

**From:** [Ayurdhi Dhar](#)  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 08, 2023 5:18 PM  
**To:** [iptaskforce@simplelists.com](mailto:iptaskforce@simplelists.com) ; [Dr. Louise Sundararajan](#)  
**Subject:** Mad in South Asia Launch

Hi Louise,

Here is the announcement for the launch of [Mad in South Asia](#) and attached is a rolling call for 'expert opinion articles', a rolling call for 'personal stories', and a call for 'resources'. The last is a google form which allows us to build a provider directory of critical mental health experts who have a deep understanding of indigenous perspectives in South Asia We are also partly hosting contributions from and work of our neighbors China and Vietnam (East Asia).

It is with great enthusiasm that we announce the launch of [Mad in South Asia](#), an online publication dedicated to the dissemination of critical and indigenous perspectives within psychology and psychiatry. This platform emerges as a significant milestone in the scholarly landscape of South Asia, marking a pivotal moment in the pursuit of critical psychology, indigenous knowledge, and social justice in this region.

*Mad in South Asia* is an affiliate of *Mad in America*. We aim to showcase the experiences of users of mental health services in South Asia, in all of their complexity and diversity. Our mission is to promote a nuanced understanding of mental health, well-being, and psychosocial phenomena, offering an alternative to the mainstream, Eurocentric approaches that have dominated the field for far too long.

We are bringing together diverse perspectives -- service-users, scholars from different disciplines, practitioners, and activists who are committed to redefining the discourse surrounding mental health.

We recognize that issues related to mental health and well-being are inherently intertwined with other axes of culture, identity, including gender, caste, class, race, and ethnicity. Rooted in the principles of social justice, we are dedicated to promoting ethical, inclusive, and culturally sensitive practices within psychology and psychiatry. Our platform seeks to address the pressing social and political issues that affect the mental health of individuals and communities in South Asia.

We demand a psychology that is created by us, for us. We demand a psychiatry that is free from the teats of the pharmaceutical industry, that honestly discusses side-effects and withdrawal effects with patients so they can make an informed decision about their treatment and care. You can read more about us on our [About page](#).

### **A Call to Scholars and Advocates**

We invite service-users, survivors, scholars, researchers, practitioners, and activists from South Asia and beyond to join us. *Mad in South Asia* welcomes contributions that challenge established paradigms, ignite critical dialogues, and shed light on hitherto underrepresented

issues in psychology. Please see the attached [call for resources](#), call for personal stories, and call for expert opinions.

Please contact us on [adhar@madinsouthasia.org](mailto:adhar@madinsouthasia.org).

Rolling Call for

Resources: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12AAM2AZkC2ghfv8lJLznH1GNgBk\\_du7fmE7xe2f4Dk/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12AAM2AZkC2ghfv8lJLznH1GNgBk_du7fmE7xe2f4Dk/edit)

Best,

Ayurdhi Dhar, PhD

Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of West Georgia

Founder Mad in South Asia