About IIT Kharagpur









Kharagpur - a dusty town tucked away in the eastern corner of India, famous until 1950 as home to the longest railway platform in the world - became the nursery where the seed of the IIT system was planted in 1951. IIT Kharagpur started its journey in the old Hijli Detention Camp in Eastern India, where some of the country's great freedom fighters toiled and sacrificed their lives for India's independence. Spurred by the success of IIT Kharagpur, four younger IITs sprouted around the country in the two following decades, and from these five came thousands of IITians, the brand ambassadors of modern India. It was the success of this one institution at Kharagpur that wrote India's technological odyssey.

The Institute takes pride in its relentless effort to provide the best platform for both education as well as research in the areas of science and technology, infrastructure designs, entrepreneurship, law, management, and medical science and technology.

Program Features/ Structure

Classroom lectures – **70%**

Assignments- 10%

In-class Activities: 20%

Program Schedule and Venue

15th Jan-20th Feb 2027
(4:00 PM – 6:00 PM)
IIT Kharagpur – Humanities and Social Sciences
(ONLINE MODE)

Program Fee

INR 1000 for IIT Kharagpur students
INR 3000 for IIT Kharagpur faculty
For others –
INR 1,800/- Researchers
INR 1500/- Outsider Student
INR 5000/- Industry
INR 2500/- IIT Kharagpur non-faculty
INR 1000- Volunteers

Who will benefit (Eligibility)

B.Sc, BA, MA, MPHIL, MBA, PHD Diploma students in Sociology/Anthropology/History/Development Studies/Geography/Political Science OR in a MA/Msc/MPhil program (preferable with Sociology/Anthropology/History/Development Studies/Geography/Political Science

Last day of Registration

12

January 2027

Accommodation

The course will run online. Accommodation is not needed.

How to Apply

Use the link: **https://erp.iitkgp.ac.in/CEP/courses.htm** to apply ONLINE.

Signup → Login → Profile Fillup → Choose a Program → Apply Now

Payment if applicable is to be done **ONLINE** after getting short listed for the program.

Contact Us

Dr. Archana Patnaik
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Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
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Short-term self-sponsored course on

Food Systems Governance: Politics and Transformations

By
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

15th Jan 2027- 20th Feb 2027
12 Hours

Introduction / Overview

The course draws on diverse disciplines and approaches from across the social sciences to provide students with different perspectives on the governance and politics of food system transformations and will introduce tools for analyzing, engaging with, critiquing, and imagining future food systems. It will also focus on the potential of urban food policy and governance. The module will consider the diverse ways cities around the world are engaging with food to advance justice, sustainability, democracy, and livable futures more broadly. Students will learn cases of food system transformations from diverse social science theories, which will help them to understand and attempt to design resource-efficient, scalable solutions to the global challenges of the food problem. Students who want to pursue research and a career in social sciences will find that the course will provide conceptual and methodological tools to understand food systems and the politics surrounding it.

Program Objectives

The course aims to develop participant's ability to understand key contributions and limitations of social science approaches for food system transformations. It will enable participants to:

- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of different social science theories in relation to food system transformations. Reflect on the roles of diverse stakeholders (including researchers) in food system transformations.
- Approach the study of food, health and society using critical and creative methodologies to enhance understanding while maintaining complexity.
- Analyze relations between food, health, and society in relation to urban food policies Critically evaluate (urban) food policies from justice perspectives.
- Formulate recommendations to address challenges at the nexus of food, health, and society.

What you will learn

Program Content

Lecture 1: Introduction to food systems

Lecture 2: Food governance: a global perspective

Lecture 3: Power and the food system

Lecture 4: Multistakeholder governance: what's at stake?

Lecture 5: Justice and food systems

Lecture 6: The risks of food system transformations

Explain what food systems and systems thinking are.

- Can define a resilience framework in relation to food systems.
- Can explain the difference between governance and policy.
- Can identify different actors in the food system and reflect on their relational power.
- Can apply the power cube tool.
- Can define multistakeholder governance.
- Can define justice.
- Understand different food system justice frameworks.
- Can articulate strengths and limitations of different food system justice frameworks.
- Can identify important risks and limitations in discourses around food system transformation.

Course Instructor

Dr. Jessica Duncan

Dr. Jessica Duncan is an Associate Professor at Rural Sociology Group, Wageningen University and Research, The Netherlands. She is a researcher and an educator pioneering new ways of understanding the politics of food systems and rural futures, particularly across Europe with a focus on generational renewal and gender equality. She studies this at the intersection of social movements and formal policy processes. From an interdisciplinary perspective, she weaves together methods and theories to lead research and deliver impact on the politics of rural transformations and academic culture.

Fields of Expertise: food governance, rural sociology, food policy, gender, transformation, social movements, generational renewal

Co-Coordinator

Dr. Archana Patnaik

Dr. Archana Patnaik is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur. Her research interests include community based natural resource management and common studies, rural sociology, urban sociology, gender, and technology.