

FRIDAY

# RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

*Conversations on society since 1960*

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**  
Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi  
<http://sociology.du.ac.in/sociological-research-colloquium/>

FRIDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022 AT 3:00 PM  
SRINIVAS SEMINAR ROOM, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

GISÈLE  
SAPIRO



## MODES OF INTERVENTION OF PUBLIC INTELLECTUALS IN FRANCE

### **Abstract:**

Contrary to most sociological approaches to public intellectuals, this presentation focuses on the form rather than the content of their interventions. Ideal-typical models of the political commitment of intellectuals can be differentiated according to the three main factors which structure the intellectual field – the amount of symbolic capital they command; the degree of autonomy they have with respect to political demands; and their degree of specialization. Drawing on Bourdieu's field theory, it is possible to relate the positions taken to the positions agents occupy through the concept of 'posture'. I will show how a combination of these three factors has shaped the different modes and postures of political intervention – including Gramsci's 'organic intellectual', Foucault's 'specific intellectual' and Bourdieu's 'collective intellectual' – at work in France and in the transnational intellectual field.

### **The Speaker:**

**Gisèle Sapiro** is Professor of Sociology at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales and Research director at the CNRS (Centre européen de sociologie et de science politique). Her areas of interest are the sociology of culture, literature, intellectuals, translation, and law, as well as the epistemology and history of the social and human sciences. Apart from many French books, her works available in English include *French Writers' War* (tr. 2014), *Ideas on the move in the Social Sciences and Humanities* (2020, co-edited), and *The Sociology of Literature* (forthcoming 2022).