

About the Colloquium

The first Doctoral Colloquium on Economics and Development Studies was organised in August 2023 as part of MIDS Golden Jubilee celebrations with active participation from young scholars working on different aspects of development from leading academic institutes across the country. The second and third editions of MIDS Doctoral Colloquium (November 2024 and October 2025) were marked with active participation of doctoral students from institutions across the country.

MIDS Doctoral Colloquium, now in its fourth edition, provides an opportunity for doctoral students in their advanced stage to present their research to senior scholars in the field, obtain valuable inputs, exchange ideas among peers and contribute to the larger discussion in their respective fields.

Graduate students in India often face challenges in developing their ideas into publishable manuscripts and it is especially so if they are involved in interdisciplinary research. They face unique challenges and complex situations including designing the projects, collecting, processing and interpreting the data from multiple sources and applying relevant methods. Lack of adequate support, guidance, access to resources, often faced by scholars outside premier institutions and cities, makes doctoral research more challenging. Many graduate students do not get adequate training to develop their skills required for academic writing and publishing. The existing curriculum and academic practices do not emphasise on the ethical dimensions of research and academic publication.

The MIDS Doctoral Colloquium focuses on some of these challenges and provide an opportunity for students to present their research, facilitate critical discussion and feedback, encourage interdisciplinary exchange and networking, and for their professional development. It aims to fill some of these gaps by providing a forum for doctoral scholars to present their work, receive scholarly feedback on papers and presentations from faculty and peers outside their own disciplines and institutions, and collectively reflect on various dimensions of research.

Call for Applications

1. MIDS invites applications from scholars engaged in interdisciplinary and cross-cutting research on development, exploring the economic, social, and political aspects of development and policymaking in the country.
2. The colloquium will be held across three days comprising two invited lectures and eight technical sessions organised for participants to present their work.
3. Each session will include 4–5 presentations by doctoral students followed by detailed responses from senior scholars in the field and open interactions.
4. The participants will receive critical feedback on their research, gain a deeper understanding of interdisciplinary nature of economics and development studies, network with other scholars and potential collaborators, and reflect on new developments in the field.
5. The interdisciplinary nature of the colloquium fosters dialogue among scholars from different fields, contributing to a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities of development worldwide.

Focus Areas

Applications are invited from broad areas of economics and development studies. Thematic focus includes, but not limited to:

- macro economy,
- trade and finance,
- growth and development,
- agriculture and food security,
- industry,
- employment and livelihoods,
- migration,
- gender,
- governance,
- environment,
- ecology,
- urban studies,
- public policy,
- education,
- health, and
- other development issues viewed from economics, sociology, political science, history and anthropology perspectives.

Best Paper Awards

Based on the feedback received and recommendation of the expert review committee, best paper awards (certificates and cash prizes) will be selected under two categories: economics and development studies.

How to Apply

- Applications must be submitted via the Google Form link only.
- [CLICK HERE](#) or scan QR to access the Google Form to apply.
- Applications through any other form will not be considered.



Requirements and Selection Criteria

1. Applications are invited exclusively from scholars who have completed their registration for PhD at any recognised institution in India.
2. The doctoral research may be related to any area of economics and development studies.
3. Interested candidates may submit an extended abstract (750–1000 words) along with their updated CV and supporting documents proving a valid PhD registration. Applications without supporting documents shall not be considered.
4. Based on the evaluation of extended abstract and review of supporting documents, a limited number of participants will be selected for the colloquium to present their work. Selected candidates will receive intimation on selection and further guidelines for preparing the full paper and deadline for submission.
5. Participation / presentation in the doctoral colloquium is subject to submission of full papers on prescribed time.

Guidelines for Submitting Abstract / Full Paper

1. The proposed paper should be based on the scholar's doctoral research.
2. The abstract must have:
 - a. the title of the paper,
 - b. the full name of the author,
 - c. and text highlighting the design, broad background / context of the study, framework, methods, and key findings of the research (if any).
3. Broadly, it should explain research problem, motivation behind it, research questions, as well as research methodology. This could include scientific and technical strengths, challenges, and respective research results obtained so far, as well as future developments.
4. The full paper should contain a shorter abstract, 4–6 keywords, with word count between 5,000–8,000 and follow the standard format and ethical guidelines.

Travel and Accommodation

Selected participants will receive partial support for travelling (AC three tier train ticket will be reimbursed) and shared accommodation for three days.

Publication Opportunity

Best papers may be considered for publication in the MIDS Journal [Review of Development and Change](#) co-published with SAGE.

Important Dates

- Last date for receiving applications : 24 August 2026
- Notification of Acceptance : 31 August 2026
- Last date for submitting the full paper : 17 September 2026
- Doctoral Colloquium : 28–30 September 2026

Enquiries

For enquiries, please write to the coordinators:

- K Jafar, Assistant Professor, MIDS (jafar@mids.ac.in)
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About MIDS

Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), founded by Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah in 1971, studies the development problems of India, with a special focus on Tamil Nadu. Since 1977, MIDS has been a national institute funded jointly by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and the Government of Tamil Nadu. MIDS' research encompasses key areas such as development and planning, centre–state relationships, poverty and inequality, agrarian issues, gender studies, social movements, and caste and communal politics.

MIDS has made remarkable contributions to development policy and programme evaluation in the state of Tamil Nadu in particular and India in general. The Institute's PhD programme, affiliated with the University of Madras, is indispensable in promoting social science teaching and training. The key objectives of the institute revolve around conducting interdisciplinary research and educational activities to promote social sciences and furthering development. An underlying focus of activities is also the country's southern region with a special emphasis on 'weaker sections.'