3. Cultural diversity, Multiculturalism, and Interculturalism

The emergence of numerous intellectual and political movements by the non-dominant groups such as the indigenous people, ethnic minorities, and immigrants has invigorated the debates on multiculturalism in India and Europe. A practise that European nations embraced, forty years ago, to create a more diverse and inclusive society, today is questioning the very idea of it. Multiculturalism has become a proxy for political and social issues that have polarised European society: immigration, citizenship, identity. Different countries have adopted different approaches, while France has rejected multicultural policies in favour of assimilationist ones, the UK, on the other hand, has embraced a more intercultural outlook. How did these transformations come about? A deeper introspection of both, multiculturalism and interculturalism, affirms that both these concepts developed as a narrative towards the management of cultural diversity within nation-states in order to redefine the ideas of nationality, citizenship, and rights.

Research questions under this thematic field include the following:
- The relevance of multiculturalism, interculturalism in today's society
- Multiculturalism and collective identity
- Multiculturalism as a response to cultural diversity?

Dr Praveen Shetty successfully completed his doctoral research under Prof Neeta Inamdar in 2017. His doctoral thesis titled, '*Exploring Newer Dimensions in Intercultural Communication through Indian Multiculturality*', examined the validity of intercultural communication theory of Hofstede in the context of domestic diversity of India. It attempted to provide a new cultural dimension to understanding the dynamics of domestic diversity in intercultural communication.

Sharal Correa's doctoral thesis titled, '*Transcultural Chronicle of Christian Priests in India: Interrogating the Cultural Encounters*', explores how mobility affects religion and the individuals propagating the same interact and integrate with the society and its culture they are exposed to. It introspects the notions of transculturalism, contact-zones, integration, and mobility.