

Concept Note

North East Indian Linguistics Society 9th Annual Conference, Tezpur University

The 9th annual conference of the North East Indian Linguistics Society (NEILS 9), will be held from February 5-8, 2016, in Tezpur, Assam, India and will be hosted by the Department of English and Foreign Languages, Tezpur University. The conference venue will be the campus of Tezpur University, Napaam, Tezpur, Sonitpur, Assam.

NEILS was set up in 2005 by Prof. Jyotiprakash Tamuli (Gauhati University), Dr. Stephen Morey (La Trobe University) and Dr. Mark Post (now University of New England) to provide a forum for those who are working on the languages of the North East, both faculty members and students. From the beginning a key aim of NEILS has been cooperation between local and foreign scholars, with an emphasis on high quality work, on capacity building leading to excellent linguistic research.

As the primary focus of NEILS is description of the rich cultural-linguistic diversity that exists in North East India, we are interested in work that is grounded in data, new data collected from the large number of languages and dialects spoken in the North East, leading to important new research on the classification and grouping of languages, on their sound systems, word and phrase structures, literature and social use.

Apart from the eight conferences already held (annually from 2006 to 2012, then 2014 and henceforth biennially), we have also seen 6 volumes of conference papers, the first five published by Cambridge University Press India, and the most recent an online publication by Asia-Pacific Linguistics (Australian National University). The seventh issue will be launched at the conference. These publications have a high academic standard, are peer-reviewed and carefully edited, and have brought the important research work by scholars from North East India to the attention of an international audience.

NEILS 9, to be held at Tezpur University, will present 80 papers from scholars across the North East, from other parts of India, and from a range of international locations: Australia, Finland, Israel, Switzerland, and the USA. NEILS presents a unique opportunity for younger scholars, often PhD students and those who are engaged in study at different levels, to interact with some of the most experienced and knowledgeable scholars in the field of linguistics. We receive many more abstracts that we are able to accept, but welcome all those who wish to come and listen to the conference proceedings.

Presentations at NEILS are either 15 or 20 minutes in duration, in each case followed by adequate time for questions and interaction. An important feature of our mission of capacity building is to give a chance for younger scholars to have their work assessed and discussed, and for them to question and engage with more experienced scholars.

NEILS is not independently funded, and we do not provide travel grants for those attending the conference, but we do want to subsidise the registration fees, accommodation and food costs of students from across the North East and other parts of India who are making the effort to attend the conference. Hence we seek some funds to make this important conference available to the widest number of people.

Fees

The fee schedule for NEILS is as follows, and includes lunch and tea/snacks on each day of the conference:

Rs. 500	SAARC student without financial support
Rs. 1500	SAARC student with financial support
Rs. 2000	SAARC non-student (includes teaching faculty pursuing PhD) or International student
Rs. 4000	International non-student

Certificates

The NEILS policy on certificates is as follows:

- Everyone attending the conference will have to register themselves by paying the relevant fees. We do not have a single day fee.
- Certificates will be issued only to paper presenters. Merely registering for the conference by paying the relevant fees will not entitle a person to a certificate.
- In order to receive individual certificates, each co-author of a paper will have to pay the relevant registration fees irrespective of whether they attend the conference in person or not. If a fee is not paid by non-attending authors, only one certificate will be issued to the attending author, but naming the paper and all the authors.
- Jointly authored papers, one of whose authors is unable to attend the conference, will be considered for publication in the NEILS volumes under the name of all co-authors.

Accommodation

Accommodation will be available at Tezpur University Guest House. Participants have to share the rooms.

Rent for University Guest House

	(Rooms available)	Single Occupancy	Double Occupancy
Deluxe Room:	(25)	Rs. 500/=	Rs. 800/=
Executive		Rs. 1200/=	Rs. 2000/=
Suite		Rs. 2000/=	Rs. 3200/=

(Note: Suite and Executive rooms are subject to availability.)

Participants who prefer staying outside the University Campus may arrange their accommodation in various hotels in Tezpur town.

Contact

Please consult the NEILS website at <<http://sealang.net/neils>> periodically for updated information closer to the conference date, or, for any individual questions, please contact Scott DeLancey delancey@uoregon.edu, Stephen Morey s.morey@latrobe.edu.au, or Jyotiprakash Tamuli jyotiprakash.tamuli@gmail.com.

We look forward to welcoming you to Tezpur in February!

With our best,

The Organizers, NEILS9
Scott DeLancey (University of Oregon)
Stephen Morey (La Trobe University)
Jyotiprakash Tamuli (Gauhati University)

Local Coordinator
Prof. Madhumita Barbora
Dept. of EFL
Tezpur University
Email: mmb@tezu.ernet.in

<http://sealang.net/neils>

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