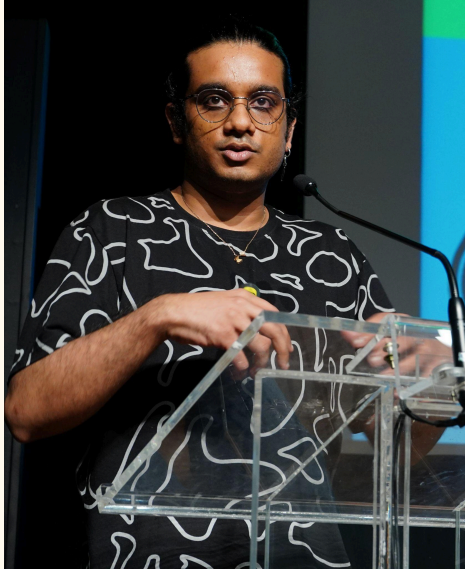


Trans as Transformation: Queer, Transgender and Intersex Persons in the Indian Science Ecosystem



Sayantan Datta (they/them) is an assistant professor at the Centre for Writing and Pedagogy, Krea University, and an independent science journalist. Their research and writing are at the intersections of science, gender, sexuality, caste, and health. Their work has been funded by the UK Research Initiative's *Transforming Education for Sustainable Futures* project, the National Association for Science Writers, USA, and the ReFrame Institute for Arts and Expression. Their report on gendered infrastructures in Indian science institutions won them the 13th Laadli Media Awards for Gender Sensitivity in Journalism and Advertising, and their children's book *The Plant Whisperer* has been listed on the Parag Honour List 2023.

Abstract: In the recent past, there has been a rising acknowledgement of the exclusionary tendencies of the (Indian) science ecosystem. This talk adds to the conversation by highlighting how queer, transgender, and intersex persons are marginalized in the Indian science ecosystem. I will begin by charting a history of science that constructs some sexes, genders, and sexualities as 'abnormal' or 'unnatural'. Then, I will draw from my recently concluded project on the lived experiences of transgender and intersex persons in the science ecosystem to focus on infrastructural, classroom, and community practices in Indian science institutions that work against people from non-normative genders and sexualities. I will finally discuss the impact of such exclusionary tendencies on science practice and scientific progress. Since this talk intends to provide a vocabulary to reflect on the experiences of non-normative genders and sexualities in science in India; people from all backgrounds are welcome to attend.

2.00 PM, 01 March 2024

Feynman Lecture Hall, ICTS.

Online

<https://icts-res-in.zoom.us/j/95671866470?pwd=ak1uVFRGVFlSeXR5YXM5RXFzZUYxZz09>

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