

International Seminar on ‘Identity Politics Reconsidered’

UGC-SAP (DRS-I)

Department of Sociology, Tezpur University

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Identity politics has been one of the most characteristic and controversial issues of the contemporary world that has generated considerable debate not only in the academia, but also in the public sphere in general. It can take multiple political colours ranging from progressive to conservative and can be based on ethnicity, race, caste, gender or sexuality. In South Asia too, identity politics came to occupy a central place in the political landscape from the 1980s. In India, some historically oppressed social sectors such as the Dalits and backward classes organized on the basis of their collective identity as oppressed castes. Ethnic movements proliferated in North-East India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan challenging the dominant nationalist narratives of South Asian postcolonial states. Identity politics based on majoritarian religious identities also gained significant ground in the region.

This global and national context calls for a rethinking of the concept of identity politics. With that objective, this conference intends to challenge the caricaturish and oversimplifying representations of “identity politics” that do not do justice to historical specificities and complexities underlying its concrete political practice. Based on an analysis of both contemporary and historical cases of what has been characterised as identity politics, the papers in this conference would raise new questions, open up new lines of theoretical inquiry and rethink existing frameworks of analysis on the topic in a transdisciplinary and comparative frame. The papers in the conference would be based on cutting edge research on a wide variety of political identities. Apart from research on different parts of South Asia, the conference would also bring into conversation, works on other regions in the global south such as Latin America and Africa.

Those who are interested may join the proceedings of the seminar. For more information, kindly contact the following

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