SMUS
Conference India
2023

Report

3rd International and Interdisciplinary Conference on
Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability
&
3rd RC33 Regional Conference Asia: India

20 - 26 February 2023

jointly hosted by

Department of Architecture & Planning and
Department of Humanities & Social Sciences at
Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee)

organized by the **Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability** in association
with Research Committee on "Logic and Methodology in Sociology" (RC33) &
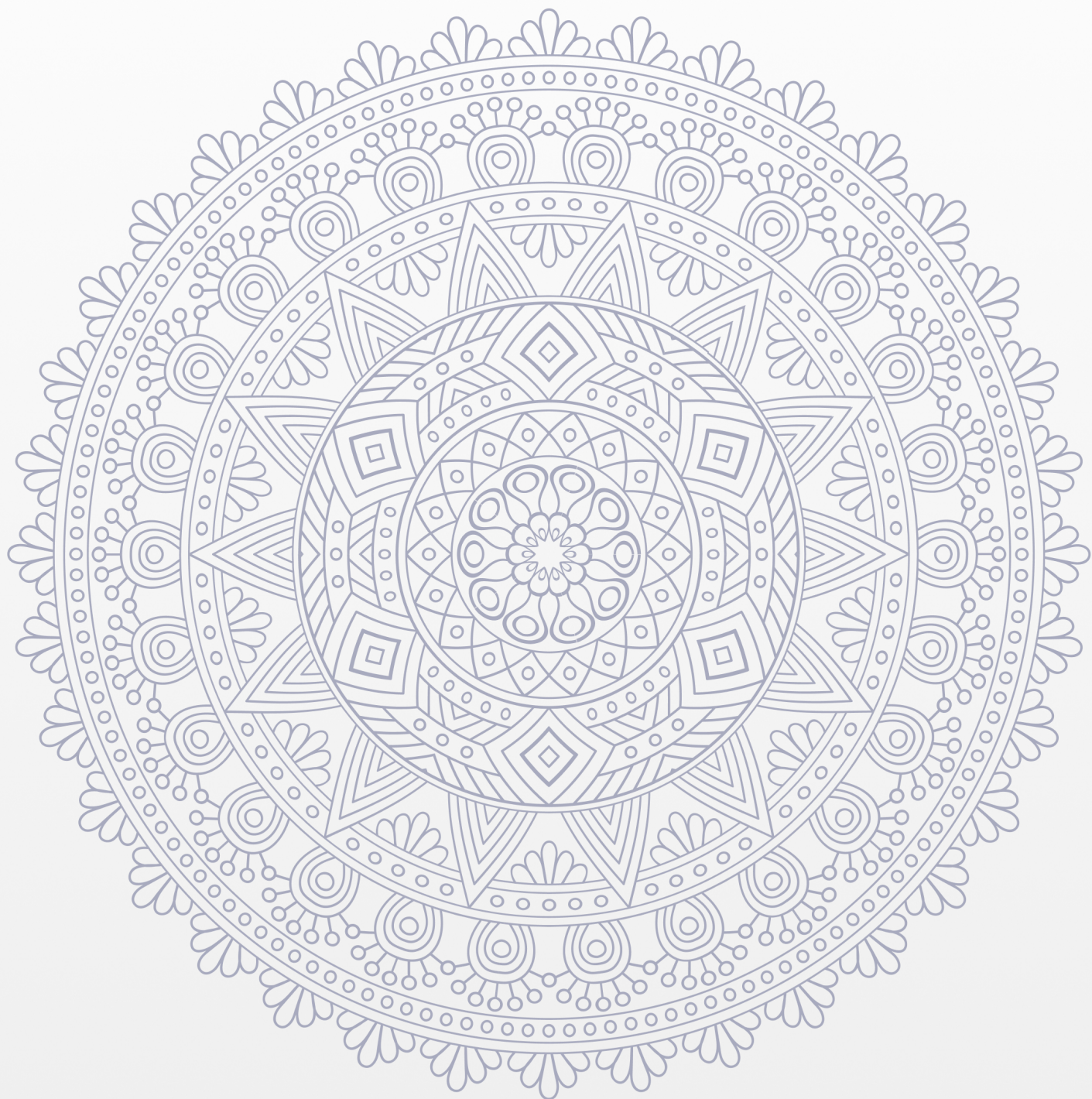Research Network "Quantitative Methods" (RN21)

DAAD exceed
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

IIT ROORKEE

USP

UNIVERSITY of BOTSWANA

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

This report provides an overview to the **3rd International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (SMUS Conference India 2023**) which was simultaneously the **"3rd RC33 Regional Conference Asia: India",** held at the **Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee, India)** from **20th to 26th February 2023.** The prime objective of detailing out the sequence of activities at the conference is to summarize and in turn, analyze the overall performance of this project, which is funded through **DAAD Exceed programme.** In order to evaluate the success of its targets and setting up a benchmark as the first on-site conference in the series, the report is a short compilation of the conference activities and intends to throw light on the overall achievements under various events held at the conference and its reflection in both, statistical terms and on-site experience.

The first section gives an insight to the **aim of organizing the conference** and its role as a driver of knowledge exchange, to build a global network and provide a platform for future research collaborations. The report gives an overview about the conference as a holistic program for doctoral researchers giving then an international exposure by enabling a knowledge connect between Global North to Global South.

The subsequent section includes the **details of all the activities** which were the part of the conference and altogether contributed to set out diverse ways of interactions among the participants joining in from all over the world. This section also enumerates the attendance information for the three major activities within the purview of the conference i.e. PhD day, Advanced Methods Courses and Conference Sessions.

In the third section, the **dossier of the participants' profile** having attended the SMUS Conference India on-site has been included and it is compared alongside the similar data enlisted for SMUS Brazil and SMUS Botswana conferences that were held online. These characteristics include Gender, Professional Background, Disciplinary Fields, Institutional Frameworks, Countries of Origin and World Region, etc. The comparison gives a better overview of the participation in the conferences and would be instrumental in determining areas to be focused for further expansion of the SMUS network. The final section gives a glimpse of the on-ground experience through the compilation of pictures from the six-day conference along with the valuable messages and feedbacks received from the participants for the SMUS Conference team. The design process behind designing SMUS Conference merchandise and promotional items that was to make the overall experience memorable has also been touched upon in this section.

Acknowledgements

We express our sincere gratitude to everyone who was directly or indirectly involved in bringing the **SMUS Conference India 2023** to its new benchmarks of excellence. This would not have been possible without the support, encouragement and guidance of various stakeholders of the conference. In that series, we would like to acknowledge the very kind support and encouragement from **Prof. KK Pant**, Director, IIT Roorkee and **Prof. UP Singh**, Deputy Director, IIT Roorkee for facilitating and providing their extensive and wholehearted support. We would like to thank our key collaborators and SMUS Directors **Prof. Nina Baur** and **Prof. Angela Million** for agreeing to choose to host a conference at IIT Roorkee.

We are grateful to **Dean SRIC** and his office for the smooth coordination of SMUS Conference-related activities. We thank the **Dean of International Relations** and his office for their openness and kind support. We could not have undertaken this journey without **DAAD** for extending financial support through the **Exceed Programme** along with valuable guidance throughout the way and encouragement for other research initiatives.

SMUS Conference India acknowledges the **Session Organisers** for conceptualising diverse themes for the conference, **Methods Trainers** for providing necessary training in their field of expertise to young scholars, **Prof. Gabriela Christmann** for agreeing to take up the PhD day for guiding and motivating young scholars with various aspects of PhD and **SMUS participants** for their valuable contributions in the form of research abstracts/ publications.

We thank **the Co-conveners Prof. Shubhajit Sadhukhan** and **Prof. Manish Kumar Asthana** for their constant support throughout the conference. We express our deep appreciation to **Prof. Anindya Jayanta Mishra**, Head of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Roorkee for his gracious facilitation and kind support. We are extremely grateful to the **GCSMUS Berlin Team**, for the constant reviews and remote support to administer the conference activities. Last but not the least, **SMUS India Team** for their relentless hard work, dedicated efforts and spirited way of putting this conference all together on the ground.

Prof. Gaurav Raheja

Convener

SMUS Conference India 2023

SMUS India Organising Team

The organisation of the **SMUS Conference India 2023** was a collaborative effort of professors, student volunteers, the local service providers and the members of the administration staff of the **Department of Architecture and Planning** and the **Department of Humanities and Social Sciences** of the **Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee.** The efforts were reinforced by handholding with the **SMUS Berlin team**, it would not have been possible to organize the conference and accomplish the conference objectives successfully, without their constant support. Following is the list of SMUS India Organizing team that was involved in overlooking the overall Conference Plan.

Table 1 SMUS Conference India 2023 team

Steering Committee:	
Prof. Dr. Gaurav Raheja	Convener, SMUS Conference; GCSMUS Lead Partner & Action Speaker; Head of Department and Professor, Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee
Prof. Dr. Manish Kumar Asthana	Co-Convener, SMUS Conference; Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Roorkee
Prof. Dr. Shubhajit Sadhukhan	Co-Convener, SMUS Conference; Assistant Professor at the Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee
Prof. Dr. Anindya Jayanta Mishra	Head of Department and Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Roorkee
Prof. Dr. Nina Baur	SMUS Director, Lead Partner and Action Speaker; Professor, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany
SMUS India Conference Administrator:	
Varnita Singh	Project Associate, Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee
Aishwarya Bali	*Project Associate, Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee*

SMUS India Conference Team:

Aishwarya Isha	*PhD Student Assistant, Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee*
Yamuna V M	Former PhD Student Assistant, Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee
Divyang Purkayastha	PhD Student Assistant, Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee
Malothu Santhosh	Undergraduate Student Assistant, Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee
Saloni Sethi	Postgraduate Student Assistant, Department of Design, IIT Roorkee
Sharvari Tambat	Postgraduate Student Assistant, Department of Design, IIT Roorkee
Utkarsha Vinod Kulkarni	Postgraduate Student Assistant, Department of Design, IIT Roorkee
Sharmili Mitra	PhD Student Assistant, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Roorkee
Kaneez Fatima	PhD Student Assistant, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Roorkee
Yashpal Singh	Project Attendant, Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee
Vipin Katariya	Project Attendant, Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
AM	Advanced Methods
DAAD	Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Service)
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DAP	Department of Architecture and Planning
DHSS	Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
GCSMUS	Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability
GNI	Gross National Income
IIT	Indian Institute of Technology
LID	Laboratory of Inclusive Design
NIUA	National Institute of Urban Affairs
ODA	Official Development Assistance
RC33	Research Committee on "Logic And Methodology In Sociology"
RN21	Research Network "Quantitative Methods"
SMUS	Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability
TU	Technische Universität

February 2023

Ph.D day

Tuesday   Wednesday

Conference days

Sunday

20   **21**   **22**   **23**   **24**   **25**   **26**

Monday

Methods Training Courses

Thursday   Friday   Saturday

Excursion

Figure 1 World map showing participating countries
© SMUS India team
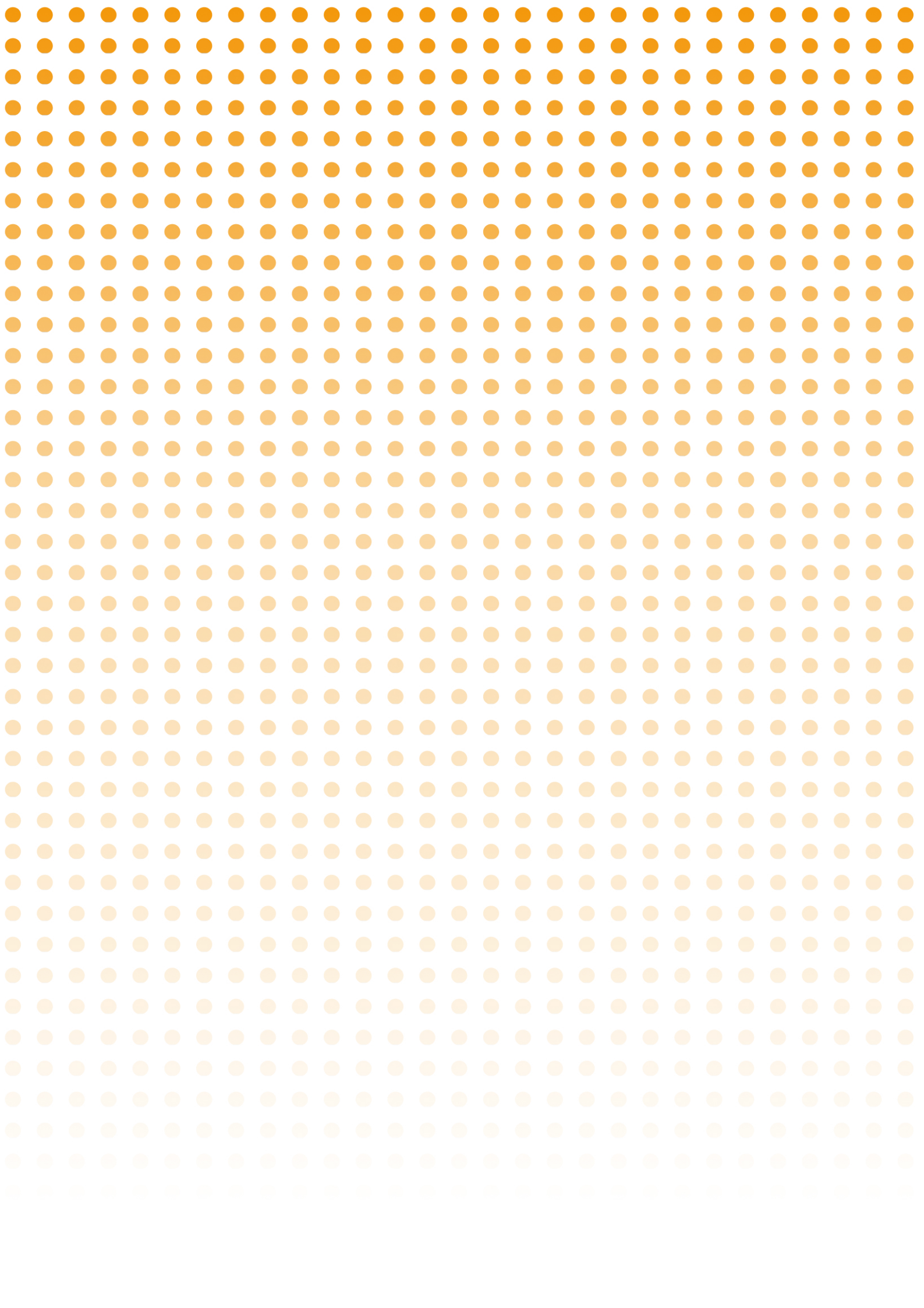
1

SMUS India Conference: An Introduction

1 SMUS India Conference: An Introduction

The **3rd International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability** (SMUS Conference India 2023) was held at the **Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee** (IIT Roorkee, India) from **20th to 26th February 2023.** The conference which was also the **"3rd RC33 Regional Conference Asia: India",** is a part of **Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability** (GCSMUS). The conference, was held in collaboration with the Research Committee on **"Logic and Methodology in Sociology" (RC33)** of the "International Sociology Association" (ISA) and the **Research Network "Quantitative Methods" (RN21)** of the European Sociology Association" (ESA).

The conference was third in the series of annual social-science-methodology conferences under **Action-1 (Educate)** of five Strategic Actions that have been implemented by the GCSMUS, which aims at building a global methodological network via international conferences in the Global South. The SMUS Conference India was also the first on-site conference in the series.

The SMUS Conference India 2023 was conceptualized by the Directors of the conference, **Prof. Nina Baur and Prof. Angela Million** from **Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin)** along with **Prof. Gaurav Raheja** as Convener, **Prof. Manish Kumar Asthana** and **Prof. Shubhajit Sadhukhan** as Co-conveners from **IIT Roorkee** with an intent to take forward the series of conferences and expand the reach of GCSMUS in the Global South. India, being a country of many renowned advocates of education and research across the world, has emerged as a hotspot of revolutionary studies and innovations in the past few decades. This makes India, one of the best suited destinations to host the 3rd International and Interdisciplinary Conference on **Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability** in the Global South. As the conference aims to act as a medium to strengthen the Research network between Global North and Global South, the SMUS Conference India, was envisaged as a platform to provide a common ground for knowledge exchange and establish long lasting collaborations in the related fields.

This conference was a result of a diligent collaboration between IIT Roorkee with TU Berlin and was funded by the **German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)** via **the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)**. The team from the **Department of Architecture and Planning** and the **Department of Humanities and Social Sciences** on behalf of IIT Roorkee and the team from **GCSMUS** on behalf of TU Berlin remained the key drivers to plan the organization of this

conference from start to finish. The team strived to provide an engaging experience to the scholars from all around the world with shared knowledge and perspectives on multifaceted research themes.

The conference commenced with the **PhD Day on 20th February, 07 Advanced Methods (AM) Courses from 21st to 22nd February**, followed by the **Main Conference days from 23rd to 25th February 2023** and finally concluded with an **Excursion on 26th February 2023**.

The PhD Day by **Prof. Gabriela Chistmann** and the Advanced Methods Courses by various **eminent experts** around the world targeted diverse disciplines keeping an interdisciplinary outlook. This SMUS Conference brought together a **set of three keynotes** from a wide-ranging perspective on methods for researching Urban Sustainability from social and spatial standpoints. These included Prof. Angela Million along with Prof. Gaurav Raheja from the field of Urban Design and Urban Planning, Prof. Nina Baur, Prof. Fraya Frehse, Prof. Gabriel Faimau, and Prof. Jakkrit Sangkhamanee from varied domains of Social Sciences.

The six-day conference aimed at continuing a global dialogue on methods, it attracted methodologists from all over the world and all social and spatial sciences e. g. anthropology, area studies, architecture, communication studies, computational sciences, digital humanities, educational sciences, geography, historical sciences, humanities, landscape planning, philosophy, psychology, sociology, urban design, urban planning, traffic planning and environmental planning.

The conference received an enormous response with over **180 abstract submissions** from across **31 countries**. The conference intended to provide a platform to facilitate lively interactions among the **participants, methodologists, researchers, and young academicians** to exchange ideas on ongoing studies and future collaborative research opportunities.

The Conference was funded and supported by the **DAAD Exceed Programme**. It was, therefore, a great honour for us to welcome **Dr Katja Lasch**, Director, DAAD Regional Office, New Delhi and **Ms. Shikha Sinha,** Senior Advisor- International Cooperation at the Conference Opening Ceremony held on 23rd February 2023. **Prof. K.K. Pant,** Director, IIT Roorkee was the Chief Guest for the ceremony. Additionally, **Mr. Hitesh Vaidya**, Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and **Ms. Anita Sarmah**, Financial Advisor, Indian Railways graced the occasion as Guests of Honor. They also participated in the other conference activities along with other guests.

1.1 Thematic Areas

A wide range of research papers addressing methodological perspectives on the research of social and spatial dimensions were presented during the conference sessions. The sessions aimed to engage on general issues of **social science methodology and epistemology** as well as on **qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches**, focusing on the following themes:

1. Spatial methods
2. Architectural research methods
3. Mobile, arts- and/or design-based methods
4. Interdisciplinary and/or transdisciplinary, participatory and/or collaborative research methods
5. Applied research methods for urban design, urban planning, traffic planning and environmental planning
6. Decolonizing social science methodology and overcoming methodological nationalism
7. Methods from, by and/or for the Global South
8. Cross-cultural methods, transnational research and issues of comparability
9. Quantitative methods
10. Qualitative methods
11. Mixed methods
12. Visual research methods
13. Strategies of data collection, storage and access
14. Digital methods, big data and digital humanities
15. Process-oriented, longitudinal and historical methods
16. Evaluation methods and methods of scientific validation
17. Research ethics
18. Methodological issues relevant for specific research topics (for example, urban research, sustainability research, social housing, crime and public safety, or spatial inequalities concerning gender, race and/or ethnicity).

The conference aimed to strengthen the international network of scholars and practitioners working in the direction of any of these interrelated themes and serve as a platform to facilitate dialogue and collaboration in research, teaching and planning practice.

1.2 SMUS Funding Scholarships for Participants

The SMUS Conference India 2023 offered funded scholarships to 83 participants to attend the conference on-site at IIT Roorkee, India. A total of **53 international participants** received fully-funded scholarships through SMUS. The purview of this scholarship included flight tickets to the nearest airport to IIT Roorkee (New Delhi/Dehradun), local transport pick-ups/drop-offs to the conference site, accommodation and food for the duration of conference (in addition to the visa and insurance costs for selected participants). The excursion to Haridwar was also covered under the scope of funding for the participants and eventually additional international participants willing to join the trip were accommodated for the excursion.

Additionally, **23 participants from the Conference Region** i.e. India received the scholarship that covered the flight tickets, accommodation and food during the six-day conference. However, the tea and snacks for all six days and food during the Main Conference Days i.e. 23rd to 25th February 2023 were provided to all the participants attending the conference.

223	• **Non-Funded participants**
53	• **Funded International participants**
23	• **Funded participatns from the Conference Region**
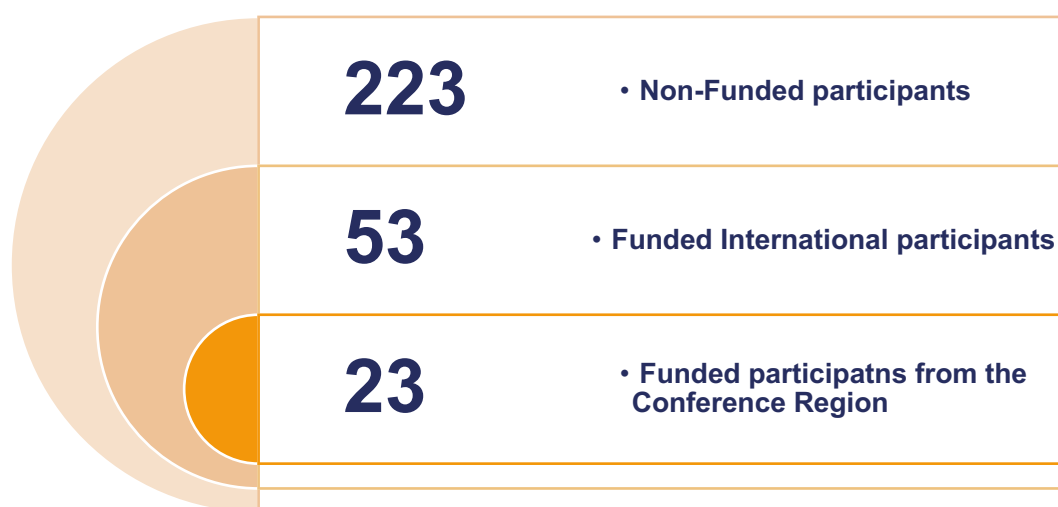
Figure 2 Funded Participants in SMUS Conference India 2023

Numerous participants benefitted by the provision of **SMUS Funding Scholarships** as the travel funding proved to be of tremendous support for the ones willing to join and share their research on a global platform, who otherwise might not have been able to travel to the conference location due to financial constraints. Thus, the SMUS scholarships encouraged more participation and gave opportunity to young researchers from across different countries and regions within India to become a part of the International network and discuss their research with a global audience.

2

Conference Activities

2 Conference Activities

An intense back and forth planning was done by **SMUS India team** and **SMUS Berlin team** to make this conference a reality. Timelines were developed well in advance and every task was assigned a deadline as per the tentative duration to accomplish each step and produce the expected outcomes. The on-site provisions and arrangements were preceded by pre-conference team meetings and strategies as discussed ahead.

2.1 Pre-conference Activities

The SMUS India Conference activities started off in **January 2022** when the Call for Session Organizers was introduced. The most crucial part of the whole process of planning and implementing the overview of conference plan in order to achieve its objectives was the weekly meetings between SMUS India team with the SMUS Berlin team. The meetings were scheduled with specific agendas under various heads and, regular follow-ups of tasks were taken as per stipulated timelines.

Prof. Nina Baur along with the Berlin team members, Ms. Tilmann Thando, Ms. Raffaela Reinboth and Dr. Katleen De Flander and other supporting members, had regular online meetings with **Prof. Gaurav Raheja, Prof. Shubhajit Sadhukhan and Prof. Manish Kumar Asthana** from Steering committee and SMUS India Administrators Ms. Varnita Singh and Ms. Aishwarya Bali to discuss these tasks. The student assistants in SMUS India team further coordinated them to carry through the tasks to be accomplished at every step. Following are some of the major agendas from the regular weekly meetings starting from **March 2022** till the scheduled dates of the conference and further project completion i.e. **June 2023**:

1. Call for Session Organisers
2. Identification and invitation to Keynote speakers and AM Courses trainers
3. Website launch and uploading the announcements, deadlines, conference programme, Abstracts booklet, team information, Sessions and Advanced Methods Courses, conference week programme, etc.
4. Call for Abstracts and deadline extensions when required
5. Fund allocation under various sub-heads and Financial Reporting for years 2022 & 2023
6. Abstract review, sorting and selection
7. Selection of participants to receive SMUS Funding Scholarships
8. Flight Bookings and accommodation reservations for Funded Participants
9. Issues and resolution to queries from all the participants

10. Uploading FAQs and designing Wayfinding Guide to reach IIT Roorkee
11. Visa process related documents and information
12. Finalising conference schedule and stream of sessions as per venues and duration
13. Venue allocation and accommodation allotments
14. Drafting Book of Abstracts and final Outcome Report
15. Distribution of Certificates and sharing conference photographs & videos

The Call for Abstracts was rolled out on **15 June 2022** inviting scholars from around the world to submit their proposals under any of the 26 sessions enlisted in the section 2.3.3. Given the enormous response from the scholars and requests to allow more time, the deadline was extended twice and finally ended on **13 October 2022.** A total of **187 abstracts** were received, out of which **152 abstracts were selected** to be presented at the conference. The papers were received from academia in various capacities ranging from graduate students, young researchers, practitioners and professors belonging to diverse disciplines and countries. These abstracts were then categorized under the sessions depending upon the complementarity of topics and possible exchange of knowledge with the respective session organisers and presenters having related research areas.

2.2 Important Dates

As stated above, the conference plan was devised keeping in mind tentative deadlines for each step. Following is the list of crucial dates as per the conference timeline:

Table 2 List of Important dates as per Conference Timeline Plan

| Sl. No.	Events	Date
1	Call for Session Organisers: Open	15 January 2022
2	Call for Session Organisers: Deadline	25 February 2022
3	Call for Abstracts: Open	15 June 2022
4	Call for Abstracts: Final Deadline	13 October 2022
5	Abstract Selection	28 October 2022
6	Deadline for Travel confirmation (Funded participants)	17 November 2022
7	PhD Day and AM Courses Registration: Open	21 January 2023
8	PhD Day and AM Courses Registration: Deadline	05 February 2023
9	Main Conference Registration: Open	27 January 2023
10	Main Conference Registration: Deadline	19 February 2023
11	Presentation Submission	17 February 2023

2.3 On-site Conference Activities

2.3.1 PhD Day

The conference started with the **PhD Day** on 20th February 2023 lead by **Prof. Gabriela Christmann.** The main objective of conducting the PhD day was to make the students aware of the steps and procedures required in preparing the doctoral project**.** The focus group for PhD Day primarily included the Master's students who were about to graduate and the PhD students who were at the beginning of their research work.

In the first half of the event, all central steps and procedures in the preparation of a doctoral project and the writing of an exposé were explained in detail along a checklist. The second part of the event, dealt with good scientific practice, covering topics such as ethical issues, consent forms for research participants, data protection & data management, and avoiding plagiarism.

Figure 3 PhD Day: a. Prof. Gaurav Raheja felicitating Prof. Gabriela Chirstmann
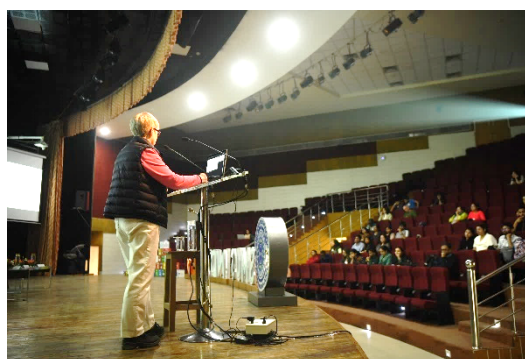
b. Prof. Gabriela Chirstmann addressing the participants

© SMUS India team

The participants were given a "checklist" with which they can carry out the preparatory **phase of a dissertation project** and profile their empirical research proposal. Furthermore, they were equipped with the know-how of writing a meaningful exposé that can meet the high expectations that supervisors worldwide have of such a written research plan. They were also coached with the ways to conduct research according to the rules of good scientific practice. **101 participants** attended the PhD Day in contrast to expected participation of 50-60 attendees. The participants were **well informed and fully oriented** with regard to the questions they had in mind. The event was also attended by many young academicians and other SMUS partners besides students.

2.3.2 Advanced Methods Courses

The PhD Day was followed by two days of 07 on-site **Advanced Methods Courses** by various Guest Experts from 21st to 22nd February 2023, which included:

1. Qualitative Methods by Dr. Nina Baur (Technische Universität Berlin, Germany)
2. Ethnographic Research Methods on Street Life by Dr. Fraya Frehse (University of São Paulo, Brazil)
3. The Dynamics of Conceptualization in Social Research by Dr. Gabriel Faimau (University of Botswana, Botswana)
4. Visual Methods in Spatial Research by Dr. Angela Million and Dr. Ignacio Castillo Ulloa (Technische Universität Berlin, Germany)
5. Cross-cultural Survey Methodology by Dr. Wolfgang Aschauer (University of Salzburg, Austria)
6. Grounded Theory & Situational Analysis by Dr. Jorg Strubling (University of Tübingen, Germany)
7. Visual Research Methods by Dr. Ilana Boltvinik (Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico)

Figure 4 a. Prof Gaurav Raheja welcoming Guest Experts at the Inaugural of Advanced Methods Courses   *b. Felicitation of Advanced Methods Trainers at MAC Auditorium, IIT Roorkee*

© SMUS India team

The Advanced Methods Courses aimed at giving an in-depth exposure to attendees on various research methodologies by respective Methods Trainers. The courses were curated with a focus on researchers from diverse fields keeping an **interdisciplinary outlook.** The objective to conduct these courses was that young scholars, most importantly those at the Masters and PhD levels, would benefit immensely on **diverse research methods** through these courses being delivered by **Global Experts.** Over **200 students registered** from IIT Roorkee and other institutions to enroll in the Advanced Methods Courses.

2.3.3 Parallel Sessions

Parallel Sessions were held on the Main Conference days from 23rd to 25th February 2023. Following is the list of the selected sessions based on the interdisciplinary and diversity of the topics as per their conformity with addressing a methodological problem aligned with any of the 18 themes under SMUS:

1. Co-Production (of Knowledge) as Pathway to Decolonization of Knowledge in the Global South
2. Decolonizing Social Science Methodology
3. Fieldwork in the Global South – Shedding Light into the Black Box
4. Assessing the Quality of Survey Data
5. Culturally Sensitive Approaches – Potential New Directions of Empirical Research
6. Application of Quantitative Techniques in Spatial Analysis
7. Ethnography as Spatial-Temporal Method in the (Re)production of Public Space
8. Visualizing Urban Nature: Ethnographic Approaches and Explorations
9. Multimodal Data Integration for Spatial Research
10. How Modality Matters? Learning from the Multiplicity of (Non-)Digital Discourse Analytical Approaches
11. Discourse Analysis, Historical Analysis and Biographical Research: Multi-Method Approaches in Interpretive Empirical Research
12. The Individual and the City: Urban Life Stories
13. Measuring Change in Urban Space(s)
14. The Longue Durée in the 21st-Century Social Sciences
15. Design Methods for Accessibility and Social Inclusion
16. Joint Methodological Challenges for Spatial Planning and the Social Sciences Regarding Social Equity
17. Analysing Hidden Forms of Violence and their Spatialities: The Methodological Challenges of researching on Invisibilised Group
18. Analysing Hidden Forms of Violence and their Spatialities: The Methodological Challenges of the Research on Intimate Partner Violence and Sexualized Violence
19. Spatial Methods in Healthcare Research
20. Methods for Analyzing the Economy 01: Rural-Urban-Relations, Spatial Transformations and the Economy
21. Methods for Analyzing the Economy 02: The Informal Economy
22. Methods for Studying the Spatial Dimension of Global Digital Infrastructures
23. Digitalization, Political Participation and Transformation in the Global South
24. Cross-Cultural Research Methods in Community-Oriented Approaches in Human Behavior
25. Methods-Intertwining in Teaching, Research, and Practice
26. From Cases and Actors to Action and Implementation

Out of the 152 abstracts selected in October 2022, a total of **122 papers were presented** on-site at IIT Roorkee. The sessions were also attended by visitors and other participants from institutions in the region. The presenters got opportunity to get critique and reviews on their research areas through perspective of various disciplines from a mix of international audience belonging to diverse disciplines.

Figure 5 a. Prof. Kamal Kishore Pant, Director IIT Roorkee inaugurating the SMUS Conference on 23 Feb 2023

b. Chief Guest and Guests of Honors' releasing SMUS conference India Abstract Booklet

c. Dr. Katja Lasch, Director DAAD Regional Office New Delhi, India addressing the participants

d. Registration for Main Conference Days

e. Participants having informal conversations over tea

f. Group Photograph of participants at the Inaugural ceremony

© SMUS India team

2.3.4 Keynotes

A set of three keynotes were delivered by the SMUS Partners in their respective fields of expertise during the Main Conference Days. The keynotes were organized in **hybrid mode and were broadcasted live.** The topics of the keynote presentations were:

23 February 2023	**Participatory Methods towards Researching Urban Inclusion**

• By Prof. Gaurav Raheja And Prof. Angela Million.

24 February 2023	**Decolonizing Research Practice Experiences from Botswana, Brazil and Germany**

• By Prof. Gabriel Faimau, Prof. Fraya Frehse And Prof. Nina Baur

25 February 2023	**"Bangkok" as Methods, an Invitation Remark of SMUS Conference 2024**

• By Prof. Jakkrit Sangkhamanee

Figure 6 a. Inaugural Keynote by Prof. Angela Million

b. Inaugural Keynote by Prof. Gaurav Raheja

c. Day-2 Keynote by Prof. Nina Baur, Prof. Fraya Frehse and Prof. Gabriel Faimau

d. Closing Keynote by Prof. Jakkrit Sangkhamanee, Host for SMUS Conference Thailand 2024

© SMUS India team

2.3.5 SMUS General Assembly

The SMUS General Assembly was organized on the evening of 22nd February 2023 with the objective to discuss the **SMUS activities across five Actions.** The General Assembly commenced with a welcome note and presentation of the agenda by **SMUS Co-directors** Prof. Angela Million & Prof. Nina Baur. The assembly was Inaugurated by **DAAD Delhi team** members Dr. Katja Lasch & Ms. Shikha Sinha followed by an address by Prof. Gaurav Raheja welcoming the SMUS partners.

Afterwards, the Action Speakers for five SMUS Actions discussed the ongoing and upcoming activities under respective SMUS Actions followed by a **Questions and Comments Session** where SMUS partners gave their inputs and suggestions on future collaboration and expansion possibilities of the SMUS network. The SMUS Co-directors concluded the assembly by thanking the SMUS Partners and SMUS India organising team in their closing remarks.

Figure 7 a. SMUS General Assembly a. Prof Nina Baur and Prof. Angela Million addressing the SMUS Partners

b. Prof Gaurav Raheja welcoming SMUS Partners and DAAD Delhi team to the SMUS Conference India 2023

c. Prof Manish Kumar Asthana and Prof. Shubhajit Sadhukhan addressing the partners

d. Progression of the SMUS General Assembly

© SMUS India team

The SMUS General Assembly was followed by a **Diya-lighting Ceremony** attended by all the participants and the SMUS India organising team. Diya lighting is an auspicious tradition in Indian culture which signifies seeking blessings and wishes for the new beginnings. The diyas, i.e. earthen lamps symbolise the **victory of truth over falsehood, of light over darkness.** The courtyard of the Department of Architecture and Planning (DAP) at IIT Roorkee was glowing with the diyas lit by the participants enjoying and cherishing the ambiance. The students and staff from the department joined in to welcome the participants and the spirit of the conference turned manifolds with the convergence of various cultures from across the world at the site.

Figure 8 Diya lighting ceremony in the courtyard of Department of Architecture and Planning on 22 Feb 2023

© SMUS India team

2.3.6 SMUS Strings

A series of cultural events including an India classical evening titled **'SMUS Strings'** was organized on 23rd and 24th February 2023. On the first day, the students of the Department of Architecture and Planning gave a performance in the DAP Lawns with a sequence of traditional Indian songs and instrumentals. Ms. Anita Sarmah, Guest of Honor for the conference, also a trained vocal artist in Western Classical music gave a mesmerizing performance and enthralled the audience with her voice.

On the evening of 24th February 2023, the event '**SMUS Strings: An Indian Classical Evening'** was graced with the presence of an accomplished Sitar artist of the country

Shri Subrata De accompanied by steel guitar/Hansaveena artist **Pt. Subhasis Bose** and Tabla artist **Mr. Saptak Sharma**. The music at the event echoed in the IIT Roorkee campus and mesmerized the attendees to the extent that many of them were dancing at the venue along with colleagues from across the countries. All the attendees at the evening were rejoicing and connecting through the music. The event was followed by **Gala Dinner**, where a variety of Indian cuisine delectable were served, giving a memorable appetizing experience to the guests. After performances by the guest artists, the participants joined in an informal musical gathering, they were humming songs in their regional languages and everyone was cheering each other up.

Figure 9 SMUS Strings a. group photograph of DAP students with Prof. Gaurav Raheja & Ms. Anita Sarmah

b. (Left to right) Performance by Tabla artist Mr. Saptak Sharma, Steel guitar/ Hansaveena artist Pt. Subhasis Bose & Sitar artist Shri Subrata De

c. Participants rejoicing the performances at DAP Lawns
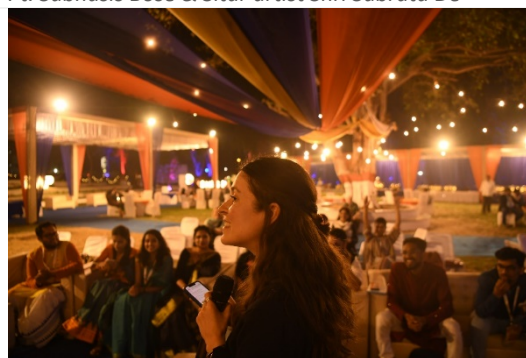
d. Participants joining in for informal social gathering post Gala Dinner

© SMUS India team

2.3.7 SMUS Action Workshops

Besides the poster presentation and postcard release of **SMUS Action-5, workshops for SMUS Action-2 and Action-4** were held during the conference by respective Action Speakers. The agenda behind organizing these workshops was to make the colleagues and participants aware of the **functioning of various SMUS Actions.** They highlighted how in addition to the international conferences which is a part of Action-1, the advancement of

other actions benefits in expanding the research network through various mediums of knowledge sharing like **mobile workshops, MOOCs, Combined Teaching Research Courses** and application of **SMUS toolkits** in Practical-Empirical Implementation Projects(PEIP).

2.3.8 Excursion to Haridwar

An excursion to the **Pilgrimage city of Haridwar** was planned for SMUS Partners and other international participants on the last day of the conference. The Excursion itinerary was planned with a visit to 2-3 locations prior to the final destination i.e. Har- ki-pauri in Haridwar. The participants along with the SMUS India team visited the magnificent **Aqueducts in Roorkee** that lead to the establishment of IIT Roorkee as a Civil Engineering College in 1840's. The group then visited the **BHEL Township in Haridwar** where they witnessed the character of a planned township in context of India, which exhibit a stark difference from the informal expansion of the city of Haridwar in terms of density, facilities and the social life of inhabitants.

Figure 10 a. Participants on Excursion to Haridwar, b. Har-ki-pauri: the famous pilgrim destination India

© SMUS India team

Thereafter, participants reached **Har-ki-Pauri,** one of the **holiest pilgrim locations in India**. Being able to witness the evening **Ganga Aarti** at the **Ghats of the sacred River Ganges at** Har-ki-Pauri is believed to be an auspicious blessing and in itself is a divine experience to attend. The participants enjoyed the visit as they engaged in the local rituals and exchanged greetings with the local dwellers and other tourists. The excursion gave the participants a holistic picture of the Indian culture with instances of all aspects ranging from faith and culture, diverse ways of livelihood and the ingrained value of hospitability of Indians. The visit, in addition to being a touristic trip also gave a lifetime experience to the social scientists and urbanists as they witnessed the functioning of a society in India and the beliefs that drive their existence.

3

Participants Profiles

3 Participants Profiles

The information on type of participants having attended the conference is crucial to gauge the overall impact and reach of the SMUS Conferences. The SMUS Conference India 2023 was attended by a substantial number of participants from across the diverse institutions around the world.

The details of the overall attendees' turnout have been shared in this section in order to have comparable statistics with SMUS Botswana and SMUS Brazil conferences. This includes all the participants having attended PhD days, Advanced Method courses and Parallel Sessions from 20th to 26th February 2023 including the SMUS India organising team.

The following diagram enumerates the total number of participants that attended the SMUS Conferences (on-site in the case of SMUS India and online for SMUS Botswana and SMUS Brazil):
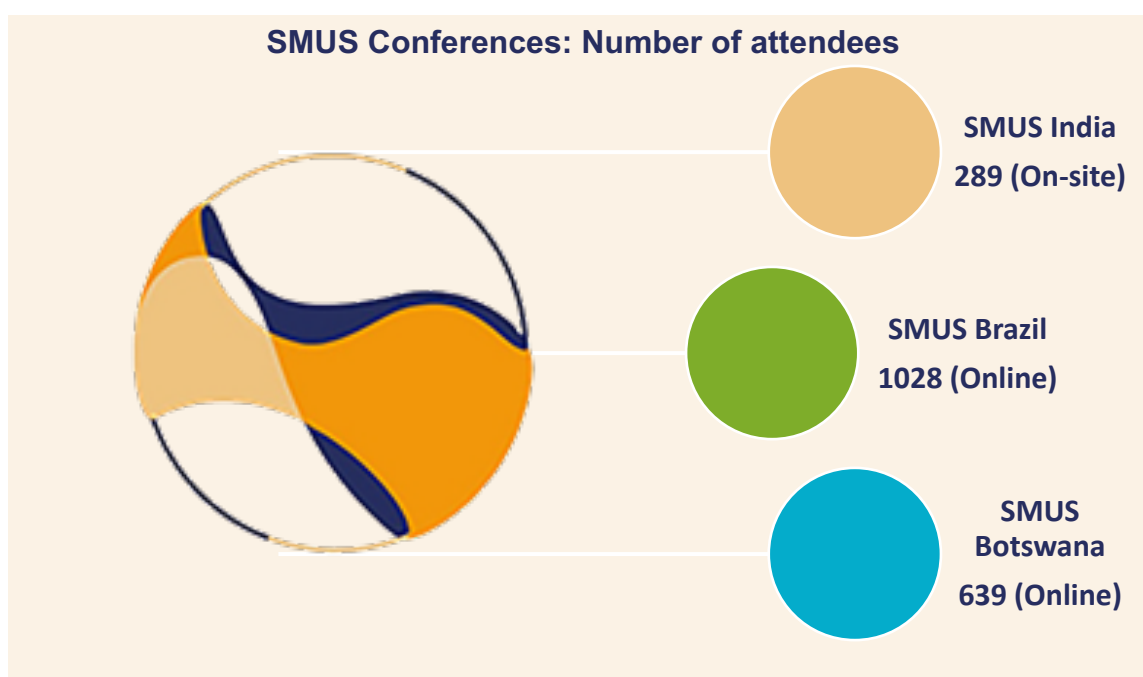
Figure 11 Number of attendees in SMUS Conferences

In line with the indicators shared in the SMUS Conference Brazil 2022 report, five specific indicators regarding the participants' profiles have been addressed in the following sections: (i) gender, (ii) professional background, (iii) disciplinary fields, (iv) stakeholder groups/institutions, and (v) countries of origin.

3.1 Gender Ratio

The Gender ratio amongst the 289 attendees conforms with the previous trends of Male-Female ratio with **46% Male and 53% Female** attendees. The gender ratio aligns with the DAAD's objective of encouraging female participation to create gender balance in its programs.
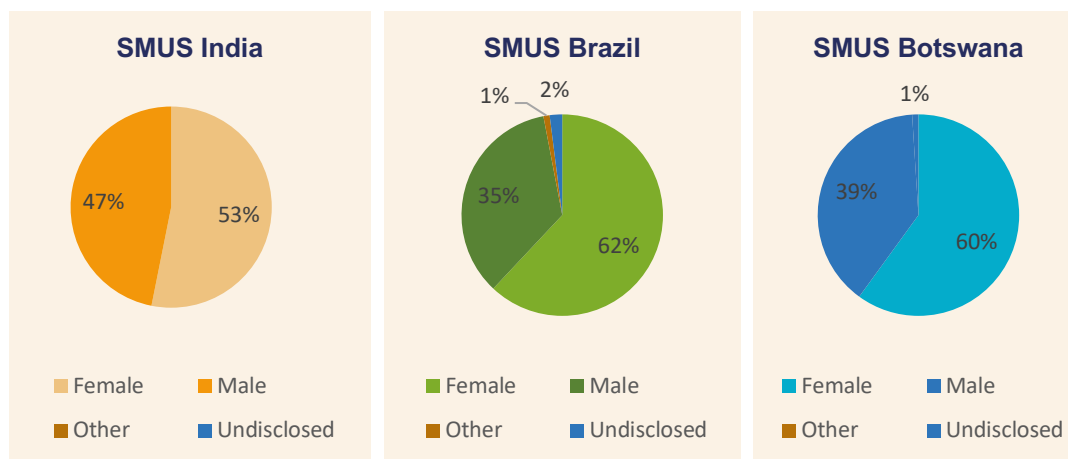
Figure 12 Gender ratio in SMUS Conferences

Also, gender balance was taken as a crucial factor during the **selection process for abstracts** as well as forming the SMUS organising team. The Male-Female ratio for each of the major events is enlisted below:

Table 3 Gender ratio in various events at SMUS Conference India

Events	Female participants	Male participants
PhD day	49%	51%
Advanced Methods Courses	62%	38%
SMUS General Assembly	53%	47%
Sessions	58%	42%
Keynotes	56% approx.	44% approx.
Excursion	57%	43%

3.2 Professional Background

From the comparison amongst the professional background of the conference attendees, it is evident that besides 16% of the participants being students from undergraduate and postgraduate, the maximum number of attendees in the SMUS Conference India i.e. **52% were Junior Researchers.** In addition to this, approximately **20% of the participants belonged to the category of Lecturers and Professors,** followed by 8% of attendees being professionals working in any of the related themes of the conference.
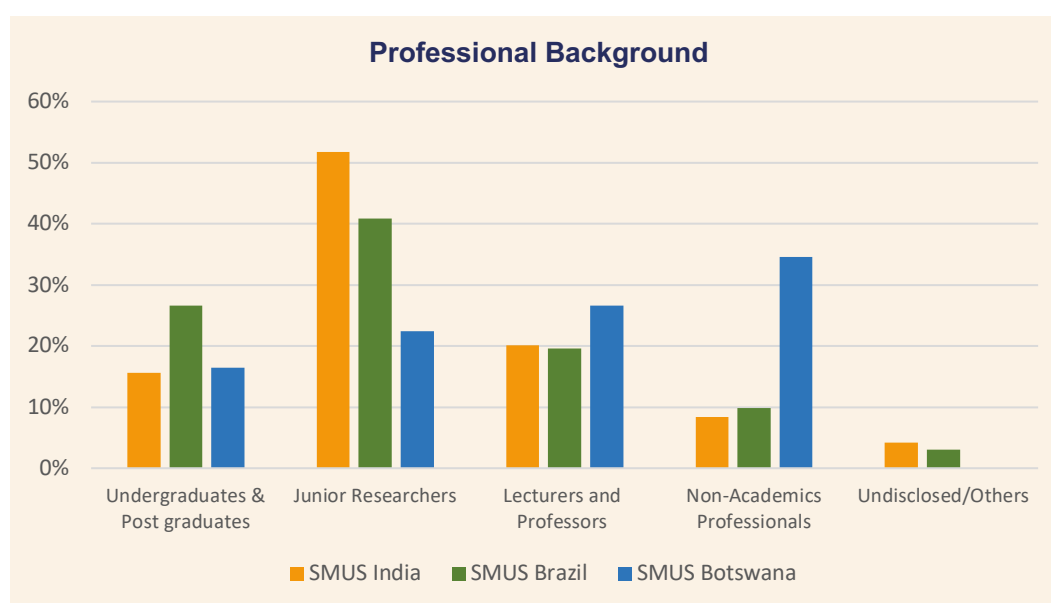
Figure 13 Professional Background of participants in SMUS Conferences

The proportion of students and researchers among the attendees complies with the prime aim of the SMUS Conference to empower the scholars by exposing them to the research being carried out across the globe in various disciplines and enable knowledge exchange. Like SMUS Brazil, SMUS India also saw the **maximum participation from academicians and researchers.**

3.3 Disciplinary Fields

The Disciplinary fields of the participants was compiled from various events of the conference and it was evident that more than 80% of the attendees in the conference were either related to **Social Sciences and Humanities** or **Architecture and Urban planning**. Given the multi-disciplinarily approach of the conference and various disciplinary departments at the host institution i.e. IIT Roorkee, some students from other fields like Engineering, Design and Management also attended the conference.

The interdisciplinarity of the conference gives way to **discovering new research areas** in addition to the **possibility of merging different disciplines** to come up with **unconventional ideas and methods.** Also, the exposure to other fields in relation to one's own allows the participants to look at their own research critically from a different perspective.

Table 4 Disciplines of participants at SMUS Conferences

Disciplines	SMUS India		SMUS Brazil		SMUS Botswana	
Social Sciences and Humanities	108	37.4%	26	2.5%	232	36.3%
Architecture & Planning	130	45.0%	29	2.8%	98	15.3%
Engineering & Computer Science	10	3.5%	5	0.5%	-	-
Design and Innovation	18	6.2%	-	-	-	-
Management Studies	7	2.4%	-	-	-	-
Communication & Media studies	3	1.0%	-	-	-	-
Food and Health Sciences	-	-	29	2.8%		
Other	10	3.5%	9	0.9%	309	48.4%
Undisclosed	3	1.0%	930	90.5%		
Total	**289**	**100.0%**	**1028**	**100.0%**	**639**	**100.0%**

3.4 Institutional Frameworks

The SMUS Conference India was essentially an academic event. The data regarding the stakeholder groups which the participants' belonged to, were not collected. The data was collected as Institution/Affiliation of the participants where the maximum number of participants i.e. **54% were from IIT Roorkee** given the fact that SMUS Conference India was an on-site event. The remaining 46% of the participants represented other 89 Institutions out of a total of **90 institutions.** Following is the list of the **ten most represented institutions** at the SMUS Conference India. Out of these, five Institutions are from within India and other five are from the countries namely **Germany, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Malawi and Austria.**

Institutions with maximum participation

Legend:
- Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, India
- Technische Universität Berlin, Germany
- Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, India
- Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology Bhopal, India
- Midlands State University, Zimbabwe
- School of Planning and Architecture New Delhi, India
- University of Hyderabad, India
- University of Lagos, Nigeria
- University of Malawi, Malawi
- University of Salzburg, Austria

Figure 14 The ten mostly represented institutions at SMUS Conference India

3.5 Countries of Origin

The SMUS Conference India was attended by **289 participants belonging to 33 different countries** from different world regions**.** The number of participants' turnout at the SMUS Brazil Conference and SMUS Botswana Conference in principle, cannot be compared to the turnout at the SMUS Conference India 2023 since the former two were held online, whereas the latter was an on-site event. Some of the session organizer and participants could not attend the conference due to travel, visa-related challenges and other unforeseen engagements. However, the on-site conference had the advantage of meeting the colleagues from across the world to **discuss their research in person and form future collaborations.** Through in-person interactions, the participants got the opportunity to experience the culture of not only the host country i.e. India but also the culture of participants having joined from other world regions.

Looking at the **DAC list of ODA recipient countries,** the distribution of countries as per the GNI per capita shows the participation from **87% of countries with Lower middle-income countries and below.** 5% of the participants were from Upper Middle Income countries and only **8% participants belonged to Non-DAC countries.**

DAC list of ODA Countries

- Least Developed Countries
- Low Income Countries
- Lower Middle Income Countries
- Upper Middle Income Countries
- Non-DAC Countries

1%
2%
8%
5%
84%
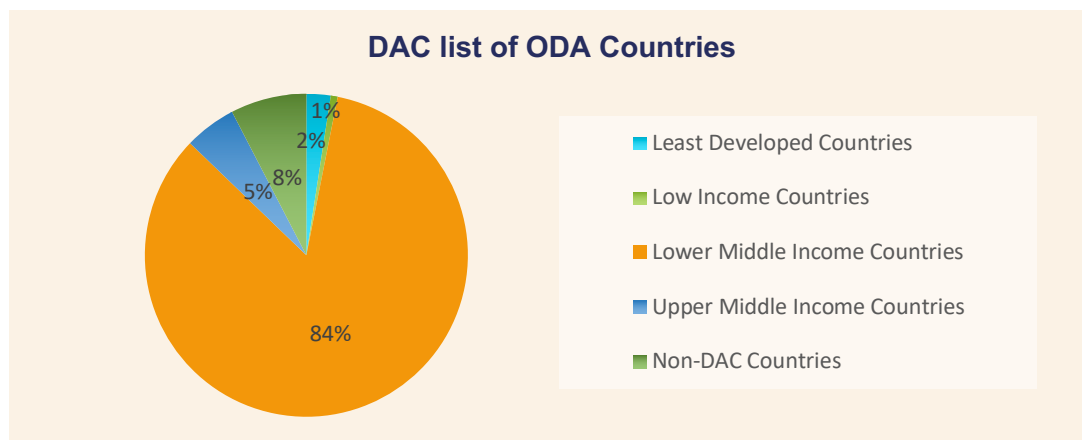
Figure 15 The DAC-distribution of the participants' countries in SMUS Conference India

The geographical origin of the participants has been compared in the following table:

Participants' World Regions

SMUS Botswana (%)
- West Asia; 1%
- East & South-East Asia & Pacific; 5%
- Central & Southern Asia; 4%
- Sub- Saharan Africa; 49%
- North Africa; 1%
- North & Central America & Caribbean; 10%
- South America; 6%
- Europe; 24%

SMUS Brazil (%)
- West Asia; 0%
- East & South-East Asia & Pacific; 4%
- Central & Southern Asia; 3%
- Sub- Saharan Africa; 8%
- North Africa; 0%
- North & Central America & Caribbean; 1%
- South America; 76%
- Europe; 8%

SMUS India (%)
- West Asia; 1%
- East & South-East Asia & Pacific; 3%
- Central & Southern Asia; 77%
- Sub- Saharan Africa; 7%
- North Africa; 0%
- North & Central America & Caribbean; 1%
- South America; 2%
- Europe; 7%

Figure 16 Participants' Regional backgrounds at SMUS Conferences

A shift in the geographical focus of the SMUS conferences can be noticed first from Africa to South America and later to Central & Southern Asia, in attribute to the location of the host country.

The following table shows country-wise participation comparative in the three SMUS Conferences for a detailed understanding of participation from various **World Regions.** This can help in understanding the increase or decrease in the participation from respective nations in order to assess the possible reasons and determining interventions to encourage more participation from desired countries.

Table 5 Participants' countries and World Regions in SMUS Conferences
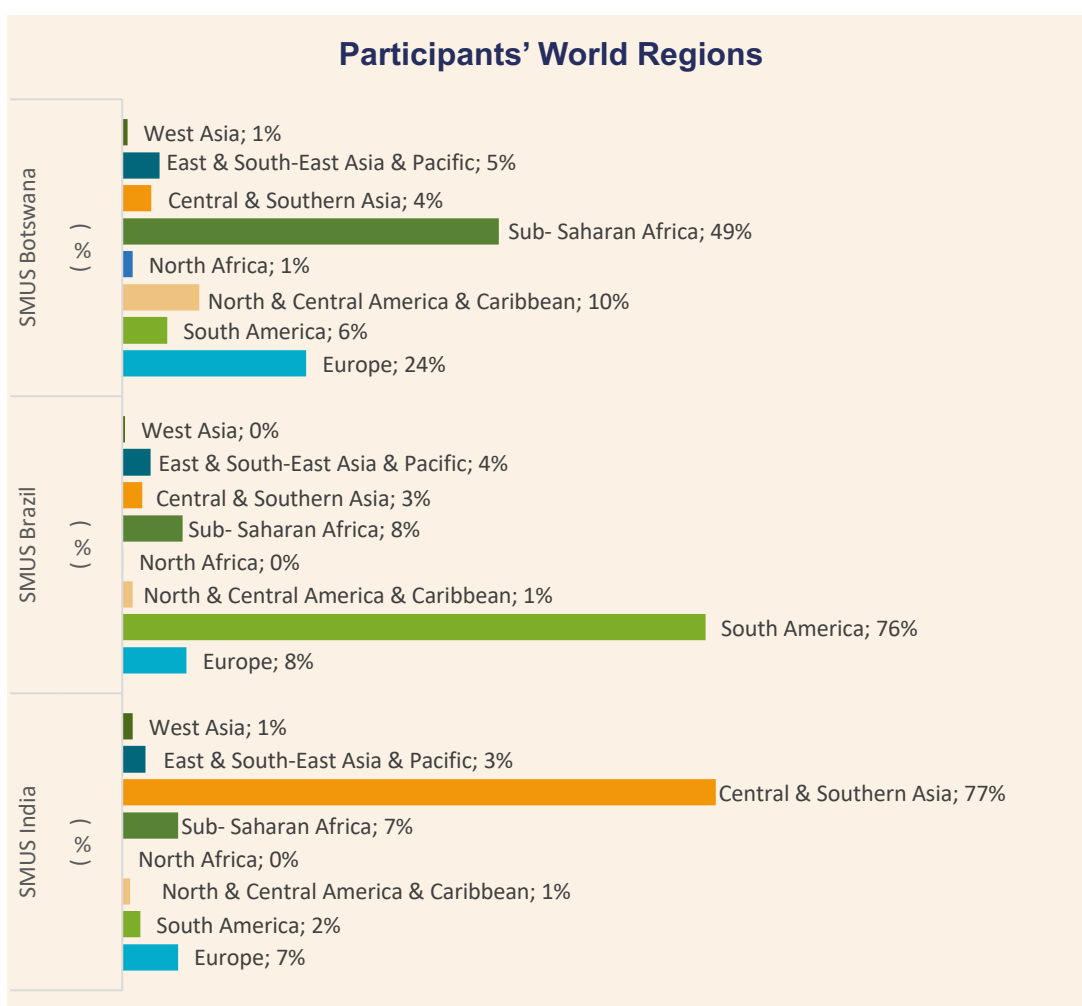
Participants' world regions	SMUS India	SMUS Brazil	SMUS Botswana	Participants' Country	SMUS India	SMUS Brazil	SMUS Botswana
	Participants (%)				Participants		
Europe	21 (7.3%)	86 (8.4%)	150 (24%)	Austria	3	1	5
				Belgium	1		2
				Bulgaria			1
				Czech Republic			2
				Denmark		1	
				Finland			2
				France		1	7
				Germany	14	61	100
				Italy	1	2	2
				Lithuania		1	
				Macedonia		1	
				Netherlands	1		11
				Poland		2	1
				Portugal		6	5
				Romania			2
				Russia			1
				Serbia	1	1	3
				Slovakia			2
				Spain			4
				Sweden		1	21
				Switzerland			47
				UK		6	7
				Ukraine		2	
South America	7 (2.4%)	780 (76%)	38 (5.9%)	Argentina	3	7	3
				Brazil	1	751	26
				Chile	-	4	3
				Colombia	2	10	2
				Ecuador	-	1	-
				Guyana	1	-	-

Participants' world regions	SMUS India	SMUS Brazil	SMUS Botswana	Participants' Country	SMUS India	SMUS Brazil	SMUS Botswana
	Participants (%)				Participants		
				Peru	-	2	1
				Uruguay	-	2	2
North & Central America & Caribbean	3 (1.0%)	14 (1.4%)	66 (10.0%)	Canada		1	1
				Costa Rica		1	1
				Jamaica			1
				Mexico	1	2	
				Trinidad & Tobago	2	2	
				USA		8	
North Africa	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.1%)	9 (1.4%)	Algeria			1
				Egypt			5
				Morocco			1
				Togo		1	
				Tunisia			2
Sub-Saharan Africa	21 (7.3%)	81 (7.9%)	314 (49.1%)	Angola		1	
				Benin			1
				Botswana	3	26	199
				Burkina Faso			1
				Cameroon	1	1	
				Chad	1	2	1
				Eswatini			2
				Ethiopia	1	3	
				Gambia	1	2	
				Ghana	2		16
				Kenya			19
				Ivory Coast		1	
				Lesotho		1	4
				Liberia			1
				Malawi	3		5
				Mozambique			2
				Namibia		3	2
				Nigeria	5	17	26
				Rwanda			1
				Senegal			1
				Sierra Leone			1
				Somalia/ Somaliland		2	1
				South Africa	1	17	17
				Sudan			1
				Tanzania			3
				Zambia		2	4

Participants' world regions	SMUS India	SMUS Brazil	SMUS Botswana	Participants' Country	SMUS India	SMUS Brazil	SMUS Botswana
	Participants (%)				Participants		
				Zimbabwe	3	3	6
Central & Southern Asia	224 (77.2%)	27 (2.6%)	24 (3.8%)	Bangladesh			1
				Brunei		1	
				India	223	21	21
				Kazakhstan		2	
				Nepal		1	
				Pakistan		2	1
				Sri Lanka	1		1
East & South-East Asia & Pacific	9 (3.1%)	38 (3.7%)	31 (4.9%)	China	1	1	3
				Hong Kong			1
				Japan		4	
				Laos			1
				Malaysia			1
				Mongolia			3
				Myanmar			3
				Philippines		3	3
				Singapore			1
				South Korea		2	
				Taiwan			2
				Thailand	1		
				Vietnam	4	24	4
				Australia		2	2
				Indonesia	3	2	7
West Asia	4 (1.4%)	4 (0.4%)	7 (0.7%)	Armenia			
				Iran	1	2	
				Palestine			
				Syria	2		
				Turkey		2	
				UAE			
				Yemen	1		
Total	**289 (100%)**	**1028 (100%)**	**643 (100%)**		**289**	**1028**	**643**

It is evident that the participation from the countries where the SMUS Lead Partners are based is more than the countries where no SMUS Lead Partners are located. The Lead Partners have been directly involved in the organisation of SMUS conferences in addition to other GCMUS Actions. The SMUS network can be further extended in other countries across the global regions by aiming to collaborate with institutions that have the potential to learn and teach through the research being carried out in their countries in the thematic areas under SMUS.

4

Daily Schedule and Activity Attendance

4 Daily Schedule and Activity Attendance

It is important to look into the participation in each event individually to have a better picture of focus areas for the subsequent conferences in terms of session topics and possibility adding other disciplines to the agenda. In this section, the day-wise participation for three major everts of the conference has been discussed. As the conference was on-site, the SMUS India team volunteers took the responsibility of recording the attendance for these events at respective venues. Following is the map of the IIT Roorkee campus along with a list of venues for a better understanding of the day-wise activities of the Conference.
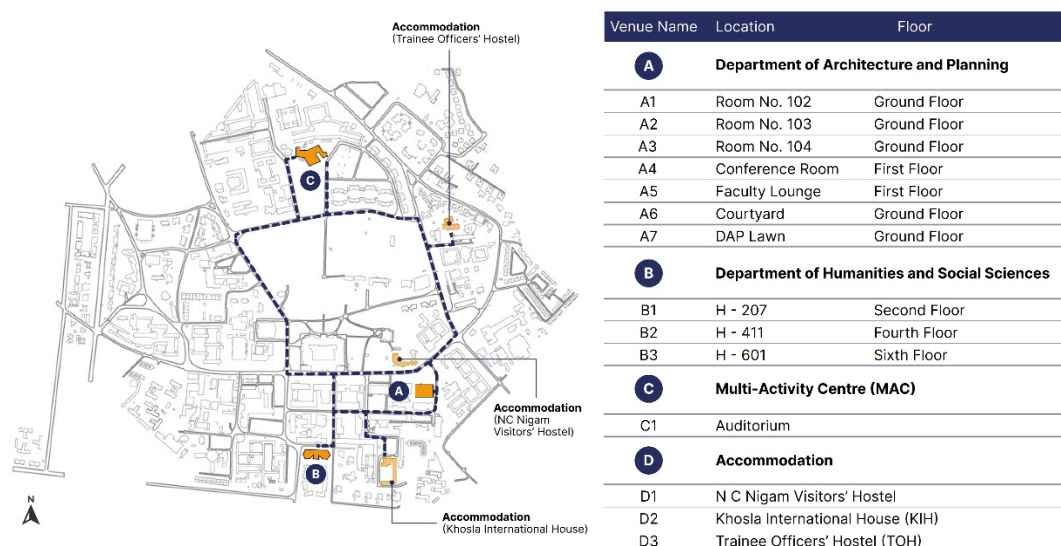

Figure 17 IIT Roorkee Campus map with venue details

© SMUS India team

4.1 PhD Day

The PhD Day lead by Prof. Gabirela Chirstmann was held at Multi Activity Centre (MAC) Auditorium, IIT Roorkee. More than 200 persons registered themselves to attend the PhD Day. However, in addition to the SMUS India team, **101 participants** joined the event with their physical presence. Following is the schedule for Day-1 along with venue and participants' details:

Table 6 PhD Day: schedule and participation

20th February 2023 (Monday)			
Time	**Activity**	**Venue**	Participations
11:00 AM to 02:00 PM	PhD Day	C1	101
02:00 PM to 04:30 PM	Guest Speaker: *Prof. Gabriela Christmann*		

Figure 18 Prof Gabriela Chistmann with participants on PhD day at MAC Auditorium, IIT Roorkee

© SMUS India team

4.2 Advanced Methods Courses

The 07 Advanced Methods Courses were held from 21st to 22nd February 2023**.** Five courses were held as two-day courses whereas two courses were single-day courses. The AM Courses received a high response amongst various participants. The seats for the courses were determined in advance with a maximum of 10 participants in some courses, whereas a few courses were kept open for a larger audience. Over **150 participants** attended the AM courses with great enthusiasm and curiosity to learn from the experts.

Figure 19 a. Prof. Fraya Frehse on a field visit with participants for AM Course India

b. AM course by Prof. Wolfgang Aschauer

© SMUS India team

Table 7 Methods Courses Day 1: schedule and participation

21st February 2023 (Tuesday)			
Time	**Activity**	**Venue**	**Participations**
11:30 AM to 01:00 PM *02:00 PM to 07:30 PM*	**AM Course 01** The Dynamics of Conceptualization in Social Research Methods Trainer: *Prof. Gabriel Faimau*	A1	16
10:30 AM to 01:00 PM *02:00 PM to 07:30 PM*	**AM Course 03** Visual Research Methods Methods Trainer: *Prof. Ilana Boltvinik*	A2	10
10:30 AM to 01:00 PM *02:00 PM to 07:30 PM*	**AM Course 06** Ethnographic Research on Street Life Methods Trainer: *Prof. Fraya Frehse*	A3	21
10:30 AM to 01:00 PM *02:00 PM to 07:30 PM*	**AM Course 07** Cross-Cultural Survey Methodology Methods Trainer: *Prof. Wolfgang Aschauer*	B1	10
10:30 AM to 01:00 PM *02:00 PM to 07:30 PM*	**AM Course 05** Grounded Theory & Situational Analysis Methods Trainer: *Prof. Joerg Struebing*	B2	12
10:30 AM to 01:00 PM *02:00 PM to 07:30 PM*	**AM Course 04** Qualitative Methods Methods Trainer: *Prof. Nina Baur*	B3	47

Figure 20 a. AM course by Prof Nina Baur   *b. AM course by Prof. Jorg Strubling*

c. AM course by Prof Ilana Boltvinik   *d. AM course by Prof Gabriel Faimau*

Table 8 Methods Courses Day 2: schedule and participation

22nd February 2023 (Wednesday)			
Time	Activity	Venue	Participations
00:09 AM to 01:00 PM *02:00 PM to 04:30 PM*	**AM Course 02** Visual Methods in Spatial Research Methods Trainers: *Prof. Angela Million & Dr. Ignacio Castillo Ulloa*	A1	33
00:09 AM to 01:00 PM *02:00 PM to 04:30 PM*	**AM Course 03** Visual Research Methods Methods Trainer: *Prof. Ilana Boltvinik*	A2	10
10:30 AM to 01:00 PM *02:00 PM to 04:30 PM*	**AM Course 06** Ethnographic Research on Street Life Methods Trainer: *Prof. Fraya Frehse*	A3	21
00:09 AM to 01:00 PM *02:00 PM to 04:30 PM*	**AM Course 07** Cross-Cultural Survey Methodology Methods Trainer: *Prof. Wolfgang Aschauer*	B1	10
00:09 AM to 01:00 PM *02:00 PM to 04:30 PM*	**AM Course 05** Grounded Theory & Situational Analysis Methods Trainer: *Prof. Joerg Struebing*	B2	12
00:09 AM to 01:00 PM *02:00 PM to 04:30 PM*	**AM Course 04** Qualitative Methods Methods Trainer: *Prof. Nina Baur*	B3	47

Figure 21 AM Course by Prof. Angela Million and Prof. Ignacio Castillo Ulloa

© SMUS India team

4.3   Parallel Sessions

The sessions in the SMUS India Conference were arranged in streams based on the methodological approach and interrelated disciplines so as to maintain the flow of presentations. Also, while arranging the sessions due attempts were made to ensure that attendees could attend the maximum sessions possible as per their research interests. The 26 Parallel Sessions proposed initially after the call for Session Organisers were rearranged and restructured in accordance with the abstracts received.

A total of **122 presentations** were held in Parallel Sessions over the three Main Conference Days at various designates venues in IIT Roorkee. Following table enlists the approximate participants having attended the sessions including the presenters and coordinators:

Table 9 Parallel sessions Day 1 : schedule and participation

	23rd February 2023 (Thursday)		
Time	Sessions	Venue	participants
	Session Name SMUS 23_17		
02:00 PM - 04:00 PM	Design Methods for Accessibility and Social Inclusion	A1	43
	Session Name SMUS 23_02		
02:00 PM - 04:00 PM	Decolonizing Social Science Methodology	B1	45
	Session Name SMUS 23_04		
02:00 PM - 04:00 PM	Assessing the Quality of Survey Data	B3	38
	Session Name SMUS 23_20		
04:00 PM - 06:00 PM	Spatial Methods in Healthcare Research	A1	32
	Session Name SMUS 23_16		
04:00 PM - 06:00 PM	The Longue Durée in the 21st-Century Social Sciences	A3	15
	Session Name SMUS 23_01		
04:00 PM - 06:00 PM	Co-Production (of Knowledge) as Pathway to Decolonization of Knowledge in the Global South	B1	24
	Session Name SMUS 23_06		
04:00 PM - 06:00 PM	Culturally Sensitive Approaches – Potential New Directions of Empirical Research	B3	22
	Session Name SMUS 23_22		
04:00 PM - 06:00 PM	Methods for Studying the Spatial Dimension of Infrastructures	A1	18
	Session Name SMUS 23_03		
04:00 PM - 06:00 PM	Fieldwork in the Global South – Shedding Light into the Black Box	B3	35

Figure 22 Parallel Sessions on Main Conference Day-1 at various venues

© SMUS India team

Table 10 Parallel sessions Day 2 : schedule and participation

24th February 2023 (Friday)			
Time	Sessions	Venue	participants
	Session Name SMUS 23_15-1		
11:00 AM - 01:00 PM	Measuring Change in Urban Space(s)	A3	33
	Session Name SMUS 23_18		
11:00 AM - 01:00 PM	Methodological Overlaps, Misunderstandings and Conflicts between Spatial Planning and Social Sciences	B1	37
	Session Name SMUS 23_11		
11:00 AM - 01:00 PM	Multimodal Data Integration for Spatial Research	B3	25
	Session Name SMUS 23_15-2		
02:00 PM - 04:00 PM	Measuring Change in Urban Space(s)	A3	43
	Session Name SMUS 23_25-1		
02:00 PM - 04:00 PM	Methods-Intertwining in Teaching, Research, and Practice	B1	28
	Session Name SMUS 23_24		
04:00 PM - 06:00 PM	Cross-Cultural Research Methods in Community-Oriented Approaches in Human Behavior	A1	18
	Session Name SMUS 23_14		
04:00 PM - 06:00 PM	The Individual and the City: Urban Life Stories	A3	20
	Session Name SMUS 23_25-2		
04:00 PM - 06:00 PM	From Cases and Actors to Action and Implementation	B1	12
	Session Name SMUS 23_07-1		
04:00 PM - 06:00 PM	Application of Quantitative Techniques in Spatial Analysis	B3	13

Figure 23 parallel Sessions on Main Conference Day-2 at various venues

© SMUS India team

Table 11 Parallel sessions Day 3: schedule and participation

25th February 2023 (Saturday)			
Time	Sessions	Venue	participants
	Session Name SMUS 23_13		
09:00 AM- 11:00 AM	Discourse Analysis, Historical Analysis and Biographical Research: Multi-Method Approaches in Interpretive Empirical Research	A3	16
	Session Name SMUS 23_07-2		
09:00 AM- 11:00 AM	Application of Quantitative Techniques in Spatial Analysis	B3	38
	Session Name SMUS 23_19-1		
11:30 AM - 01:30 PM	Analysing Hidden Forms of Violence and their Spatialities: The Methodological Challenges of researching on Invisibilised Group	A1	11
	Session Name SMUS 23_21-1		
11:30 AM - 01:30 PM	Methods for Analyzing the Economy 1: Rural-Urban-Relations, Spatial Transformations and the Economy	A3	14
	Session Name SMUS 23_08,09 & 10 (08-01)		
11:30 AM - 01:30 PM	Ethnography as Spatial-Temporal Method in the (Re)production of Public Space	B1	32
	Session Name SMUS 23_12		
11:30 AM - 01:30 PM	How Modality Matters? Learning from the Multiplicity of (Non-)Digital Discourse Analytical Approaches	B3	22

	Session Name SMUS 23_19-2		
02:30 PM - 04:30 PM	Analysing Hidden Forms of Violence and their Spatialities: The Methodological Challenges of the Research on Intimate Partner Violence and Sexualized Violence	A1	12
	Session Name SMUS 23_21-2		
02:30 PM - 04:30 PM	Methods for Analyzing the Economy 2: The Informal Economy	A3	18
	Session Name SMUS 23_08,09 & 10 (08-02)		
02:30 PM - 04:30 PM	Visualizing Urban Nature: Ethnographic Approaches and Explorations	B1	35
	Session Name SMUS 23_23		
02:30 PM - 04:30 PM	Digitalization, Political Participation and Transformation in the Global South	B3	15

Figure 24 Parallel Sessions on Main Conference Day-3 at various venues

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5

SMUS Memoir

5 SMUS Memoir

5.1 Photo Album

Figure 25 a. Prof Gabriela Christmann addressing participants on PhD Day; b. Participants attending the PhD Day

c. Prof. Fraya Frehse training the participants in AM Course; d. Group Photograph of attendees at field visit

e. Prof. Wolfgang Aschauer training the participants in AM Course; f. Group Photograph of participants

© SMUS India team

Figure 26 a. Prof Nina Baur training the participants in AM Course; b. Group Photograph of participants

c. Prof. Jorg Strubling training the participants in AM Course; d. Group Photograph of participants

e. Prof. Gabriel Faimau training the participants in AM Course

Figure 27 a .Prof Ilana Boltvinik training the participants in AM Course; b. Group Photograph of participants

c. Prof. Gaurav Raheja felicitating Day-2 Keynote presenters; d. Prof. Gabriel Faimau delivering the Keynote

e. Prof. Angela Million and Dr. Ignacio Castillo Ulloa training the participants in AM Course; f. Group Photograph of participants

Figure 28 a. SMUS Guests meeting Prof. K. K. Pant Director IIT Roorkee; b. Felicitation of Dr.Katja Lasch Director DAAD Regional office New Delhi, by Dr .K K Pant Director IIT Roorkee

c. SMUS Lead Partners with Chief Guests in front of James Thomson Building, IIT Roorkee; d. SMUS Conference promotional board at DHSS

e. Participants signing on the World map at DAP Lawns, f. teaching aid Cubes of 17 SDGs, DAAD, SMUS logo, IIT Roorkee & SMUS Partners

Figure 29 a. Students of DAP performing at the cultural evening at DAP Lawns; b. participants and Guests enjoying the performance

c. SMUS theme Rangoli (colour art) at the DAP

d. SMUS Standees placed for signage at entrance areas

c. Participants lighting diyas in Diya-lighting ceremony, d. Group Photograph for Diya lighting ceremony

Figure 30 a. Parallel Sessions on Main Conference Day-1 at various venues; b. participant presenting her research

c. Parallel Sessions on Main Conference Day-2 at various venues; d. participants presenting their research

e. Parallel Sessions on Main Conference Day-3 at various venues; d. participants attending the sessions

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Figure 31 a. SMUS India team celebrating birthday of participant; b. participants savoring lunch in DAP Lawns

c. SMUS Guests honoring the Indian Classical artists at SMUS Strings event; d. SMUS India organising team

e. SMUS Theme lighting in and around the conference venues, f. SMUS team members posing at Selfie point in the DAP courtyard

Figure 32 a. SMUS Action-4 Workshop; b. Participants giving suggestions and feedbacks in SMUS Closing ceremony

c. Prof. Gaurav Raheja passing on the SMUS Conference legacy to Prof. Jakkrit Sangkhamanee; d: SMUS Partners celebrating the successful organization of the SMUS Conference India 2023

e. Group photograph of SMUS Conference participants and SMUS India team

Figure 33 a. Prof. Gaurav Raheja showing the Aqueducts in Roorkee & explaining their heritage value; Group photograph at Solani river

c. Participants savoring refreshments at Trishul Guest House in BHEL, Haridwar; Group Photograph at DPS Ranipur school

e. Group Photograph at: Participants having lunch at VIP Ghat on the banks of River Ganges; Ganga Aarti at har-ki-pauri you cards

5.2 Participants' Feedbacks

Many thanks to the whole SMUS India team of IIT Roorkee for the perfect organization of an extremely comprehensive and diverse exchange of knowledge about methods in the social and planning sciences. The conference is also unforgettable because of the loving care with which all the big and small things around the conference were thought of and taken care of. Incomparable was also the great warmth of heart of the organizing team, which shined on the human exchange between the delegates from different countries and cultures and made the stay so pleasant for the participants.

-Gabriela Christmann *(Professor, Technische Universität Berlin)*

I personally believe it was a good opportunity to present the working paper there and get the good comments. I really liked to explore the campus at IIT Roorkee. The conference was very nicely organised. The hosting committee were polite.

-Aarifah Jan *(PhD Scholar, Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi HP)*

The conference was good. Especially management and food was too good. I get chance to meet many people which helped me to have better insights on my area of research. Made some friends and some of them ready to collaborate with me. So, Happy to attend the Conference. Thank you so much to SMUS and the host IIT Roorkee.

-Pratik Kumar Singh *(Research Scholar, University of Hyderabad)*

Consider this as a small token of gratitude from my side for such an amazing opportunity and experience during the conference week. The one-week program was amazingly insightful and gave me an exposure to the world of knowledge like I had never imagined to be. Being a young researcher, the feedbacks received from the respected dignitaries and fellow presenters is sure going to be really helpful for me. Overwhelmed by your hospitality and arrangement of everything, starting from food to accommodation to event organisation. It really was such an enriching experience that I am taking forward with me. Thank You.

-Deeptam Das *(Student, Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra)*

It was an overall wonderful experience to be present there and able to interact with such scholarly people.

-Toolika Mishra *(Student, Chandigarh University)*

Dear Dr. Gaurav and IIT Roorkee management team and students. Thank you very much and congratulations for the organisation of the event. The planning and timeliness was evident, from the purchase of tickets, to the unconditional support at all times. Thanks for the patience, warmth and smiles. It is not easy to coordinate 33 countries, people from different continents, languages, tastes and expectations. The academic agenda was very varied and interesting. The spiritual seal in the inauguration and central spaces, the respect and recognition for the people, for the team was and is something unforgettable. I learnt a lot, I confirmed ideas, I thought of others, my personal and professional motivation was nourished by this life experience. In Colombia, my home is your home, fraternal embrace.

-Gisela Paredes Leguizamón *(Professor, Fundación Universitaria Agraria de Colombia/ Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia)*

It was great experience

-Saloni Mehta *(Student, Chandigarh University)*

It was a well-organized conference. The whole India SMUS team was wonderful. I was particularly touched by the hospitality and the rapid response of the team especially the volunteers to my requests including taking me to the hospital when I was down with stomach bug! I would want to put on record my appreciation to the team and say BRAVO

-Edlyne Anugwom *(Professor, University of Nigeria)*

It's a Nice and good learning platform, i had an opportunity, to present my paper in Conference, the conference organizers are good and it's a nice one.

-Sudharsanamurthy P *(Research Scholar/Teaching Fellow, Anna University)*

I would like to thank the organizing committee for being so proactive in addressing whatever issues we had faced during the conference. I appreciate the efforts for organizing this cross-cultural event with such smoothness and perfection. The only suggestion I have is to schedule the advance methods course in a way so that participants can take the benefit of atleast 2-3 courses.

-Barnali Chakraborty *(Research Scholar, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur)*

Excellent & a great conference experience in all.
Thank you Dr. Raheja & team at IITR

-Dr. Dakshayini R Patil *(Professor, BMS College of Architecture, Bangalore)*

It was one of the best conferences I have ever been to. The PhD day and Advance Methods courses were really fruitful and have definitely helped to gain more understanding of the field. The planning, organization, and execution of the whole conference was done painstakingly. It was clearly visible how much effort and thought was put into it. Especial thanks to Prof. Gabriella Christmann, Prof.Gaurav Raheja, Prof. Nina Baur, and Prof. Manish Asthana, to name a few, as well as other Session Chairs, Methods Trainers, for being approachable and engaging in fruitful conversations, during and after the sessions. The volunteers were very helpful and courteous throughout. Looking forward to more workshops and conferences like this.

-Ishani Vajpai *(Research Scholar, Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur)*

Tremendous, insightful and well-organized conference

-Victor Chikaipa *(Senior Lecturer, University of Malawi)*

It is wonderful to have a platform like SMUS. The intense method courses are the biggest advantage of the participants to acquire knowledge besides sharing their work which is an exceptional part this SMUS conference. Glad to be a part of it.

-Debasree Bose *(Assistant Professor, Krishnagar Government College)*

It was a nice conference

-Adarsh K. Verma *(Research Scholar, University of Hyderabad)*

It has added a new sense of enthusiasm. It reminded to me that there is a world out to receive my concerns as well regarding perpetuation of colonial knowledge in India even after 75 years of post-independence. I shared my thoughts with a number of members who attended this marathon conference from different parts of the world and they equally enjoyed my arguments presented in my session as a participant. Thank you for giving me this honor and opportunity. I do not have any videos of my presentation. I have asked for it several times but to no avail. I was told I would be getting them through email from you soon.

- Dr C S H N Murthy *(Professor, Paradigm: Institute of Media and Film Studies)*

Excellent & a great conference experience in all.
Thank you Dr. Raheja & team at IITR

-Dr. Dakshayini R Patil *(Professor,BMS College Of Architecture, Bangalore)*

Thank you for an excellent conference.
-Hafeeza Hosein Shah *(Graduate Student, The University of the West Indies)*

Hello dear SMUS team, I share with great pleasure my feedback about the conference with you :-) It has been a great opportunity to participate in the SMUS Conference India. It enriched me professionally, but I could also learn a lot from you concerning the question of how to organise a great conference and how to meet the needs of the participants but not only that! I also learnt a lot from a human point of view.

The content of the conference has been highly interesting and very well organised with a very rich and differentiated program. I could benefit from a very intense intellectual exchange that inspired me for my PhD and gave me the opportunity to reflect about the way to conduct ethnography and field research in culturally unfamiliar contexts. In particular, it encouraged me to reflect no longer on the question "if the participation of the research participants can enhance the field research" but how to involve research participants in the production of data, not endangering its validity, but reaching a decolonization of knowledge. Furthermore, through the speeches and the exchange with so many people coming from so many different parts of the world, it became clear to me that decolonizing knowledge means, first of all, decolonizing the mind in ways that deconstruct dominant discourses around the Global South, which, in the scholarly discourse, represents a style of thought based upon the difference between the Global South and the Global North. In the frame of the conference it became clear to me that in mapping geography, race, and culture onto one another, the category of the Global South fixes differences between people of the North and people of the rest of the world in ways so rigid that they might as well be considered innate and create an excessive otherness that produces power relations, so that the concept of and the use of the term Global South should be accurately reflected.

Even the excursion to Hardwar was highly enriching for me. I could learn a lot about the background of the region where the conference was hosted and, at the same time, it was really funny to spend the day with the team. Last but not least, you as organising team have supporting me in all my needs and requests and you did not leave me alone with any even smallest problem. You always responded very prompt to any request I did all your best to meet my satisfaction. I also appreciated very well the professionality and, at the same time, the humanity of Gaurav. All in one, I only want to say you thank you so much for everything and express you my gratitude for having the opportunity to take part in this great conference. Namaste!

-Elettra Griesi *(PhD Scholar, Institute of Geographical Sciences, Free University Berlin)*

Conclusion and Way Forward

The SMUS Conference India organising team is indebted to DAAD and SMUS Berlin team along with other partners i.e. RC33 and RN21 for choosing IIT Roorkee as the venue for hosting this global level conference and vesting their faith in the team. Without their constant guidance and handholding, it would not have been possible to actualize the plan of organizing the conference successfully.

Evidently, the conference was able to achieve its primary aim and proved to become a platform for the participants to build a global network of discourse on social science methodology and knowledge exchange by enabling them to:

- Organise sessions on methodological topics of their choice
- Present their research to an international audience
- Discuss current methodological problems with other scholars

In addition to the pre-planned events, the participants also engaged in various social programs with the student volunteers like campus tours and evening visits to Roorkee market. The six-day interactions not only lead to professional collaborations but also gave way to participants in making lifelong friendly bonds with the fellow attendees. The conference played a crucial role in adding to the inter-regional cultural exchange which was an add- on to the overall experience of the participants.

The success of the conference is very much reflected through the feedbacks received from all the participants in person and via emails. Undoubtedly, the contribution from the participants rendered it as a highly rated and satisfying conference with every participants learning, sharing and establishing connection with others. The participants have expressed their overwhelming feelings for the hospitality extended by the SMUS India organising team in the form of thanksgiving messages and gifts from their home countries.

The conference was instrumental in bringing together the Global North and Global South. It also became a medium to establish and strengthen the connection between participants from various countries within Global South. The conference not only served as a meeting point for researchers to build the basis for future collaborations but it also became a vehicle to educate and share about one's cultural practices and traditions with colleagues from across the diverse communities of the world.

The SMUS India team would like to once again thank all the staff and members from IIT Roorkee, DAAD, GCSMUS team and partner organisations, participants, volunteers, local service vendors and whosoever contributed to making this possible.

SMUS Conference Thailand 2024
Chulalongkorn University

SMUS Conference India 2023
IIT Roorkee
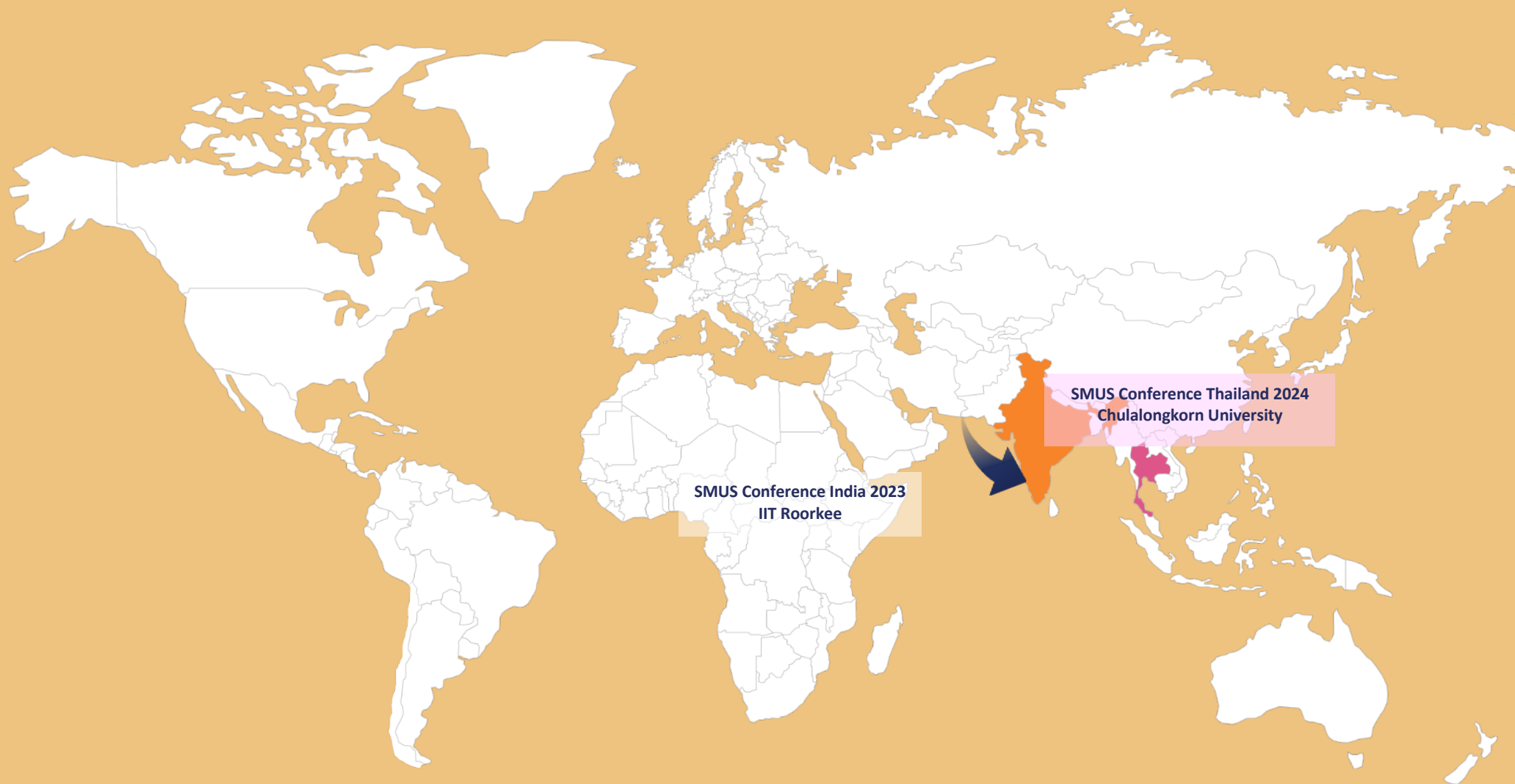
Figure 34 SMUS Conference India 2023 to SMUS Conference Thailand 2024

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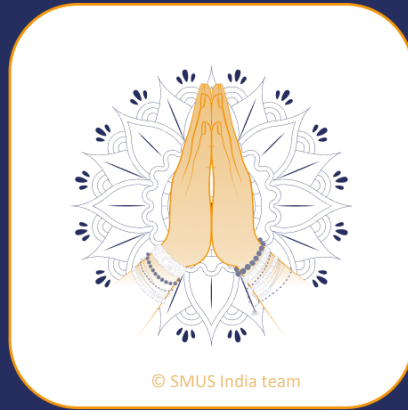
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Thank You

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