

Between Involvement and Disengagement : The Dilemma of the Social Scientist

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Amongst the different types of responsibility, penal, civil, moral and social, the last is inseparable from the social scientists' craft. It is this that renders their position at the crossroads of academia and public space particularly complex.

We are living in an age where the social scientist has an unquestioned status of expert, and paradoxically has become the target of both intolerant political regimes and people who "have had enough of experts".

How do social scientists steer a path through an intellectual grasp of a problem, which gives them the authority to speak to a larger audience, and an active participation in the civic space to contribute to social change? Moving beyond the different typologies of intellectuals: from advisor to the prince, to the organic intellectual (Gramsci), or the expert..., the talk will explore the different paths available to social scientists in a democratic framework.

Prof. Virmani's notable works include *National Flag for India* (2016), *Political Aesthetics: Culture, Critique and the Everyday* (2015), *Aesthetic Perceptions of Urban Environment* (2021). She studied the politicisation of the French rural society after the Restoration and before the institution of male universal suffrage under the Second Republic in 1848 for her Phd and then served as the Reader in European History at the History Department of Delhi University where she taught modern French and European History before moving to France.

Prof. Boutier is historian of Early Modern Europe and has served as the Director of the Ecole Des Hautes Etudes En Sciences Sociales, Marseilles from 2002-2011. Presently, he teaches there. He has published widely on the constitution of French society and the evolution of monarchy in the country. Please find the abstract and the poster attached herewith.