

REPORT ON RESEARCH WORKSHOP

Workshop Title: Research for Master's Dissertation

Details of Resource Person: Ms. Moumita Mukherjee, a Teaching Assistant at the SSIS and a former student, led the research session in a virtual format. She has relevant experience in Research through her internships at Tata Trust, Mumbai, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace etc.

Photograph with date and captions



Screenshot of virtual workshop on Research conducted on February 5, 2021.

Report

The Symbiosis School of International Studies (SSIS) hosted a research workshop for its first and second year Master's students on February 5, 2021. Ms. Moumita Mukherjee, a Teaching Assistant at the SSIS and a former student, led the research session in a virtual format. The objective of the workshop was to demonstrate why the practise of writing a Master's dissertation is important in honing one's writing, analytical and research skills. The workshop covered the following topics: 1) simplifying and understanding research methods from a student's perspective, 2) emphasising the importance of ethics in research, 3) methods for conducting an empirical study, 4) key areas to look out for in research, and 5) referencing and citing sources.

Ms. Moumita began by discussing how students might enjoy research rather than view it as a tough deliverable at the conclusion of their Master's programme. Reading and interrogating existing material was emphasized in order for students to draw fresh conclusions based on what they had read and analyzed. This was followed by a step-by-step explanation of how to formulate a research question and narrow down a topic. Following that, students were invited to volunteer and discuss their broad research ideas with their peers, who were then requested to cross-question their research ideas in an organized manner in order to help the students narrow their research ideas and make them more objective. This exercise was well received by both the batches of students, who considered it a beneficial exercise in critically narrowing down their research topics. After this activity, the workshop focused on elements of literature review, research design and research methods, classification and comparison of qualitative analysis types, understanding the importance of ethics in research, and finally, a discussion on practical tools used in conducting an empirical study. The need for obtaining participant consent and retaining an unbiased perspective while preparing and executing interviews and focused group discussions was also emphasized.

The session came to a close with a technical explanation of how to reference and cite literary and primary sources in a Master's dissertation, as well as a critical reminder of the need to keep the research coherent, objective, and easy to understand.

