

The University of the Witwatersrand and the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society (CSCS), Bangalore, along with the Centre for Contemporary Studies, IISc, Bangalore, are organizing a workshop to be held in Bangalore in January 2007. This workshop is the third in a series of workshops that began in December 2005 in Bangalore, as a collaborative effort between the two institutions. The object, participants and content of the meetings in December 2005 and May 2006 in Johannesburg had some continuity and some fresh insights to the project of delineating the area of the Indian Ocean as a cultural field.

The workshop hopes to strengthen the identification of areas and moments through which the area of the Indian Ocean becomes visible. Tentative themes and areas that participants are invited to address are, cultural implications of global transactions within the Indian Ocean, the production of audiences, and aesthetics for cultural products, popular religion and the media, travel, pilgrimage and the construction of religious community, narrative traditions emerging from the Indian Ocean world, the production of race and caste through diasporic interaction, political interactions enabled by contact and communication.