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Completing MICA's FPM programme has been one of the best academic decisions of my life. When I look back at the journey, I realise that the program did not just provide me with disciplinary knowledge; it shaped the way I think. It groomed my academic personality and encouraged me to ask the questions that truly mattered to me.

Beyond research methods or theoretical frameworks, the programme taught me how to think as a scholar. It allowed me to sit with a problem before rushing to solve it. It taught me how to trace assumptions and how to situate my questions within larger academic conversations. It helped me in engaging with the ideas critically.

I deeply value the intellectual freedom it offered. I was allowed to pursue my interests, even when they were not the most conventional or mainstream. Through sustained mentorship and thoughtful guidance from my thesis committee and the faculty members, I learned how to strengthen my work, refine my arguments, and build scholarship with patience, integrity, and rigour.

In many ways, the FPM programme gave me both courage and discipline. The courage to pursue what genuinely compels me, and the discipline to do it with academic rigour. For that, it remains foundational to my research journey and my academic aspirations.

Today, in both my research and my classroom, I carry that imprint. I try to give my students the same intellectual permission I once received: to question deeply, to think independently, and to pursue ideas that matter to them, even if they are not the most obvious or conventional paths.