

Colonial and Alternative Modernities: Special Reference to Assam/Northeast India

A UGC DRS SAP Workshop, Dept. of EFL, Tezpur University

28th February, 2015

Call for Papers

There is an increasing challenge to the nineteenth century narrative that colonization brought modernity to colonized societies (Mohanty, 2011). If modernity is defined as respect for egalitarianism and a spirit of critique and enquiry then there is scope to review the enlightenment tenet that western influence alone could and did augur progressive philosophy in certain societies. While this critique in itself is welcome there is no denying that colonial policies unleashed a plethora of changes. Unlike the nineteenth century colonial discourse that posited the colonizer and the colonized in a binary of active agent and passive recipient, the key is to see societies as already in transition where colonization was one of the significant players in the larger political economy but definitely not the only one. Thus alternative understanding of modernity could evolve through an engagement with local histories without losing sight of larger structures.

This one day workshop welcomes participants to freely think of modernity within and without colonization, to engage with some of the recent works on cosmopolitan, global and alternative modernities and try and formulate a response to these recent philosophical developments through the prism of colonial and postcolonial realities of Assam/Northeast India.

Interested participants are requested to send a two hundred word abstract of their paper to be presented in twenty minutes. As we intend to make this a multidimensional discussion mode workshop only a limited number of papers will be presented and a select group shall participate. A departmental committee will review and select the paper presenters and participants. The decision of the committee will be final. There is no provision for accommodation of outstation participants except for invited resource persons. Tea and working lunch would be provided during the workshop.

Reference

Mohanty, Satya P. Ed and Intro. *Colonialism, Modernity and Literature: A View from India*. Orient BlackSwan, Hyderabad, 2011.

Important Dates

Last Date of Submission of Abstract: 15 February, 2015

Notification of Acceptance of Paper and Participation: 18 February, 2015

Submission of full paper: 25 February, 2015

Contact: hod_efl@tezu.ernet.in; hjyoti@tezu.ernet.in