

LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI

Loyola College, established in 1925 by the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), is a Catholic minority institution that aims to offer university education in a Christian environment to deserving students of all backgrounds, irrespective of caste or creed. Affiliated with the University of Madras and autonomous since 1978, Loyola College is acclaimed for its academic excellence and progressive teaching and evaluation practices across undergraduate, postgraduate, and Ph.D. programs.

PG AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

The Department of Sociology, Loyola College, was started in 1983 with a mission to offer both the students and faculty an opportunity and environment to engage with the major debates in Humanities and Social Sciences, as well as foster minds that observe, discern, and raise new and critical questions on the social world and eventually contribute to knowledge production in the discipline. Today, the department offers undergraduate, postgraduate, and Ph.D. programmes in Sociology.

SUBMISSION AT A GLANCE

The research papers are expected to be based on original research and should provide theoretical as well as empirical analysis and insights into the discipline of Sociology. The research paper should be previously unpublished to be taken into consideration for presentation at the conference. Only the papers that pass peer review and are approved by the editorial board will be published.

The length of the paper should not exceed 8000 words, including bibliography and footnotes. Font style and font size should be Times New Roman and 12 pt, respectively, with a line spacing of 1.5. The abstract should not exceed 500 words.

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PG and Research
Department of Sociology
organises

Dr. Xavier Britto Annual Endowment
International Conference
on the theme

Rethinking Pathways to
Sustainable Societies

17 & 18 February 2027



CONCEPT NOTE

Ever since *Our Common Future*, sustainability has become the defining theme that has catapulted global frameworks reconciling development and environmental protection. Its growing institutional prominence, however, has not fundamentally altered the structures that produce ecological degradation and social inequality. Dominant sustainability approaches continue to frame sustainability as compatible with resource-intensive production. Sustainability thus risks becoming a managerial response to ecological crisis rather than a critical interrogation of the social arrangements that produce it. The question, therefore, is not simply how societies can become sustainable, but what forms of social organisation make particular pathways to sustainability possible, for whom, and at whose cost.

This question acquires new significance as technological transformations increasingly mediate the relationship between society and nature. Artificial intelligence, digital infrastructures and data-driven economies are often imagined as instruments of efficiency and sustainable development. Yet their apparent immateriality obscures material dependencies on energy, water, and minerals. The technological reorganisation of social life consequently reveals a deeper contradiction between the pursuit of sustainability and the reproduction of the very logics of accumulation and consumption. These contradictions also take shape through unequal social conditions. War and militarisation reveal systems of organised violence, produce displacement, livelihood loss and health risks, while caste, class and gendered relations of labour, access and power shape both vulnerability to environmental harm and participation in decisions about ecological futures.

Sustainability, therefore, cannot be understood through universal solutions detached from questions of power and inequality. Rethinking pathways to sustainable societies throws attention to the possibilities that can emerge beyond dominant institutional arrangements. This conference seeks to critically examine these alternative imaginaries and pathways, asking how societies might move from sustainability as a technical imperative towards a more just, participatory and ecologically grounded form of collective life.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The conference invites papers with insights into areas related to the theme. **“Rethinking Pathways to Sustainable Societies.”** We look forward to contributions that explore, but are not limited to:

Institutions and Social Transformation

Sustainable governance, Democratic participation, Education, Environmental movements.

Livelihoods and Alternative Development

Green economy, Decent work, Food systems, Care economies.

Technology, Innovation and Ethical Boundaries

Digitalisation and AI, Energy transitions, Science and Technological change, Digital surveillance.

Risks and Resilient Urban Centres

Urban disasters, Housing and infrastructure, Migration and displacement, Poverty and inequality.

Inequalities and Inclusive Societies

Caste, class, race and gendered vulnerabilities, Tribal communities, Resource conflicts.

Health and Well-being

Public health, Mental health, Ageing and care, Hygiene and sanitation.

Human-Nature Relations

Climate change and adaptation, Natural resources, Oceans and marine environments, Environmental justice, Ecological restoration.

Knowledge, Cultures & Futures of Sustainability

Decolonial approaches, Feminist perspectives, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Grassroots development, Post-developmental approaches.

IMPORTANT DATES

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

16 December, 2026

SELECTION NOTIFICATION

28 December, 2026

FINAL PAPER SUBMISSION & LAST DATE FOR REGISTRATION

16 January, 2027

CONFERENCE

17 & 18 February, 2027

REGISTRATION FEE

STUDENTS

₹300

RESEARCH SCHOLARS

₹750

FACULTY MEMBERS

₹1000

CORPORATES

₹2,000

FOREIGN DELEGATES

₹5000

To Register

<https://erp.loyolacollege.edu/loyolaonline/conference>

For queries & submission of abstracts:

conferencesociology@loyolacollege.edu

Or contact: **9841493387**