

An Indian-Australian research partnership

<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Women Without Fear: Gender-based Violence, Urban Transport and Public Space in Metropolitan India.</b>	
<b>Project Number</b>	HSS0507	
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<b>IITB Department:</b>	Humanities and Social Sciences	

## Research Academy Themes:

**Highlight which of the Academy's Theme(s) this project will address?**

(Feel free to nominate more than one. For more information, see [www.iitbmonash.org](http://www.iitbmonash.org))

1. Advanced computational engineering, simulation and manufacture
2. Infrastructure Engineering
3. Clean Energy
4. Water
5. Nanotechnology
6. Biotechnology and Stem Cell Research
- 7. Humanities and Social Sciences**

## The research problem

*Define the problem*

In the wake of rising incidences of brutal violence against 'mobile' women, this project proposes to investigate gendered violence and vulnerability in metropolitan transport systems and urban public spaces in major cities in India. In an era when technological innovation is seen to be the answer to endemic socio-cultural issues governing access, this project asks whether destigmatising public transport and implementing surveillance mechanisms can provide answers to entrenched environments of socio-cultural exclusion and everyday violence against women. This study will examine the factors governing urban mobility and access for women with respect to spatial tangibles and societal intangibles in three cities of differing population sizes, differing transport-related condition and requirements, civic society ethos and mobilisations.

## Project aims

*Define the aims of the project*

Gendered violence in public spaces and urban transport is not restricted to metropolitan areas in developing nations only. Given that gendered violence in public spaces has a direct correlation to gendered violence in private spaces, and to societal and cultural norms embedded in such violence the world over, no generalisations can be made about the safety and security of women and alternatively gendered bodies in developed versus developing nations. This project aims to explore the parametres of gendered violence along the following lines, but is not limited to them:

- Definition and the analysis of public space in metropolitan India
- Class, ethnicity and migrancy in contemporary urban spaces
- What constitutes "cultures of violence against women"?
- Human geography and the mapping of urban spaces
- The representation of gendered violence in media
- Civil society, public transport and urban spaces
- Young activism, agency and gender violence

## Expected outcomes

*Highlight the expected outcomes of the project*

By identifying the complex interweave of social, cultural, attitudinal and infrastructural factors governing violence against women in public spaces and urban transport in metropolitan India, this project hopes to contribute towards a nuanced understanding of the academic literature in the field as well as make concrete reports for government and civic bodies with suggestions to influence policy on this increasingly significant matter that has an effect on the development and flourishing of women in all aspects of public, private and personal lives.

## How will the project address the Goals of the above Themes?

*Describe how the project will address the goals of one or more of the 6 Themes listed above.*

The project addresses the 7<sup>th</sup> theme that has been added – Humanities and Social Sciences. It will be an interdisciplinary project bringing together feminist literary, cultural and media studies, sociology, human geography

## Capabilities and Degrees Required

*List the ideal set of capabilities that a student should have for this project. Feel free to be as specific or as general as you like. These capabilities will be input into the online application form and students who opt for this project will be required to show that they can demonstrate these capabilities.*

Students should have a Masters in English, Women's Studies, Comparative Literature, or an allied discipline in Humanities and Social Sciences. MPhil not mandatory but strongly preferred. A proposal, no longer than 1000 words, with a specific topic and indicating research question, is to be submitted.

## Potential Collaborators

*Please visit the IITB website [www.iitb.ac.in](http://www.iitb.ac.in) OR Monash Website [www.monash.edu](http://www.monash.edu) to highlight some potential collaborators that would be best suited for the area of research you are intending to float.*

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Dr Swati Parashar: [swati.parashar@monash.edu](mailto:swati.parashar@monash.edu)

Please provide a few key words relating to this project to make it easier for the students to apply.

Gender/Class/Caste, Studies in Public-Personal-Private Space, Urban Design and Built Environments, Geographies of the City,