



## Goa University

### Discipline of Philosophy, School of Sanskrit, Philosophy and Indic Studies

#### Report on 'Knowing Together: Reflections on Social Epistemology'

1. Title of the Event/Activity/program	Monthly online guest lecture titled, "Knowing Together: Reflections on Social Epistemology".
2. Date and Time	31st October, 2025. 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
3. Mode of conduct (Online)	<a href="https://meet.google.com/trb-vejw-txa?hs=224">https://meet.google.com/trb-vejw-txa?hs=224</a>
4. School	School of Sanskrit, Philosophy and Indic Studies
5. Detail of the Resource Person (Brief biodata)	Professor Vikram Singh Sirola teaches Philosophy at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. His research and teaching interests span Epistemology, Analytic Ethics, and the Philosophy of Science. He earned his PhD in Philosophy from Jawaharlal Nehru University and was awarded the Fulbright-Nehru Senior Research Fellowship at Columbia University, New York. Professor Sirola's recent publications include works on Social Epistemology (2019), Underdetermination in Science (2019), Evolutionary Epistemology (2018), Moral Epistemology (2023), and Scientific Normativity (2025). His contributions to teaching have been recognized with the S.P. Sukhatme Award for Excellence in Teaching (IIT Bombay, 2020) and the Departmental Award for Excellence in Teaching (2018).
6. Number of Total participants	31
7. The objectives of the Program/activity/event	The objective of this webinar is to explore the transition from individualistic to collective

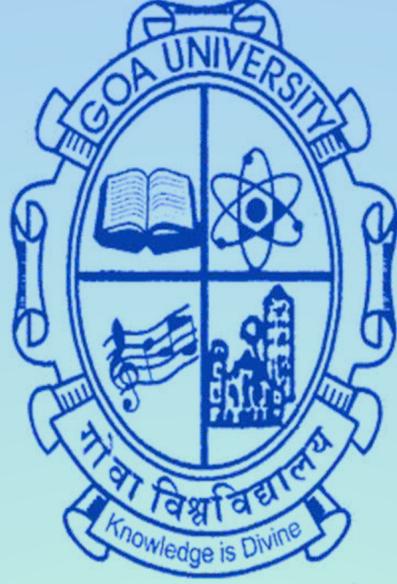
	<p>understandings of knowledge within modern epistemology. It aims to critically examine how social epistemology reconceptualizes knowing as a communal and socially embedded process, moving beyond the confines of individual cognition. The session will analyze how epistemic authority, credibility, and stability emerge through social interactions, institutions, and shared practices. By revisiting the sociological approaches to knowledge, the webinar seeks to illuminate how truth-claims and epistemic norms are constituted within the social world, thereby offering a richer understanding of knowledge as a dynamic and collective enterprise.</p>
<p><b>8. Description of the Program/activity/event</b></p>	<p>The event is organised by the Research Scholars' Forum of Philosophy Programme. Intro/Outro- Elizabeth Bara Welcome Address- Jonathan Sequeira Q&amp;A Moderation - Siya Sangodkar Vote of Thanks - Sanket Revankar</p>
<p><b>9. Benefit/Key outcomes of the Program/activity/event</b></p>	<p>The participants gained a deeper understanding of the shift from individual-centred to socially grounded theories of knowledge. They were able to critically appreciate how knowledge is shaped, validated, and sustained within collective contexts and institutions. The discussion enhanced awareness of the social mechanisms that establish epistemic authority and legitimacy. Participants developed insights into the relevance of social epistemology in contemporary philosophical and interdisciplinary debates. Overall, the session fostered reflective engagement with the social dimensions of knowing and inspired further inquiry into the communal foundations of epistemic practices.</p>
<p><b>10. Enclosures with report</b></p>	<p>E-Brochure, Screenshot, Attendance sheet, YouTube link: <a href="https://youtu.be/gx5ghG4ilBo?si=pO8v7EmAsT-1ZRy">https://youtu.be/gx5ghG4ilBo?si=pO8v7EmAsT-1ZRy</a></p>



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School of Sanskrit, Philosophy and Indic Studies  
Goa University



# **Knowing Together: Reflections on Social Epistemology**

31st October 2025, Friday  
3:30 - 5:30 PM IST

An Online talk by  
**Prof. Vikram Singh Sirola**  
**Department of Humanities & Social  
Sciences, IIT Bombay**

# Abstract

Modern epistemology has largely been preoccupied with individual knowers – their cognitive faculties, perceptual capacities, and rational justifications. Largely, within the modern theories of knowledge, the world was presumed to be real and knowable, though differing accounts were offered of its accessibility to human reason. While this focus on the individual knower has its justification, it has also obscured the social and impersonal dimensions of knowledge—those embedded in the very practices, institutions, and discourses through which knowledge is produced and sustained. The sociologists of knowledge in the early twentieth century sought to redress this imbalance by treating knowledge as a social phenomenon, amenable to empirical investigation. Yet their project, despite its insight, often remained limited to tracing how thought is shaped by its social context, without adequately exploring how epistemic norms and truth-claims themselves are constituted within social life.

This talk revisits these questions through the lens of social epistemology that reconceptualizes knowing as a collective enterprise. It examines how knowledge attains authority, credibility, and stability within communities. The focus is not merely on the diversity of knowledges, but on the processes through which a body of belief comes to be recognized as knowledge. In other words, it is an analysis of knowledge and its foundation in the social world.

# Brief-bio

Professor Vikram Singh Sirola teaches Philosophy at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. His research and teaching interests span Epistemology, Analytic Ethics, and the Philosophy of Science. He earned his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Jawaharlal Nehru University and was awarded the Fulbright-Nehru Senior Research Fellowship at Columbia University, New York.

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Vikram Sirola (Presenting)

The image shows a presentation slide displayed within a Google Meet window. The slide is titled "Knowing Together: Reflections on Social Epistemology" and is presented by Vikram Singh Sirola from IIT Bombay. The slide content includes the title, the presenter's name and affiliation, and a small circular logo on the right side. The presentation is being shown in a "Presentation Slides, Live of Goa" window.

A grid of participant video thumbnails is visible on the right side of the screen. The participants shown include Vikram Sirola, Elizabeth Bara, M.A. Philosophy Part-2, Dr. Koshy Tharakan, Madhvi Prasad, Akash Naik Salg..., and ijaz pe. A notification bubble indicates that Vikram Sirola (outside Goa University.) started presenting.

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M

M.A. Philosophy Part-2

Dr. Koshy Tharakan

ijaz peramadathil

Vikram Sirola

Madhvi Prasad

A

Akash Naik Salgaonkar

Elizabeth Bara

W

14 others

R

Rajavi Naik

3:37 PM | Knowing Together: Reflections on Social Epist... [Microphone] [Camera] [Chat] [Hand] [More] [End Call]

- \* Knowing Together: Reflections on Social Epistemology
- \* Meeting code: trb-vejw-txa
- \* Created on 2025-10-31 15:35:33
- \* Ended on 2025-10-31 17:05:52

Full Name	First Seen	Time in Call
Aditi Singh	#####	00:38:15
Aditya Raj	#####	01:28:06
Akash Naik	#####	00:58:11
Anjali Chau	#####	00:22:23
Aruvi Rajar	#####	01:28:26
Astik Yada	#####	00:33:32
Bhawna Si	#####	01:30:18
Deepak Tiv	#####	01:11:03
Diksha Rai	#####	01:15:14
Dipanki Sai	#####	01:30:18
Dr. Koshy T	#####	01:30:18
Elizabeth B	#####	01:29:42
Jinesh Shet	#####	01:24:34
M.A. Philo	#####	01:30:18
Madhvi Pr	#####	01:29:45
Maria Norr	#####	00:48:15
Panneerse	#####	01:30:11
Rajavi Naik	#####	01:30:17
Riya Gauns	#####	00:06:15
Sagar Yada	#####	01:02:02
Sanket Sha	#####	01:29:36
Shefali Kal	#####	00:46:15
Siya Sango	#####	01:29:44
Tarun	#####	00:13:12
Vidya Mar	#####	01:27:53
Vikram Sirc	#####	01:30:11
Walter Me	#####	00:07:35
ijaz peram	#####	01:26:32
rakesh kun	#####	00:11:44
sowmya iit	#####	00:16:16
sushruth r	#####	01:24:25