



## Situating Social Sciences in the Big Data Revolution



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**Bio:** Dr. Ekta Singh is an Assistant Professor in Public Policy and Governance in the School of Global Affairs at Ambedkar University Delhi. Before joining AUD, she taught at TISS, Hyderabad in the School of Public Policy & Governance. Dr. Singh's doctoral research looks at the interface between welfare and neo-liberalism in post-liberalization India through the lens of governance reforms. Her research interests primarily encompass the political economy of development, politics of welfare, comparative social policy, and governance issues. She is currently interested in critically analyzing the interface between technology and public policy.

**Abstract:** Big data in the form of large voluminous data sets generated at increasing speed from varied sources and with variable nature has attracted widespread attention of researchers across the spectrum of disciplines. As an information base that may be analyzed computationally to reveal patterns, trends and associations especially relating to human behaviour and interactions, big data is visualized as a transformative tool not only for natural but also social sciences. The potential promise and also dangers of 'big data' for modes of inquiry in social sciences have increasingly been debated in recent times. On one side is the optimism that 'big data' in the form of large data sets can generate insights that were previously impossible adding to the repertoire of knowledge in social sciences. On the other hand, usage of 'big data' to analyze social reality has also invited sceptics as concerns are raised about possible misuse of big data for manipulation and surveillance. Given the excitement and concerns with the possibility of a data intensive social science, the paper seeks to investigate the role of social sciences in converting these data sets into meaningful information. Instead of seeing the emergent context as a scenario where social sciences need to adapt to the data based analytics, the paper asserts that social sciences need to reclaim a central place in research facilitated by big data.

Date: **26 August 2020, Wed**

Time: **04:00 – 5:30 pm**

Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/fvg-wnor-gyq>

