

**Book Project Formation of Sociology in India: Documenting Knowledge,
Scholars, Practices and Institutions**

This book brings together fifteen papers written by three generations of sociologists who collectively reflect on the history of sociology.

Two sets of questions defined the scope of the book. The first relates to the formation of the discipline in the colonial period and its ordering in terms of contemporary anthropological perspectives. Two points of views are expressed. First, that colonialism structured sociology to see itself as studying India as a 'traditional' society, using theories and perspectives relating to pre-modern structures in order to assess modern India. Second despite this, anthropological methods and methodologies such as the 'fieldview' and its theories helped the discipline to grasp and remain sensitive to processes of change as India transited from the pre-modern to the modern.

The second set of questions relates to the subject's growth in the post independence period when University education expanded and new departments were created across the country. Sociology came to be taught as social anthropology. Paper writers ask how this identity shapes the definition of the subject, its theories and practices, the syllabi and arrange the structuring of the professional community across the country. What role do individual scholars and their different and varied trainings have in institutionalizing the subject across the country and its boundaries? Did there develop different schools of understanding sociology in India? Or were these differences restricted to departments? What was the impact of the differences between departments on practices of teaching, learning and research as the discipline was introduced across Universities in the country?

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Edited by Sujata Patel

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