

The Challenges of Social Science Research on Borders and Borderlands

A two-day workshop on *The Challenges of Social Science Research on Borders and Borderlands*, organized by the Institute of Development Studies Kolkata (IDSK) jointly with the Centre for Studies on Borders and Movements (CSBM), was held on 5-6 December 2025. Professor Sipra Mukherji, Department of English, West Bengal State University, Barasat, Dr Anindita Ghosal, Department of History, Diamond Harbour Women's University and Dr Gorky Chakraborty, IDSK were the convenors of the conference.

Border spaces are often politically sensitive, geographically remote, and socially complex, making them difficult to access, navigate, and analyse. International borders between nation states as well as state-borders between provinces are usually spaces of immense complexity. At the same time, they are sometimes also sites of intense state control, on-going political tensions, and significant socioeconomic disparities. Research on non-geographical borderlands, such as the margins of gender and sexual identities, linguistic and regional identities, caste and class identities, provincial and urban identities, and such abstract borders came into the discussion and were also touched upon by the Resource Persons in their presentations. The paper submissions were from a range of disciplines, including anthropology, culture studies, literature, economics, geography, history, political science and sociology.