

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS  
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI  
DELHI – 110 007

2/3/2024

**FRIDAY RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM**

You are cordially invited to the  
Friday colloquium of the Department

By

**PROF. SUJATA PATEL**  
(Professor of Sociology (Retd)  
University of Hyderabad)

who will present a paper

on

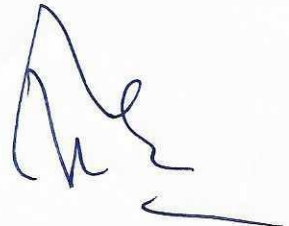
**“THE PROMISE OF GLOBAL SOCIAL THEORY:  
THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ANTI-COLONIAL PERSPECTIVES”**

on

**Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 at 3:00 PM**

in

Room No: 10 (First Floor),  
**Prof. M. N. Srinivas Seminar Room**  
Department of Sociology



(DR. TILA KUMAR

&

PROF. JANAHI ABRAHAM)

Co-Convenors,

Friday Research Colloquium (2023-24)

Friday Research Colloquium

8/3/2024

**Prof. Sujata Patel**

Professor (Retd)., University of Hyderabad

**"The Promise of Global Social Theory:  
The Contributions of Anti-Colonial Perspectives"**

**ABSTRACT**

Social theory is meta theory, that is, it is a reflection on and about assumptions that are needed to comprehend the 'social'; it is a sociological understanding of philosophical pre-requisites and combines critical and normative perspectives in its search to comprehend society.

This presentation is divided into two parts.

In the first part, I will discuss the developments that led the Euro-American traditions of sociology in the late 70s and 80s to move from its original understanding of the field as a positivist social science mapped around sociological theory(ies) (substantive theories of structure and change) to its new understanding of it as being social theory. In this part of the presentation I will discuss the reasons that led to the breakdown of the paradigm and elaborate its new concerns regarding meta theories and social theory.

The second part of the presentation will deliberate on theoretical interventions in non-Euro-American traditions and discusses the meta-theoretical perspectives (which I call anti-colonial perspective) that has evolved in Latin America, Africa and Asia. It will argue that its concerns are similar to those within contemporary Euro-American traditions on social theory.

It asks whether a conversation between these two traditions can lead to a new conception of social theory as global social theory thereby breaking the divisions of knowledge constructions between the two hemispheres-the North and the South.