51st Annual Conference of the Indian Anthropological Society
&
International Seminar on
Anthropology of Health and Disease: Past, Present and Future
(21-23 December 2021)

First Announcement and Call for Paper

Venue
West Bengal State University, Barasat, Kolkata 700126
(Offline and/ or Online mode)

Jointly Organized by
Department of Anthropology, West Bengal State University,
West Bengal, India
&
The Indian Anthropological Society
CONCEPT NOTE

Anthropological understanding of health and disease is not merely a holistic concept of interplaying between human biology, culture, and physical environments but also constructed a unique platform to open the door of deep-rooted dialogue between multiple stakeholders to solve the health sciences problem. This dimension is accurate in the current pandemic scenario when community perception of disease and its culturally governed human action is focused on combating unprecedented global health crisis.

Anthropology is the unparalleled opportunity to study human health and diseases through its intersecting specialization in human biology, culture, archaeology, and anthropological linguistics dimensions. Traditionally, integrated approaches of these four fields to understanding health and diseases cross-culturally are often known as medical anthropology. Now that time has changed, the Anthropology of health and illness expanded its horizons in all dimensions. It established that the disease itself might not cause illness but also depend on individuals’ cultural beliefs and worldviews, mainly psychologically governed. It has a specific emphasis on disease type, healing practices and healers’ responsibility. It connects the study of ancient DNA and molecular processes, skeletal evidence for health and disease in the past in one hand. On the other hand, it also relates through explorations of illness experiences, social relationships, healthcare settings, and the analysis of historical and contemporary epidemics, health care policies, and the structural inequalities that impact well-being. Therefore, Anthropologists should nurture a critical understanding of past, present and future dimensions of health and diseases and their determinants.

In contemporary times, the study on health and disease are the critical areas of understating for human survival. It is the driver of the nation's economic development to lead socially and economically productive lives. Over time, the nature of health status and diseases has changed a lot. Currently, overnutrition and obesity and its health consequences like diabetes, coronary heart disease, and cardiovascular diseases are rising at alarming rates in low and middle-income countries, including India. The primary causes behind such epidemiological transition are changes in lifestyle, food habits, and physical activity pattern and the changes in society's socio-economic, cultural, and political shift. In addition to such changes and living challenges in the daily life of the affected individuals, the incidence of such prolong illness can also trigger the household crisis. Anthropology through the ethnographic method has demonstrated unique strengths in how individuals, families and other communities understand, manage, and treat illness and strive for a healthy life. As a systemic and scientific discipline, anthropology can contribute meaningful outcomes and analyze the dynamic interactions related to healthy well-being between all spheres of human existence.
In particular, the Anthropology of health and disease looks at how human beings’ efforts to secure health and treat illness are shaped by and contingent on local, national, and international institutions and political processes and how health inequalities are created, maintained or challenged. The recent outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has raised the importance of the study of Anthropology of health and disease in multi-dimensional ways and put the methodological challenges. The need for an anthropological understanding of pandemics and epidemics has gained importance in public health domains. It is mainly because Anthropologists have supreme power to understand health and disease in terms of temporal and spatial dimensions, where changing environmental conditions has played a significant role. In that way, the Anthropology of Health and disease has become a well-established and internationally recognized sub-discipline within anthropology.

In contrast, it has remained a central point of departure for research of societies and cultures in general. Now it is time to re-evaluate and re-orient the direction of anthropological researches in health and disease in contemporary traditional communities and the changing human population in this globalized world. It will integrate the different facets of anthropologically derived knowledge systems to make them more meaningful and productive.

In light of the above discussion, we seek to reflect on pluralistic views of the discipline to understand health and disease in historical, contemporary, and predictive ways.

**Themes:**
(i) Culture as a driver to understand the anthropology of health and disease: Concepts, methods and actions  
(ii) Research in the anthropology of health and disease through the lens of prehistorical/historical perspectives  
(iii) Syndemics is a way to understand the anthropology of health and disease through biological and cultural outlooks  
(iv) Anthropological research in public health to conceptualizing pandemic and epidemic

**Call for Papers:**
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 (subir@wbsu.ac.in).

Important dates:

Deadline for submission of abstract: **20.11.2021**

Acceptance of Abstract: **within 25.11.2021**

Deadline for submission of registration form (including registration fee): **30.11.2021**

Deadline for submission full paper: **15.12.2021**

**Registration Fee:**

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<th>Online (Rs)</th>
<th>Offline (Rs)*</th>
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<tr>
<td>PG Students</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>300 (for IAS member Rs 250/-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Scholars</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>500 (for IAS member Rs 400/-)</td>
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<td>Others</td>
<td>300</td>
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*Excluding accommodation

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:

Patron: Dr Mahua Das, Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, WBSU

Chairperson: Prof Rajat Kanti Das

Convenor: Prof Subir Biswas

Joint Organizing Secretary: Dr Abhijit Das & Dr Suman Chakrabarty

Treasurer: Dr. Sovanjan Sarkar

Advisors: Prof Arup Ratan Bandyopadhyay, Prof Mitashree Mitra, Prof Sarthak Sengupta, Dr Diptendu Chatterjee, Dr Jyoti Ratan Ghosh, Dr Chakraverti Mahajan, Dr Rajesh Gururaj Kundargi, Dr Kanhu Charan Satapathy, Dr Arup Majumder, Prof Barun Mukhopadhyay, Prof Subho Roy, Dr Palas Chandra Coomer


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 (100words):

ABSTRACT FORMAT

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

Technical details of the Abstract:

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

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

Or

Contact organizing convener (subir@wbsu.ac.in)