



ST JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY

#36, Lalbagh Road, Bengaluru - 560027



**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
IN COLLABORATION WITH
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON - DOWNTOWN (UHD), TEXAS, USA**

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ST JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY

SPARKS

[SOCIAL WORKERS PERSPECTIVES - ACTIONS, RESEARCH, KNOWLEDGE & SERVICE]

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON

**Advancing Sustainability Transitions for
People and Planet: The Road Ahead**

March 04-05, 2025

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Xavier Hall, St Joseph's University

About St Joseph's University.



St Joseph's University (SJU) is a Jesuit University at the heart of Bengaluru, the Silicon city of India. Established in 1882 by Paris Foreign Fathers, the management of the college was handed over to the Jesuit Order (Society of Jesus) in 1937. The college was first affiliated to the University of Madras and later to the Mysore and Bengaluru Universities. In 1986, St Joseph's College became the first affiliated college in Karnataka to offer postgraduate courses. In 1988, it became the first college in Karnataka to get a research centre and in 2005, it was one of five colleges in Karnataka that was awarded academic autonomy. In February 2021, St Joseph's University bill was presented in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly and was subsequently passed by the Legislative Assembly and Karnataka Legislative Council. The college received its University status on 2nd July 2022 and was inaugurated as India's first public-private university by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu on 27th September 2022.

School of Social Work

The Department of Social Work at St Joseph's University was established in the year 2005 and it was raised to a School in 2021. The School of Social Work is the only one in the University that offers three different programs within the same discipline. The School is committed to the pursuit of social work campaigns to improve the quality of life of the downtrodden. The School looks for individuals who inherently possess a commitment to bring about positive change in society and thus provides them with the right amount of training and orientation to fulfill their deeds in the most effective manner. The academic program is rigorous so as to enable students with an appropriate attitude and knowledge to effectively address social problems in the world. Our educational mission is to prepare social work practitioners skilled in critical self-reflection, in working with individuals, families, groups, and communities and to enhance the well-being of the people of our Nation and around the world. Our scholarly mission is to share and create collective knowledge and understanding through engaging in critical enquiry by supporting research and innovative curriculum development at the undergraduate and post graduate level. Our practice mission is to act on social justice issues through community change initiatives by challenging the oppressive societal structure, thus reaffirming the importance of respectful, meaningful and collaborative relationships as core elements of social work practice.

About the University of Houston - Downtown (UHD)



The University of Houston-Downtown (UHD), founded in the 1970s at One Main Street, has grown from offering its first four-year degree in Criminal Justice to becoming a leading metropolitan university. Recognized as Texas' third fastest-growing university by the 1990s, UHD expanded its programs to include graduate degrees, forged partnerships with Lone Star College, and developed transfer pathways for community college students. The university's campus grew significantly with the addition of facilities like the Shea Street Building for the College of Business, the College of Sciences & Technology Building, and the Wellness & Success Center. In 2017, the College of Business was renamed the Marilyn Davies College of Business after a \$10 million endowment. Today, UHD serves over 14,000 students annually, is a Hispanic-Serving and Minority-Serving Institution, and remains committed to fostering a diverse, dynamic, and workforce-aligned educational environment.

About the Conference

Advancing Sustainability Transitions for People and Planet: The Road Ahead

'SPARKS' [Social Workers Perspectives into Action in terms of Research, Knowledge and Service] is the name for the international conference of School of Social Work, SJU. Every discussion, deliberation, and dissemination of information aims to ignite the spark in everyone being part of it. Sparks aims to light, dispelling the darkness giving new perspectives. Advancing sustainability transitions requires a holistic approach that integrates environmental, social, and economic systems. Moving beyond fragmented solutions, we must adopt circular models, regenerative agriculture, and sustainable production practices within supportive economic and political frameworks. Raising awareness and equipping individuals with knowledge for sustainable living are vital, alongside grassroots movements and community-based actions that enhance resilience and resource security. Aligning efforts with global frameworks like the UN's Sustainable Development Goals ensures measurable progress. Collaboration among governments, businesses, NGOs, and individuals is essential to address challenges like climate change, inequality, and resource depletion. Equitable transitions should support vulnerable communities through inclusive policies, education, and access to clean energy and technology, reducing disparities while fostering support. Strong policy frameworks, international cooperation, and innovations in clean energy, AI, and ESG-aligned financial systems are key to accelerating progress. By fostering collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity, we can create a sustainable future that benefits people and the planet.

Sub-Themes

- Promoting universal health coverage in sustainable development
- Environmental stressors and their impact on health
- Environmental justice and mental health advocacy
- The role of education and public awareness in mental health and sustainability
- Ensuring social justice in sustainable efforts
- Empowering marginalized communities in sustainable development
- Strengthening global and local governance frameworks
- The future of work: Redefining health and safety standards in evolving work environment
- Promoting employment and decent work in the era of gig economy and automation
- Protecting labour rights: Strategies for building safe, secure, and inclusive workplaces
- Digital transformation in industry: Implications for workforce development and HR practices
- Embedding sustainability in HRM: Driving eco-friendly industry practices through workforce engagement
- AI-powered employee engagement: Transforming workforce experiences through technology
- Upskilling and reskilling strategies for the AI-driven workplace
- Ethical AI and HRM: Balancing employee privacy and data-driven decision making
- The role of HR in building inclusive workplaces: A focus on diversity, equity and belonging
- Interdisciplinary research and policy integration
- Achieving long term sustainability through systemic change

Guidelines

GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

- Abstract should not be more than 250 words with headings such as introduction, methodology, results, conclusion, and keywords (3-5 key words).
- The abstract should contain the title of the paper, name(s) of the author(s), designation and institutional affiliation of authors, and contact details (email ID and phone number) of the presenting author at the end of the abstract.
- Conference registration is mandatory for all the presenting authors.

GUIDELINES FOR FULL PAPER SUBMISSION

- Full Paper should NOT be more than 3000 words with headings such as introduction, methodology, results, discussion, and conclusion.
- Referencing style: APA 7th Edition
- Declaration by the author regarding conflict of interest and ethical clearance are must.
- Full paper must contain the title of the paper, name, designation, institutional affiliation of authors, and contact details (Email ID & contact address) of the presenting author.
- Times New Roman style, with font size 12 and 1.5 spacing in a single file in MS Word format.

Last date for Abstract Submission: 20.02.2025
Acceptance and Confirmation: 25.02.2025
Last date for Full Paper Submission: 01.03.2025

Abstract and full paper submission to
sparksswsju2025@gmail.com

Registration

**Register for the conference
by scanning the QR code below.**



Registration fees
SJU students - Rs 150/-
Indian delegates - Rs 1000/-
Paper presenters - Rs 2000/-
Foreign delegates - Rs 2000/-

**Scan the QR code below
for the registration payment**



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Faculty Members,
School of Social Work

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Advancing Sustainability

Transitions for People and Planet:

The Road Ahead

4th & 5th
March 2025
9: 00am - 5: 00pm

**REGISTER
NOW**



VERDE VOX

DEBATE

Competition

Engage in the art of argument-where ideas clash
and perspectives evolve!!

Theme

ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITIONS FOR
PEOPLE AND PLANET: THE ROAD AHEAD

05

March
2025

St. Joseph's PG Block



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Maintain professionalism and avoid personal attacks.
2. Interruptions, and offensive language are prohibited.
3. Each team must consist of 3-5 members.
4. Claims should be backed by facts, statistics, or expert opinions.
5. Speakers must adhere to the given time limits.
6. Address and counter the opposing team's arguments logically.
7. Each segment will follow strict time limits.
8. Winners will receive certificates.



The background of the entire image is a vibrant, stylized illustration of a park in autumn. It features trees with yellow and orange foliage, a path, and silhouettes of people in various playful poses. A large, dark red banner is positioned across the upper middle of the image, containing the title 'STREET PLAY' in a gold, serif font. Below the banner is a solid black rectangular area. Further down, a black speech bubble contains white text. At the bottom, two large trash bins are shown: an orange one on the left and a blue one on the right, both with their lids closed. The orange bin has some text on it, which is upside down.

STREET PLAY

"GOSSIPING DUSTBINS" – DIFFERENT TYPES OF
WASTE BINS GOSSIP ABOUT HOW PEOPLE MIX UP
TRASH AND RECYCLING:



INSTRUCTIONS

- A total of 10 minutes, including preparation time, is allotted for the performance.
- A team must consist a minimum of 7 members and a maximum of 12 members inclusive of supporting individuals.
- Each institution is allowed only one entry; multiple entries from the same institution are not permitted.
- Teams are responsible for providing their own costumes and other necessary apparel items.
- Performance scripts should only be in English.
- Participants must submit their script to the competition organizer before the event. The competition will take place at 12pm on 5th March 25.
- Only acoustic and percussion instruments are allowed: the use of electronic instruments is strictly prohibited.
- Any unforeseen situations not covered in the guidelines will be subject to the final decision of the judges.
- The organizing team reserves the right to disqualify any team in case of irregularities or discrepancies.
- Usage of any kind of Plastic or hazardous props is strictly prohibited.
- The use of fire, water, or smoke machines on or near the performance area is at the team's own risk.
- Winners will receive certificates.



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FOR REGISTRATION

<https://forms.gle/WoZtptEa8zSURVrH9>

Further Information
about registration fee
will be updated shortly.

For any kind of Queries,
Contact the Student Co-ordinators:

Mr Abin Joseph: 8921936815

Ms Rachel Christine D'Sena: 8918925733

Ms Anagha Rajesh: 9947523293

