

Programme of the INDAS International Advisory  
Board Meeting  
March 7–8th, 2015, Kyoto

# FINDAS

Center for Contemporary India Studies,  
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies





# FINDAS 1<sup>st</sup> Phase (2010–2014)

## Theme:

Literature, Social Movements, and Gender in  
Contemporary India

## Study Group 1:

The Historicity and Multilayered Nature of Social  
Movements

## Study Group 2:

A Dynamic Analysis of Contemporary India through  
Literature and Language



# FINDAS 1<sup>st</sup> Phase (2010–2014)

- Topics of FINDAS Seminars:

## Various Social Movements in India

e.g. Scavenger's Movements

Indian Films and Their Politics

Domestic Workers

Gandhism in Contemporary India

On Anbedkar

NGOs and Middle Class Politics



# FINDAS 1<sup>st</sup> Phase (2010–2014)

- Topics of FINDAS Seminars:
- Gender Issues in Contemporary India
  - e.g. Political Participation of Women in Panchayats
  - Dalit Feminism
  - Re-thinking the ‘Kerala Model’
  - Sexual Minorities
- Contemporary Indian Literature and Multiple Identities
  - e.g. Literature in Hindi, Marathi, Urdu, Tamil and English
  - Diaspora Literature
  - Hindi Literature in Fiji
  - Re-thinking Tagore
  - Women’s writings



# FINDAS 1<sup>st</sup> Phase (2010–2014)

- Topics of FINDAS Seminars:
- Comparative Studies
  - e.g. The medicalisation of childbirth in India and China
  - Muslims in Japan and Myanmar
  - Untouchability in India and Japan
- Other
  - e.g. Non-violence in the Arab world
  - History Textbooks in India and Pakistan
  - The Context of 'Food Culture'
  - Christianity in Contemporary India
  - The Ideology of Education in India



# FINDAS 1<sup>st</sup> Phase (2010–2014)

## Findings

- The trend of organisations breaking up, resulting in an uncertain direction for social movements
- The gap between so-called middle class activism and the movements/aspirations of subordinate groups
- The need to explore complex situations in which the positive/negative influence of neo-liberal ideology has an impact on various groups and individuals

## Publications:

- ***Voices from the Margins*** (Series, *Contemporary India*, Vol.5)
- ***Handbook of Gender Studies in India*** (in progress)
- ***Handbook of Indian Literatures*** (in progress)



# FINDAS 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase (2015–2019)

## Theme:

Literature, Social Movements, and Gender in South Asia

## Unit 1:

The Practice and Theory of Crisscrossed Social Movements: with Special Reference to Human Relationships and Emotions

## Unit 2:

Social Transformations and Literature



# FINDAS 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase (2015–2019)

## Aims:

- To focus on human relationships and emotions while examining social movements
- To emphasise comparative perspectives while dealing with particular issues such as family, gender relations, literature, and society
- To develop interdisciplinary approaches (such as history, gender studies, and literature)



# FINDAS 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase (2015–2019)

- **Problems at the Moment and Aspirations for the Future:**

- **Characteristics of South Asian Studies in Japan**

- 1–1. (apparently) declining interest in historical research

- 1–2. focus on specific topics with little consideration of the larger picture or discussion of trends/debates in other areas

- 1–3. meticulous use of statistics (especially in the field of economics/economic history)

- **Future Agenda**

- 2–1 joint projects between Gender Studies centres and Literature Studies centres in South Asian countries, as well as with gender studies scholars in other Asian countries



# FINDAS 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase (2015–2019)

- **Problems at the Moment and Aspirations for the Future:**

- **Problem**

3–1. Insufficient/disorganised information regarding young scholars at various universities

3–2. The weak influence of historical studies

3–3. Difficulties in deepening interdisciplinary research

- **Question**

4–1. The impact of Subaltern Studies on young scholars and its negative and/or positive consequences

4–2. On the limit and possibility of discourse analysis