

To consider a proposal to form a HSS club

The Psy-Phi Club

- A Proposal by Nirmal Kumar S

Vision

Humanities and Social Sciences are a group of disciplines that deals with the study of human interaction and behavior in social, environmental, cultural, economic and political contexts. Cutting edge research in these disciplines are often interdisciplinary and hence necessitates dialogue between these disciplines. A club established with the prime aim of encouraging students and faculty alike to engage in discussions and communication of ideas across disciplines is imperative nowadays. In addition to satisfying the intellectual curiosity of students, the club would expose the students to an inter-disciplinary nature of research and would help a budding HSS-enthusiast to fulfill his dream of pursuing HSS further by providing an opportunity to look beyond the technical training that we get as a part of our program.

The Psy-Phi Club would be that club that acts as a platform for students to appreciate the value of HSS in everyday life, to exchange ideas and act as an impetus for further exploring the field of HSS. The Psy-Phi club would also aim to unite psychologists, philosophers, statisticians, economists, linguists, sociologists, and cognitive scientists and provide a platform to discuss various pressing issues of humankind from their discipline-specific perspectives.

This would make the club one of it's kind among Indian Institutions.

Mission

I plan to achieve the above vision by carrying out semester long talks, movie-screenings and competitions. Following are the planned events for the upcoming semester :-

1) Weekly/Fortnightly talks by academicians from HSS: These talks can be of maximum one hour duration, where academicians (from within IITK as well as outside) can share some insights from their field towards understanding and addressing contemporary issues. This activity would be beneficial in two ways - a) The content these talks would be so as to enable naïve audience to appreciate the field b)The students would get an idea of current research in the area within the country as well as internationally and might be able to understand how he/she can contribute towards the field. This can be beneficial to both the students as well as the discipline.

2) Weekly/Fortnightly talks by postgraduate and undergraduate students: Again these talks can be of maximum of one hour duration, where the students can present their project/thesis work

which they have been pursuing for months/years. This activity would help the students to remove their stage fear and get instant feedback from the professors.

3) Weekly/Fortnightly movie-screenings: There are many documentaries in famous streaming services related to many of the humanities disciplines. Every weekend a movie can be screened to the campus junta, following which a discussion can be arranged.

4) Semester long competitions: One of the competitions could be asking the campus junta to make a summary of a popular-science book let's say *CRIME and PUNISHMENT* by Fyodor Dostoevsky. The time limit can be anywhere from 1 month to 4 months. Three Prizes would be distributed based on the writings of the students. Each student would be awarded a pop-science book of her choice worth 1000 Rs, 700 Rs and 400 Rs for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize respectively.

5) Term of the Week: This includes taking a particular idea in any of the humanities disciplines and explaining it in a lucid manner through the facebook page created.

6) Panel Discussions: These fruitful discussions would involve professors from different disciplines discussing and presenting their viewpoint on the same topic. Let's say a psychologist and philosopher come together and discuss about *Human Mind* each from their perspective.

7) Semester long HSS projects: The Psy-Phi club would act as a medium for professors and students to work on semester long projects. Professors can approach Psy-Phi club to float out available projects for UGs and interested students can take up a project that piques their interest.

8) Experiments: We can conduct some interesting and fun experiments to understand human behavior as well as participate in other ongoing research. The club would also be a platform through which information about ongoing experiments in psychology and cognitive science can be disseminated.

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