



# Call for Papers

Last Date for Submission **22 Aug**  
**2026**

## Cracks and Crossovers

Aesthetics of Rupture in  
Visual Culture, Performance  
and Media Practices

Graduate Conference led by the students of School  
of Arts & Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University

From **30 Oct** to **1 Nov** 2026 \*

For any queries email - [saaconference2026@gmail.com](mailto:saaconference2026@gmail.com)

# Cracks and Crossovers

## Aesthetics of Rupture in Visual Culture, Performance and Media Practices

The graduate students of the School of Arts & Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, are organising an interdisciplinary conference on the theme of *Cracks & Crossovers*, exploring their presence and reflection in visual culture, performances and media practices. The theme responds to the urgency of living in a time when systemic limits become visible through cracks. It asks how we register the differences between categories such as *crisis*, *fragment* and *fracture*. Do these terms signal a definitive rupture or an ongoing change? Or do our times demand a new perspective that allows the cracks to speak? Taking a cue from *The Cracked Mirror* (2012), the conference seeks to explore the many perspectives that are refracted through the mirror's shards.

Across plural and asymmetric histories, artistic and cultural practices are understood as a complex process marked by discontinuities. In dismantling grand narratives, scholars and practitioners have adopted devices that highlight hybrid voices and alternative viewpoints emerging from unequal societies. Diana Taylor (2003) distinguishes between archive and repertoire, where a rupture/ trauma is embodied through reenactments. Tapati Guha Thakurta (2004) reveals how fractures in meanings are exposed, when artefacts transition through time frames. Reconfigured within the digital realm, images not only represent but arise as consequences of algorithmic codes, symbols and ideologies (*Boundary Images*, 2023). Alongside these crossovers as a negotiation between what is broken and what is built, we ask: what slow transformations unfold within the fissures? What lies in the cracks?

We are interested in cracks as epistemic breaks that challenge totalising narratives and open up alternative ways of knowing. This call for papers and practice-based presentations invites interdisciplinary contributions that explore the aesthetics of cracks and ruptures across historical and contemporary contexts within visual histories, performance traditions and cinematic and media practices, including but not limited to:

1. Bodies on the Margins
2. Space, Place & Liminal Geographies
3. Waste & Ecology
4. Affect, Conflict & Hate Culture
5. Everyday Aesthetics
6. Law & Censorship
7. Colour & Abstraction in Artistic Practices
8. Creative Labour & Artistic Crossovers
9. Performance of Trauma & Collective Memories
10. Site-specificity & Museumisation

### Submission Guidelines:

1. Please complete the submission form:  
<https://forms.gle/368HtnevYcYZM3G3A>
2. Submission deadline: August 22, 2026
3. Apply with Title, Abstract (250 - 350 words) & Keywords
4. For practice-based presentation, kindly upload images/audio/visual with a brief description in a pdf format not exceeding 10MBs
5. Conference is open to Master's & PhD students and early career researchers
6. The conference will be conducted in hybrid mode, with both online and offline presentations
7. Incomplete applications and AI generated abstracts will not be entertained

Notification of acceptance will be sent on 15 September. Full papers (up to 2000 words), along with presentations, are to be submitted by 10 October. Participants will be allotted 15 minutes to present.

For further queries please email: [saaconference2026@gmail.com](mailto:saaconference2026@gmail.com)

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