



GOLDEN JUBILEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

First Announcement and Call for paper

50th Annual Conference of the Indian Anthropological Society

&

National Seminar on

100 Years of Indian Anthropology: History, Progress and Challenges

(26-30 December 2020)

Through

Zoom platform

Organized by

The Indian Anthropological Society

CONCEPT NOTE

As a teaching discipline, Anthropology in India has recently completed hundred years of its existence. Those of us who take a keen interest in its development can derive inspiration from the fact that the discipline has not only sustained itself but has grown multifold since then. Anthropology as it is practiced in India has contributed immensely through knowledge production and policy interventions. While we cannot but appreciate the role played by Anthropology in renewing and furthering our knowledge about groups, communities and individuals in India, we are equally concerned about forces which are shaping an increasingly uncertain world around us. These uncertainties keep challenging the discipline's contemporary relevance and methodological appropriateness. Critical observers have been little apprehensive about its future as they argue that the practitioners lack a clear direction and a firm conviction about its own knowledge. Anthropology is sometimes accused of being myopic in its approach as it is rooted to its limited specific world. Although these charges are provocative yet should be encouraged to look back and reflect on the disciplinary journey of Anthropology in India, especially when we have just completed a milestone, hundred years of university life. Anthropology in India has always been a multi-sided discipline. Its origin, progress and nature have been shaped by various actors, institutions and social contexts in which they were located. These people and circumstances also shaped the trajectories of teaching, research, and creation of professional bodies and their organs of knowledge dissemination. A critical reflection on our past through deep engagement with social biographies of places, actors and their theoretical and methodological contributions is a need of the hour.

Anthropological knowledge, though radically pluralistic, is based primarily on ethnographic insights into lives of ordinary people. With the progress of time, character and nature have undergone an immense change, but it still occupies an important place in building anthropological knowledge. Earlier, ethnography followed the natural science model of observing, classifying, typology-building and generating into laws based on comparatively collected ethnographic data. Societies were thought to represent an organic structure and an expression of collective solidarity. Today, the emphasis has shifted to the individual, the self and relational and affective locations in the world. Consequently, the focus is more on 'individuals creating socio-cultural construction' from individual self as a socio-cultural construction'. This calls for a methodological reorientation and becomes a challenging task for anthropologists of today. Getting an intimate knowledge about an individual and its position in the collectivity is in the anthropologist's priority list, though its nature has changed.

Such issues as a group's deep orientation in the context of nature-culture interaction, estimation of individual's biological responsiveness or fitness in a specific ecology and cultural adaptability in the face of environmental challenges continue to find a place in anthropological research and nobody can say that these have lost their credibility. Health, nutrition, demographic changes or population dynamics, ecological determinism and

fluidity, ethnic group manifestations are among major concerns of the discipline of Anthropology. Consequently, more and more emphasis are now given on bio-cultural studies. Bio-cultural studies have attained significance in Anthropology mainly because it could take the form of an integrated approach. Side by side, any attempt to dehumanize the humanistic concerns of anthropology may not augur well for enhancing its future prospect. The future of anthropology will be guided to what extent we are able to sustain our interest in the traditional fields of enquiry, which are its basic premises, in the context of emerging fields of unavoidable contacts cutting across disciplines, which lead to identifying new fields of interaction, cooperation and critical appraisal. This will necessitate a thorough scrutiny of the processes of transformation of traditional society or community as revealed in social structure, economy, polity and work over by the forces of globalization. It is expected that critical issues like new concrete mapping of social locations in the context of the community's shifting identity, making sense of anthropological genetics or bio-genetic patterns of behaviour and justifying the pursuance of anthropological archaeology in the changing academic scenario will be receiving greater attention from anthropologists and anthropologically oriented researchers in the coming years. Will there be a renewed attempt to integrate the different facets of anthropologically derived knowledge systems to make it more meaningful and productive? The future course of anthropology will depend a great deal on this.

In the light of above discussion, we seek to reflect on multi-dimensionality of the discipline in the Indian context through the framework of intellectual kinship.

Themes:

- (i) Trajectories of development of Anthropology in India: Concepts, actors and institutions.
- (ii) Trends and emerging areas of research in Anthropology in the last one hundred years.
- (iii) Anthropological approaches in contemporary 'development' interventions in India.
- (iv) Problems and challenges of anthropological study in contemporary India.

Call for Papers:

Young faculties/ scientists/ scholars are invited to submit their abstract (along with short CV, in same word file) within due date. Limited number of abstracts will be selected by screening committee for oral presentation. Selected scholar should submit full length paper within due date. The abstracts should be submitted in English within 500 words through mail only (iasconf2020@gmail.com).

Selected paper will be published as conference proceeding/ edited book/ special issues of Journal of the Indian Anthropological Society (after a successful review process). For technical details, please follow reference style and other details of Journal of the Indian Anthropological Society.

Important dates:

Deadline for submission of abstract: 20.11.2020

Acceptance of Abstract: within 25.11.2020

Deadline for submission of registration form (including registration fee): 30.11.2020

Deadline for submission of full paper: 20.12.2020

Registration Fee:

PG Students: Rs. 100/-

Research Scholars & Others: Rs. 250/-

Payments: All payment should be made online using following details

Account no: 39060437735

Account type: Current

Name of the account holder: Indian Anthropological Society

Bank & Branch: State Bank of India, Garcha Branch, Kolkata

IFSC code: SBIN0003692

After making the payment, please provide payment details in the conference mail id given above.

Only registered participants are allowed to present/ attend the conference.

Organizing Committee

Chairperson: Prof Rajat Kanti Das

Convenor: Prof Barun Mukhopadhyay

Organizing Secretary: Prof Subir Biswas

Joint Organizing Secretary: Dr Sumahan Bandyopadhyay & Dr Sankha Priya Guha

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Technical help: Mr. Dibyayoti Ganguly

Registration format

1. Name (Block letter):
2. Age:
3. Designation:
4. Affiliation:
5. Address:
6. Email id (Block letter)
7. WhatsApp No:
8. Payment details:
9. IAS membership no (if any):
10. Title of the Abstract (if any):
11. Short CV (100 words):

Abstract format

Title of the Abstract
Name of the Author (s)
Introduction/ Background
Objectives/ Hypothesis
Methodology
Results and Discussion
Conclusion/ Observation
Keywords

Technical details of the Abstract:

Formatting: MS-Word (.doc/. docs), Text spacing: 2.0, Font: Times New Roman, Font Size: 12 (text), 14 (Headings)

For more details, please follow our website <indiananthropologicalsociety.org>

Or contact organizing secretary (iasconf2020@gmail.com)