

CALL FOR PAPERS

UGC SAP-DRS CONFERENCE ON BIOGRAPHY: WESTERN THEORIES, INDIGENOUS PRACTICES IN ASSAM 30 March 2016

SAP-DRS PROJECT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES TEZPUR UNIVERSITY

The recognition of biography as a serious literary genre—that is best studied simultaneously as an extension and contestant of hagiography—has been made possible by the convergence of theory and practice at different levels. In the Indian context, the genre has traversed multiple trajectories. The modern secular biography in India has drawn both from western theories and indigenous *charita* and *gatha* writing traditions. This conference seeks to examine the historical and social impetus that informs biography as a literary genre in India, more particularly with reference to Assam. At the same time, it is imperative that we examine the history of biography in Assam/India, especially to assess how the form has responded to social change, colonialism, and evolving forms of national and regional identities in the wake of independence. The evolution of biography as a secular literary form has also coincided with the emergence of the modern human subject. It would be useful to see how and where Assamese biography has allied itself with western models and theories, and yet differed from indigenous traditions. Our overall goal is to check how biography as a literary form has responded to modernity—both colonial and indigenous—and has contributed to mapping out alternative engagements with modernity.

We welcome papers on all aspects of biography including but not necessarily restricted to the following sub-themes:

1. Biography in Assam: History, Theory, Practice
2. Assamese Biography and Colonial Modernity
3. Assamese Biography and Alternative Modernity
4. Assamese Biography: Gender and Genre
5. Biography and Social History
6. Class and Ideology in Assamese Biography

This conference shall be restricted only to participants with papers. Interested participants are requested to send their abstracts by **20 March, 2016**. The abstracts of not more than 300 words should be emailed, preferably as attachment, with the subject line ‘Abstract for SAP-DRS Conference, 30 March, 2016’ along with the following details:

Name:

Institutional Affiliation:

Email and Telephone No.:

Title of the abstract:

The acceptance of abstracts will be notified latest by **23 March, 2016**. Full papers (Latest MLA Style, 5000—8000 words, presentable within 15 minutes) should be submitted by **27th March, 2016** in soft copy. Selected papers will be published in a volume. All participants are

required to submit one hard copy at the time of presentation. Abstracts and full papers may be emailed to the following email id: **eflconf16@gmail.com**

The conference kit, tea and snacks, as well as lunch will be provided. Accommodation, if required, will be provided on request.

The Department, which was established in 1994, aims to provide instruction and carry out research in English Literature, New Literatures in English, American Literature, Indian Writing in English, Women's Writing in English, English Language Teaching, Linguistics, Language Technology and Endangered Languages. Since 2009, the Department has been receiving assistance under the SAP-DRS project of the UGC (now into phase II) for carrying out research in (i) Colonial and Alternative Modernities in Life Writing and Travel Writing and (ii) Modern Assamese: Indigenous and Asian Influences.

Tezpur is well connected by rail and road. There are 3 weekly flights from Kolkata. It takes about four hours from Guwahati by bus. Tezpur is situated in a moderate climatic zone and March is usually pleasant.

The Department website may be checked for updates.

Contact for enquiry:

Convenors

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