

Faculty of Media and Communication

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Faculty:
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Prof. (Dr.) Radheshyam Jadhav

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**Research
Summary:**

Radheshyam Jadhav is a working journalist and communication researcher with 20-year experience in print and online media with a proven track record in field reporting and data journalism covering environment, politics, infrastructure, urbanization, agriculture, gender issues and development. He holds a Ph.D. in journalism and communication science and has been a British Chevening research fellow at the London School of Economics & Political Science in 2009. He was research fellow at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore as a part of the Asia Journalism Fellowship in 2013. He is the recipient of the prestigious Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award for two years and have received over twenty national and international research scholarships /fellowships and awards including The Statesman Award for Rural Reporting. Bloomsbury has published his books based on field research and media analysis.

Name of the Faculty: Dr Vidhi Agrawal
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Research Summary: I research public deliberation, public opinion and their impact on policy. My research started with the intellectual curiosity: how can citizens participate in the governance processes beyond their role as voters in an electoral democracy? What are the modes of citizen-State deliberations that can effectively channel the opinions of the people into the law-making processes, and thus, create a more participatory and just polity? My dissertation responded to these questions by examining the principles, practices, and the impact of a particular kind of deliberative forum known as the jansunwai (public hearings) that were organized by a civil society organization known as Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan in the villages of south-central Rajasthan. I demonstrated that through rational deliberations at the jansunwai, the people in rural Rajasthan graduated from being mere subjects of the law to becoming the first authors of those laws that affected them daily and directly. These legislations include the RTI Act 2005, Social audit legislations and Rajasthan Right to Hearing Act 2012. These laws have transformed the Indian policy substantially and such transformation was facilitated an active civil society that ‘inflected the policies of the Indian State.’

Currently, I plan to extend my research inquiry towards a comparative study of citizen forums and public deliberation in different regions. This will enable me to comment on how the diversity of deliberative cultures and democratic spirit.