

## MCR Symposium: Humanities and Social Science, 25 February 2024, Sunday

Title	Presenter	Time (Presentation + Q&A)	Brief Description
Welcome/Introduction		2:00 to 2:15	
Unveiling the Shadows of Extreme Heat: Cooling Poverty in a Warming World	Nethmi Kariyawasam	2:15 to 2:30	As the global temperature rises, the demand for cooling is expected to triple by 2050, casting the spotlight on an urgent yet overlooked crisis: cooling poverty. This phenomenon, a critical aspect of climate inequity, threatens the well-being of millions by denying urgent access to cooling solutions. This talk seeks to spark a dialogue on the issue, diving into the core of this issue, mapping the uncharted territories of cooling poverty to unveil where the most vulnerable communities reside, why they are trapped in this cycle of hardship, and how we can forge pathways toward resilience and equity.
Public Perceptions and Carbon Taxation: A Model & Survey Design	Juliette Caucheteux	2:30 to 2:45	I am a DPhil student in Economics working on environmental economics. In this paper I investigate the welfare effects of Pigouvian taxation accounting for switching cost, since many empirical examples show that goods subject to carbon taxation often involve a sizeable fixed cost of switching (diesel car, home energy improvements). I present a brief toy model of Pigouvian taxation with liquidity constraints and show that, by omitting the ability of people to satisfy it, governments can be misled about the efficiency about carbon taxation. I provide some policy conclusions.
The Data on Forests in India: A Legal Perspective	Ramakash G Suriaprakash	2:45 to 3:00	The presentation examines the data on forest cover in India to suggest that the data may not adequately tell us about the quality of forests in India. It locates one reason for this in the definition of forest and its intersection with the rules concerning compensatory afforestation.
A Dialogue with the Supreme Court of India: A Little Less Conversation, A Little More Action Please?	Anshul Dalmia	3:00 to 3:15	This topic seeks to examine conversations of the Supreme Court with other democratic actors in India and question its constitutional value, motivation and inclusive dimension while attempting to strengthen institutions and promote sustainable development.
Tea/Coffee Break		3:15 to 3:30	

Intersectional Inequalities and Drinking Water Security in Rural India	Medha Mukherjee	3:30 to 3:45	This research examines historical, economic, political, social, cultural and religious processes of providing safe drinking water for all in rural India. Access to safe drinking water, or lack thereof, has historically been an emblem of one's identity in India, especially caste, class, culture, religion, political affiliation and economic status. Such intersectional markers of identity shape, and are shaped by, inequalities. Inequalities further intersect and overlap, producing aggravated effects as intersectional inequalities. Analysing intersectional inequalities, this research investigates how equitable access can be achieved, with reliable rural water services maintained across diverse and difficult landscapes of the Uttarakhand Himalaya and the Maharashtra Sahyadri.
Algorithmic Harms and Equality Law in India	Isha Ahlawat	3:45 to 4:00	The presentation introduces the audience to the concept of algorithmic harms and their real-world manifestations in various aspects of daily life, such as police surveillance, healthcare services, and hiring processes. It aims to raise awareness and initiate a dialogue about the potential discrimination and exclusion resulting from the widespread adoption of automated decision-making processes. Subsequently, the presentation will highlight the shortcomings of current equality law jurisprudence in addressing these issues. Finally, it will explore potential solutions to mitigate algorithmic harms and promote fairness and inclusivity in algorithmic decision-making systems.
Orientalism in Selected British Romantic Literary Works	Reyam Rammahi	4:00 to 4:15	I study English literature. I will talk about my DPhil thesis which focuses on British Romantic-era works by Lord Byron, Mary Shelley, Maria Edgeworth, and Robert Southey. The thesis traces orientalism in the selected works and sheds light on the representation of the Arab and Islamic cultures in them.
Beyond Virgins/Whores: Towards an Intersectional Analysis of Migrant Sex Workers in Europe	Sarah Bannon	4:15 to 4:30	This presentation proposes intersectional theory as a non-exhaustive framework for bridging the gap between the harm-reduction approach to sex work taken by sex worker organisations and theoretical approaches by academics. Intersectional theory is then used to analyse how migrant sex workers are affected by political, legal and social structures within Europe. The presentation is based on my undergraduate thesis.