



A TWO DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR
ON

*Decadal Celebration of Anthropology in
Sikkim University: Challenges and Way
Forward*

07 - 08 MARCH, 2024

Organized by
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
SIKKIM UNIVERSITY

Important Dates

Last date of Abstract Submission : 15th December, 2023

Notification of Acceptance of Abstracts: 30th December, 2023

Last date of Full Paper Submission: 31st January, 2024

Patron: *Prof. Avinash Khare, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Sikkim University*

Seminar Co-ordinators: *Dr. Garima Thakuria and Dr. James V. Haokip*

Organizing Committee: *Faculty members, Research Scholars and students of the Department*

Concept Note

Anthropology, a holistic study of human beings, began its formal journey at Sikkim University with the establishment of the department in the year 2013 by the then Vice Chancellor, Prof. T.B. Subba. With only two faculty members, initially, the focus was on Social-Cultural and Physical/Biological Anthropology. However, in a short span of time, with the increase in the strength of teaching faculty, the department has been able to diversify to all four major sub-divisions of Anthropology. The Department of Anthropology has progressed significantly in terms of teaching and research in the past decade in spite of the limitations posed by the lack of space and not having a permanent campus. It has been striving to combine both theories and applied aspects of the discipline with diverse areas of research interests in Sikkim in particular and India's Northeast region as a whole.

This seminar is being organized to celebrate the ten years of existence of the Department of Anthropology, to explore and chart the future development of Anthropology in Sikkim, and to reassess our roles in the larger discipline of Anthropology. It aims to bring scholars from across the country to present their research works and deliberate on different areas of Anthropology. As a holistic discipline that studies human beings and their diversity, whether large or small populations living in different geographical locations from the past, present, and to future, we welcome paper presentations in the different sub-fields of Anthropology.

With the changing world scenario, anthropologists are confronted with various ethical and methodological challenges to study human societies vis-a-vis social inequality, gender issues, migration and border problems, religious intolerance, endangered languages, controversial archaeological sites, and kinship definitions to name a few. The very basic definitions of family and marriage, the smallest unit of society, are now problematic for obvious reasons. Anthropological Fieldwork, the hallmark and distinguishing feature of the discipline, is slowly becoming complicated losing its charm due to various reasons. One reason is that the sentiments of political interests run higher over the social-cultural truth or facts in most ethnic groups which has the potential to distort the empirical study by young scholars. Instances of pressure groups dictating the findings of research scholars have been rampant in the recent past.

Anthropologists play an important role in understanding the complexities of human diversities as rightly said by the well-known anthropologist Ruth Benedict, "The purpose of anthropology is to make the world safe for human differences". However, the overarching problem faced by our contemporary society is the increased xenophobia and cultural intolerance in the country.

There is an urgent need for a paradigm shift in approach by anthropological researchers from socio-cultural as well as bio-cultural perspectives to address and solve the various challenges faced by contemporary populations for the betterment and well-being of human beings. Therefore, we welcome paper presentations as well as panels from scholars in this seminar to celebrate the existence of ten years of Anthropology in Sikkim.

Themes and Sub-Themes (but not limited to)

1. Public Health
2. Growth and Development
3. Demography
4. Food and Nutritional Status
5. Maternal and Child Health
6. Forensic Anthropology
7. Epidemiology
8. Dental Anthropology
9. Tribal Studies
10. Linguistic Anthropology
11. Gender Studies
12. Archaeological Anthropology
13. Borderlands and Transnationalism
14. Environmental/ Ecological Studies
15. Visual and Digital Anthropology
16. Material Culture, Museum and Heritage Studies
17. Medical Anthropology
18. Oral Tradition and Folklore
19. Development Studies
20. Migration Studies and Diaspora
21. Religion and Ritual studies
22. Economic and Political Anthropology
23. Conflict Resolution and Management
24. Contemporary Issues in Anthropology

Guidelines For Submission

Panels and individual submissions are welcomed from scholars working across India in Anthropology and allied disciplines. The abstract(s) should be aligned, 12 pt (font size), Times New Roman font with 1.5 line spacing between lines. The abstracts may be accompanied by 3-5 keywords.

Panel Submission: Scholars wishing to propose a Panel for the conference must submit an abstract in 500-600 words. In such cases, the name and email address of the panel member(s) (if any) is/are to be mentioned. Panel may include one Convenor and maximum of four paper presentations. Please submit your abstract for the panel to suanthroseminar2023@gmail.com with the subject PANEL- "TITLE OF THE PANEL".

Individual Paper Submission: Scholars wishing to submit an individual submission have to submit their abstract of 300 words (indicating your name, affiliation and email address in the abstract) to suanthroseminar2023@gmail.com. Kindly mention the subject heading of your email as – ABSTRACT- "NAME OF PARTICIPANT_TITLE OF THE PAPER".

Note: All abstracts will undergo a blind peer review

Registration Fees (to be submitted at venue)

Students and Research Scholars: Rs. 500.00; Teachers: Rs. 1000.00

Note:

1. Participants may contact Dr. Garima Thakuria (+919873497155) and Dr. James V. Haokip (+919907194328) for any seminar related query.
2. Certificates will be provided to each paper presenter.

Department Profile

Department of Anthropology started at Sikkim University in 2013. Currently, the department has six full-time permanent faculty members specialized in different areas. Some are associated with projects/fellowships in collaboration with reputed national and international institutes. So far, the department has produced MPhil as well as PhD research scholars. As many as four MPhil and twenty-one PhD scholars are pursuing their research works under the guidance of different supervisors. So far, 108 students have completed their master's from the department. Every year, the department has produced a couple of students who qualified for NET and UGC JRF. Moreover, the department has also hosted numerous lectures and invited talks delivered by both Indian and foreign scholars on a regular basis besides holding different annual anthropological events. It has now a well-developed Physical Anthropology Laboratory as well as an Archaeological Laboratory cum Ethnographic Museum. Currently, the department offers MA, MSc. and PhD courses.

Other Important Information for Participants

Food and Accommodation: All participants whose papers/panels are accepted will be provided modest food and accommodation on twin sharing basis.

Weather in Gangtok: Gangtok, the capital city of Sikkim, is the most populous and is located at an elevation of 5,410 feet. With a spectacular view of Mt. Khangchendzonga, the town provides the perfect base for travel through the state. The weather during March is generally pleasant with 7 to 18°C as winter slowly fades away. As suggested by Sikkim Tourism, March is one of the best time to visit Sikkim.

How to reach Gangtok

By rail: Participants can board a train up to New Jalpaiguri (NJP) Railway station (the nearest station to Gangtok) and then share or reserve a taxi (on personal convenience) or a bus from Siliguri till Gangtok. For shared taxi www.wizzride.com can be of help. One can take bus from SNT Bus parking located at Siliguri Junction.

By flight: Participants can fly up to Bagdogra airport and then share or reserve a taxi (on personal convenience) till Gangtok. For shared taxi www.wizzride.com can be of help.