and praxis, intellectual pursuit and political activism the way Ambedkar had managed to do it.

This journal is dedicated to the dissemination of Ambedkar’s ideas and Ambedkarite thought by way of a close reading of his texts. The project is risky at least for two reasons. First, most of Ambedkar’s texts are yet to be “established.” The editorial policies involved in the making of *Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: Writings and Speeches* are questionable. As one reads these volumes one feels the need for footnotes and annotations, a proper generic arrangement of texts, and substantial background material to put the texts in their contexts. No doubt new editions of Ambedkar’s works are being published as single volumes in recent times to address this lacuna. But more scholarly editions are needed. Second, given the vastness and range of subjects Ambedkar covers in his writings and speeches—economics, law, history, literature, anthropology, sociology, mathematics, linguistics, statistics, theology, politics, philosophy, and so on—it is difficult for many of us to grasp the full import of his ideas in any given textual situation. But, as they say, no risk no gain.

The primary focus of the journal is a critical reading of Ambedkar’s texts and Ambedkarite thought in particular and anti-caste literature, politics

and culture in general. Given its multidisciplinary nature, the journal is privileged to have scholars and activists from various disciplines on its editorial board. We sincerely hope that the journal inspires the readers to turn and return to Ambedkar’s texts and helps them develop a nuanced understanding of the problem of caste.

## INFORMATION FOR AUTHORS

**Submission Process:** Follow the four stages of paper submission.

**Publication Frequency:** The journal publishes two issues per year, comprising both special issues and general issues.

**Call for Papers (CFP):** The journal publishes CFP for both its general and special issues. Prospective contributors are advised to go through the scope of the journal as well as the current CFP before submitting their manuscripts. Submissions for the general issues are welcomed throughout the year. Details of the CFP are available here.

**Citation:** The journal follows the style of citation recommended by the Modern Language Association (MLA). Manuscripts for the journal have to be prepared in accordance with the **eighth edition** of the MLA handbook. Basic MLA guidelines are available at Purdue Online Writing Lab.

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**Publication Charges:** The journal does **not** charge any publication fees from its contributors. We categorically oppose and strongly condemn any such malpractice.

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## **CHIEF EDITOR**

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Navayana Dalit History Fellow  
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Presidency University, Kolkata  
Email: mahitosh.eng@presiuniv.ac.in

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Jadavpur University, Kolkata  
Email: arijeet.mandal@jadavpuruniversity.in

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Assistant Professor in Gender Studies, Centre for  
Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC)  
Email: asha@cssscal.org

### **DICEKNS LEONARD**

Assistant Professor (Literature), Indian Institute of  
Technology Delhi  
Email: dleonardm@hss.iitd.ac.in

### **MANOHAR MOULI BISWAS**

Dalit Author, Activist, President of Bangla Dalit  
Sahitya Sanstha, West Bengal, India  
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Academy, India  
Email: manoharbiswas@yahoo.co.in

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Professor of Philosophy and Cultural Politics  
University of Wolverhampton, United Kingdom  
Email: m.dhanda@wlv.ac.uk

### **K. SATYANARAYANA**

Professor, Department of Cultural Studies,  
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Email: satya@efluniversity.ac.in

### **NANDINI SAHA**

Professor, Department of English, Jadavpur  
University, Kolkata  
Email: nandini.saha@jadavpuruniversity.in

### **RUP KUMAR BARMAN**

Professor, Department of History, Jadavpur  
University, Kolkata  
Email: rupkumar.barman@jadavpuruniversity.in

### **MAROONA MURMU**

Professor, Department of History, Jadavpur  
University, Kolkata  
Email: maroona.murmu@jadavpuruniversity.in

### **UJJWAL JANA**

Associate Professor, Department of English,  
Pondicherry University, Pondicherry  
Email: ujjwal.eng@pondiuni.edu.in

**B. MANGALAM**

Professor, Department of English, Aryabhata  
College, University of Delhi, New Delhi  
Email: b.mangalam@aryabhatacollege.ac.in

**RAJ KUMAR**

Professor, Department of English, University of  
Delhi, North Campus, New Delhi  
Email: rkumar@english.du.ac.in

**RAJESH KARANKAL**

Associate Professor, Department of English,  
University of Mumbai, Mumbai  
Email: rkdevgiri@rediffmail.com

**CHINNAIAH JANGAM**

Associate Professor, Department of History,  
Carleton University, Canada  
Email: chinnaiahjangam@cunet.carleton.ca

**LUIS CABRERA**

Associate Professor, Griffith Business School,  
Griffith University, Australia  
Email: l.cabrera@griffith.edu.au

**SUBHAJIT NASKAR**

Assistant Professor, Department of International  
Relations, Jadavpur University, Kolkata  
Email: subhajit.naskar@jadavpuruniversity.in

**DHIRAJ BARMAN**

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography,  
Presidency University, Kolkata  
Email: dhiraj.geo@presiuniv.ac.in

**NILADRI ROY**

Assistant Professor, Department of Performing  
Arts, Presidency University, Kolkata  
Email: niladri.dpa@presiuniv.ac.in

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