International Conference
On
Contesting ‘Self’ and ‘Other’:
Identities of Caste, Tribe, Gender and Beyond

(Date: 27-28, March, 2015)

Organizing by
Department of History & Department of Anthropology
Assam University (A Central University), Diphu Campus (AUDC)
Diphu, Karbi Anglong, Assam-782460 (INDIA)

Venue: Assam University, Diphu Campus, Diphu, Assam

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract Submission (250 words)</td>
<td>30th January, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notification of Acceptance of Abstract</td>
<td>3rd February, 2015</td>
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<td>Last Date for Full Paper Submission:</td>
<td>15th March, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference Dates</td>
<td>27th-28th, March, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>4th Feb, 2015 - 28th, Feb, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration with Late fee</td>
<td>1st March, 2015 - 15th March, 2015</td>
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Concept Note

The issues of ‘self’ and ‘other’ have been the subject of much academic debate in the study of marginal identity issues all over the world. This debate addresses several questions. What is an identity, how are marginal identities different from others? How the self is contested with other? In keeping above questions Identity can be defined as the sense that people make of themselves through their subjective feelings based on their everyday experiences and wider social relations. The self and other identities have been undermined due to the globalization and social network revolution that enabled the marginalized communities to look into their own identities and resisting the power and hegemony of the agencies in the name of social identity movements in the 21st century. For instance caste, tribe, and gender identities have all arisen is some way from a redrawing of the ‘otherness’ and every day experiences in the society.

The term ‘otherness’ often used in understanding of caste, tribe and gender identity struggles in contemporary society. For example being Indian may be most easily articulated in terms of not being colonial white; to be dalit (oppressed) may be conveyed in terms of not being upper caste in Indian context. The same dalit identity is contested with elite dalit identity. In the case of tribe and gender also the same. dalit or elite dalit, tribe or other tribal identities can be seen as relational. This relational position reflects wider ideas surrounding identity being viewed in relation to an ‘other’ or ‘others’ who are seen as possessing a different identity. It can be said that self-identity is defined in terms of difference from the objectified other.
Recent writings appreciate the close relationship between caste, tribe and gender that got manifested in many ways. The historians and anthropologists saw that the peculiarity of Asian society lay in caste. They also saw that there was a section in society, namely the aboriginal tribes, which had not been brought into caste society. The structure of caste society differed from tribal society in many respects. Gender was one important aspect in which the organization of a tribe differed from that of a caste.

The construction of ‘otherness identities’ have become an important issue in contemporary society. It is not a matter of surprise, therefore, that social/historical inquiries into their conditions have attracted several scholars. The adivasis or aboriginal tribes do not have that sort of importance in the society, except in the tribal belts. The gender question on the other hand, has also attracted a lot of attention, particularly because of the rise of the feminist movement in post-independence period. Like other social groups, women also have been involved in collective actions equipped with their agenda, leadership, ideologies and organizations in order to have their proper and dignified place in all aspects of life.

The forces of new technologies, social network and globalization have been playing an important role in the representation of local/personal identities as historical construction. It enabled the growing of identity politics after 1980’s, ‘otherness’ identities expose their resistance to not only universal hegemonies but also contesting within the same identity in many aspects that extensively have been playing an important role in the weakening of these identities. The otherness identity question have been emerging an alternative force in presenting of their experiences in the mainstreams society. The otherness and their experiences, struggles are different from region to region and country to country also. In this way we need to assess the nature of identity struggles of otherness in the study of personal experiences from grass root levels. This will help us to construct otherness identities and contextualize the debates related to identities from multi disciplinary perspective.

The present conference proposes to explore the nature of social subordination and its diverse forms of subordinations in study of personal experiences/struggle and structural domination within the same social identities. The interface between contemporary state and social identities on the one hand and relationships among personal identities on the other hand provided the context within which social discrimination or subordination is practiced. Social marginalization, contestation and discrimination existed since time immemorial. But the formation and development of technology, globalization, and social network revolution heralded the process of major changes in the social identity movements which remolded many of the pre-existing social discriminations. This conference will explore the identity struggles in understanding of contestations within self and other identities of caste, tribe and gender.

Sub-themes:
1. Conceptualizing ‘Self‘ & ‘Otherness’ Identity
2. Post Modernity and Nature of Identity Movements
3. Contextualizing Caste, Identity and Marginalisation
4. Mapping Aboriginals or Tribe or Adivasi Identities
5. Conceptualising Gender and Identity
6. Third Gender/Sex and Identity Question
7. Identities and Post Colonialism & Post Modernism
8. Lower Caste Movements- Identity Question
9. Tribal/Ethnic Movements- Identity Question
10. Tribal Development and Identity Question
11. Feminist Movements -Women Identity Issues
12. Hegemonic Agencies and Identity Movements
13. Impact of Globalisation and Identity Formations
14. Technology-Caste, Tribe and Gender
15. Social Networking Revolution- Marginal Identities
Outcome of the Seminar:
The present seminar would also take up panel discussions on the central theme which attempts to review the two-day international conference and hope to develop a latest paradigm for understanding of the identity formations and their struggles among the marginal communities. The conference proceeding will be of high quality that will be published by reputed international publisher and will be used by research scholars, academicians and policy makers as source for various purpose.

Guidelines for Abstract and Full Paper:
Papers are invited from the foregoing field’s academicians, social activists, research scholars and policy makers on the above mentioned themes. The abstract and full text of the paper should be sent to the conference Coordinators, Dr. Kh. Narendra Singh (or) Dr. Vulli Dhanaraju, Department of Anthropology & Department of History, Assam University (A Central University), Diphu Campus, Diphu, Karbi Anglong (Dist), Assam-782460. The guidelines for submission of abstracts and full papers are as follows.

Abstract
- The abstract should not exceed 250 words.
- It should include title of the abstract the author’s name, designation, institutional affiliation, contact address, contact number, E-mail ID.
- Authors are requested to kindly send the abstract through E-mail to the ID: conferenceaudc2015@gmail.com (or) nsingha66@gmail.com latest by January, 30, 2015.

Full Paper
- The length of full paper including tables, diagrams, illustrations, references, etc. should be between 6000 to 8000 words.
- The full paper should be in English and typed in MS-Word in Times New Roman with font size 12 and 1.5 spaced.
- References/Notes should be given at the end of the text.
- The selected full version of papers should be submitted in soft copy latest through E-mail to the ID: conferenceaudc2015@gmail.com (or) nsingha66@gmail.com by March 15, 2015.

A Committee will review the abstracts and full papers and information regarding acceptance, modification, rejection and presentation shall be communicated to the authors subsequently. The presented papers in the conference will be published in a reputed international publication.

Note: Foreign delegates can send their video presentation via E-mail which will be displayed during the conference and they also will be given certificates and papers will be published in international reputed publication.

Hospitality and Traveling Allowance:
The organizing committee will make free modest arrangements for boarding and lodging in local Hotels at Diphu, Karbi Anglong. Keeping the budget constraints, the delegates are requested to arrange travelling Allowances/ expenses (TA) from their respective institutions/organizations. No TA/DA will be reimbursed to the participants.

About the University:
Assam University (Central University), Silchar, Assam was established by an Act of Parliament promulgated in 1989 (Act 13) and enforced by a notification of the Government of India on 21st January, 1994. It was during the Vice-Chancellorship of Prof J.B. Bhattacherjee a campus at Diphu was conceived. And in the last week of March 2007, the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, approved six academic departments to be set up for a campus at Diphu in Karbi Anglong District, Assam, India-782460. Now it is consisting of 11 academic departments.
The Diphu campus envisages excellence in learner centric pedagogy with vibrant and innovative curriculum designed and developed to match the challenging scenario of contemporary corporate and academic world. The campus is a pioneering higher-level study centre in this remote eastern part of the country inculcating a unique value system of rich Indian culture and ethos for an amiable and socially dynamic academic atmosphere.

The Diphu Campus has carved a niche for itself since inception by offering different Post-Graduate courses and research facilities. Many of the departments propose different study centres. The campus with different departments provides state-of-the-art facilities to students coming from different parts of the state. From the beginning the campus has become vibrant in academic and extracurricular activities.

**About Diphu (Karbi Anglong):**

The Diphu town is the head quarter of Karbi Anglong district in Assam State. Karbi Anglong is the largest amongst the 27 administrative districts of Assam state in north-eastern India. The Karbi tribe (Mikir) is one of the major tribes of Karbi Anglong, Diphu. The Diphu town is home to many indigenous communities and other communities from rest of the country. Other tribes include; Dimasa, Bodo, Garo, Rengma Naga, Adivasi etc and other communities includes Assamese, Bengalis. The town truly exhibits the peaceful and harmonious coexistence among them. It houses temples, churches, mosques and also a gurudwara. The town celebrates all the major festivals together with much fun-fare. Rongker, Bishu-Dima, Wangala, Bihu, Christmas, Durga Puja, Diwali and other festivals are celebrated with fervour and joy.

In the middle of the town there is a great statue of *Rongpharpi Rongbe* and her comrades- a grand sculpture enlivened in the hand of its sculptor. It has immortalized a glorified page of Karbi history. Rongpharpi Rongbe was the first woman who rebelled against exploitation and oppression in Karbi Anglong. Taralangso is in the heart of Diphu. The headquarters of "Karbi Cultural Society", which is an established democratic cultural organization, is permanently set here. The Karbi Youth Festival is celebrated in Taralangso every year. During the festival the place becomes a cultural pilgrimage. About 7 km away from Diphu, there is a botanical garden of Forest west division. The garden is rich in many valuable trees, herbs and orchids. Recreation Park is situated on the Diphu-Manja road. It is a very beautiful garden set up by the forest department. The park is full of natural scenery, valuable trees and herbs which attracts many people.

**How to Reach Diphu Town:**

Diphu town is well connected by road, train and by air. Diphu town is connected with two airports. The nearest airport is Dimapur (Nagaland) located about 65 kilometers and Guwahati International airport which is located about 250 kilometers from Diphu town. Train connectivity is available from Guwahati and Dimapur to Diphu. Direct train services are also available from the rest cities of the country.

### Registration Fee Details

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<th>Delegates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty, Lecturers, Teachers, Academicians and other Employees (Indian)</td>
<td>Rs.2000</td>
<td>Rs.2500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Scholars, Unemployed students and other bonafide Students (Indian)</td>
<td>Rs.1500</td>
<td>Rs.Rs.2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Delegates and Scholars</td>
<td>US $100</td>
<td>US $150</td>
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Mode of Registration Fee:

1. Online Transfers (or)
2. Direct Deposit in the bank account (or)
3. Demand Draft drawn in the favor of 'International Conference-AUDC' payable at Diphu, State Bank of India (SBI), (Branch Code-01170)

Bank Details

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<td>MICR Code</td>
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Note: Kindly mail the proof of the payment (Scanned copy) details and Registration (Scanned copy) form to any one of the following mail: conferenceaudc2015@gmail.com (or) nsingha66@gmail.com

Conference Coordinators

Dr. Kh. Narendra Singh
Conference Coordinator
Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology
Assam University, Diphu Campus, Diphu, Karbi Anglong, Assam
India -782460
Mail ID: nsingha66@gmail.com
Mobile No: 91-9435506137

Dr. Vulli Dhanaraju
Conference Coordinator
Assistant Professor
Department of History
Assam University, Diphu Campus, Diphu, Karbi Anglong, Assam
India -782460
Mail ID: conferenceaudc2015@gmail.com
Mobile No: 91-7662934977

Conference Organizing Committee

Chief Patron: Prof. Somnath Dasgupta, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Assam University, Silchar.
Patron: Prof. Ramendu Bhattacharjee, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration), Assam University, Silchar.
Patron: Prof. Debasish Bhattacharjee, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic), Assam University, Silchar.
Patron: Prof. Amalesh Bhowal, I/C Pro-Vice Chancellor, Assam University, Diphu Campus, Diphu.

Members:

1. Dr. Subhajit Chowdhury, Deputy Registrar, AUDC
2. Prof. P. Chatopadhyaya, Head, Dept. of Political Science, Member
3. Dr Paul. B.Chonzik, Head, Dept. of History, Member
4. Dr. B.C Dash, Head, Dept. of English, Member
5. Dr Ratan Borman, Associate Professor, Dept. of Commerce, Member
6. Dr. Kusumbar Baurah, Head, Dept. of Assamese, Member
7. Dr. Suryasikha Pathak, Head, Tribal Studies Centre, Member
8. Dr. Tahir Hussain Ansari, Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, Member
9. Dr. Mahua Bhattacharjee, Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, Member
10. Dr. Tarun Dutta, Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, Member
11. Mr. Somenath Bhattacharjee, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, Member
12. Dr. Nitish Mondal, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anthropology, Member
# Registration Form

**International Conference**

**On**

**Contesting ‘Self’ and ‘Other’:** Identities of Caste, Tribe, Gender and Beyond

**(Date: 27-28, March, 2015)**

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<th>Name of the Presenter/Participant/Listener</th>
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**Date:**

**Signature of the Participant**