Myth and Morality – SRFs call for application

Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology (TIET), ACT Centre, and the Thapar School of Liberal Arts and Sciences (TSLAS), Patiala, invite applications for two Senior Research Fellows (SRFs) on the interdisciplinary project "Myths and Morality". The interdisciplinary project explores the relation between classical Indian myths and moral theories. Myths such as the Ramayana, Mahabharata and Jātaka tales present morally charged journeys in which characters negotiate complex dilemmas. Building on Raimondi & Jain (2024), the project aims at (a) analysing narrative explanations in mythologies as epistemic devices aimed at mapping moral topologies, rather than guiding actions directly, and (b) understanding the relation between moral particularism, exemplarist virtue ethics, and moral narratives.

We currently offer two SRF positions in the project for the duration of 14 months:

• SRF 1 (philosophy) – AOC: Ethics, Epistemology, Indian Philosophy
• SRF 2 (religious/cultural Studies/Narratology) – AOC: Buddhist/Jain/Hindu Studies

Essential Requirements:

• Excellent academic writing skills in English (for SRF1,2);
• Ability to work full-time in Patiala or remote-hybrid with periodic campus visits (for SRF1,2);
• At least one manuscript relevant to the project (published or unpublished) of max 7000 words (for SRF1,2);
• Demonstrable research interest in at least one relevant area of investigation supported by the project (for SRF1,2);
• Demonstrable ability to work with mythological sources (for SRF2);
• MA degree relevant to the topics of the project (for SRF 2) with a minimum of two years of research experience.
• MA degree in Philosophy (for SRF 1) with a minimum of two years of research experience.

Desired Profile:

• PhD completed (or near completion) in Mythology Studies, Indian Philosophy (broadly understood), or Ethics/Epistemology (for SRF1,2);
• Demonstrable research program in Mythological Studies and/or Narratology (for SRF2);
• Demonstrable research program in Indian Epistemology and/or Indian Ethics (for SRF1).
• Dealing with the original Sanskrit texts/Buddhist Pali texts may be preferred.

How to Apply

Please send your application to andrea.raimondi@thapar.edu, cc to act@thapar.edu. Please send the email with the subject line "SRF Application – [Your Name]". Please include in you email: (i) cover letter indicating the post you are applying for, (ii) full CV, (iii) one writing sample (≤ 7000 words) published or unpublished, (iv) a two-pages research statement describing how the candidate could contribute to the project, (v) copies of academic transcripts), and (vi) names/contact details of two referees.

The remuneration consists of 42k rupees per month + 9% HRA. The application closes on the

1st of September, and interviews will commence on the 15th. The starting date for the post is the end of October.

For any queries, please contact Andrea Raimondi (andrea.raimondi@thapar.edu).

We look forward to your application.