



Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati

In collaboration with

**Tribal Studies Centre, Assam University, Diphu
Campus, Diphu**

Calls for paper on

Writing 'Tribes' in Northeast India: Past, Present and Future

Date: 19th and 20th March 2018

Concept Note:

Beginning with Bampfylde Fuller's early attempts in producing scientific knowledge about tribes in northeast India through published monographs to the GOI's Tribal Research Institutes (Assam 1963) and later on the People of India initiative by the Anthropological survey of India (1985), research has travelled a difficult path and a long distance. Apart from these initiatives independent research and academic institutions, like universities have contributed to this expanding knowledge.

Hence the dependence on colonial texts have decreased, or have been critically reviewed to understand the category of 'tribe' and specially the communities of northeast India. Moreover, recent field research have dispelled many myths about communities, for example, on the question of efficacy of jhumming as a means of agriculture, or 'primitiveness' of 'tribes'.

The transformation of ideas is not limited to the academic exercises merely, but springs from various movements which have propelled 'tribes' to the vortex of politics in northeast India. The attempt of the communities to define themselves, to seek their pasts and to challenge biased narratives have led to epistemological quests which have altered many dominant opinions.

The journey of writing, thinking and acting about 'tribes' has been informed by changing dynamics and hence this attempt to map knowledge creation, both – official and non-official sources regarding the 'tribes'.

The Seminar is a critical review of the developments of a century of writing, describing, defining 'tribes' in northeast india in the context of the sub-continent and global concerns.

Sub Themes –

1. Official anthropology and Northeast India
2. Developmental agendas and Tribes
3. Gender and Ethnicity
4. Understanding “tribal” religion
5. Tribal Movements
6. Museums and Tribes
7. Films and Documentaries
8. Colonial Knowledge and post-colonial politics

We invite theoretical, critical and ethnographic papers on the above mentioned theme(s) for presentation in the Seminar. The interested scholars are requested to send an abstract not more than 300 words on any of the sub-theme of their interest to the following address by email on or before 5th March 2018. The full paper needs to be submitted before 13th March, 2018. Abstract and full paper may be sent to the Coordinators of the program by email. All correspondences will be made through email only.

Important Dates:

Abstract Submission deadline: 5.3.2018

Final Paper Submission: 13.03.2018

Dates of Seminar: 19 & 20th March, 2018

Registration Fee: There will be no Registration fee for presenting or participating in the seminar.

Accommodation & Travel: Due to paucity of funds we will not able to reimburse the travel expenses. However, modest accommodation will be provided in twin sharing basis in the local hotels of Diphu.

Co-ordinator

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