

**CALL FOR PAPERS for NATIONAL SEMINAR**  
**THE PRACTICE OF EVERYDAY LIFE IN NORTH-EAST INDIA: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY**  
**APPROACH**

Department of English and Foreign Languages  
Tezpur University: Napaam, Tezpur  
14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March 2014

North-east India has been 'seen' very often as a frontier land, a fractious place inhabited by numerous ethnic groups, once primitive and happy, now politically restive. Debates, discussions and writings (scholarly or public) on North-east India vis-à-vis mainland India tend to concentrate mostly on political marginalization, underdevelopment, insurgent related violence or the pristine cultural heritage. What is ignored or glossed over in such discussions are the daily lives – quotidian trials and tribulations – of “ordinary, everyday people”. In Western academia, everyday life in its multifarious aspects like housing, clothing, food habits, individual's likes or dislikes, memories, anxieties, etc. has long been a subject of extensive scrutiny. Still as Ben Highmore states, everyday life remains “a problematic, a contested and opaque terrain, where meanings are not to be found ready-made”. This seminar proposes to examine the practice of everyday life in North-east India. This is because everyday life as tethered to the larger social, economic and political concerns is a site that enables one to negotiate between the particular (microscopic level) and the macroscopic levels (of culture, society etc) and make visible the lives of those “nameless multitudes” who have been sidelined by dominant accounts of social life. We intend to interrogate what Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak termed as “sanctioned ignorance” through a critique of the everyday life of this region. Through an interdisciplinary dialogue on the everyday life in North-east India we hope to invoke those practices and lives that have traditionally been marginalized or glossed over as inessential. A study of everyday life and material culture in all its aspects – visual, verbal, aural, olfactory etc. – may help us probe and challenge identity politics as it is currently understood or constructed. This seminar endeavours to attain a pluralistic understanding of the idea of North-east India. We would be looking for papers that engage with, critique, reflect, challenge and react to texts and contexts of everyday life in colonial and post-colonial North-east India. The papers can engage with multiple critical categories like literature, language, ethnicity, gender, class, culture, power, history, memory, nation and geography.

We invite papers based on theoretical, methodological and empirical work on everyday life from all areas including but not limited to literature, history, sociology, popular culture, feminist studies, postcolonial studies, media and film studies, material culture studies, performance and visual arts studies. Papers can be on the following sub-themes, the listing of which is merely indicative.

## **SUB THEMES:**

- TRAJECTORIES OF EVERYDAY LIFE
- GEOGRAPHIES OF EVERYDAY LIFE
- 'WRITING' EVERYDAY LIFE
- OTHERS IN EVERYDAY LIFE
- GLOBAL IN EVERYDAY LIFE

The primary objective of the Seminar is to serve as a platform where academicians and experts from different parts of the country can participate in open dialogue and critical engagement with the field of everyday life.

Interested participants are requested to send their abstracts (1000 words) along with short bio-data by **10<sup>th</sup> December 2013**. The acceptance of abstracts will be notified by 15<sup>th</sup> December 2013. Full papers (Latest MLA Style, 5000—8000 words) should be submitted by 14<sup>th</sup> February 2013 in soft copy. The time allowed for each participant to present her/his paper would be 20 minutes. **All papers selected for presentation will be published in the Seminar Proceedings.** Participants who do not submit their full papers in advance will not be allowed to present their papers. All participants are required to submit one hard copy at the time of presentation.

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 and Linguistics. The Department receives assistance under the SAP-DRS project of the UGC (awarded in April 2009) for carrying out research in three identified thrust areas: Travel Writing, Life Writing and Language Neighbourhoods.

Tezpur is well connected by road. The nearest railhead and airport is Guwahati. It takes about four hours from Guwahati by bus. Tezpur is situated in a moderate climatic zone and March is usually pleasant.

### **\*Registration Fee:**

#### **Early Bird (Till 15 January 2014)**

- Delegate (with accommodation): Rs. 1200/-
- Delegate (without accommodation): Rs 600/-

#### **Registration (from 16 January 2014 – 20 February 2014)**

- Delegate (with accommodation): Rs. 1500/-
- Delegate (without accommodation): Rs 800/-

*\* There would be no spot registration*

Participants should send their Registration Fees after the acceptance of abstracts by Crossed Demand Draft in favour of **Head, Department of English & Foreign Languages, Tezpur University**, payable at State Bank of India, Napaam Branch (Tezpur),

Assam. Online payment can also be made to the State Bank of India Savings A/C No. **33415430235** of Head, Department of English & Foreign Languages, Tezpur University.

### **Venue and Hospitality**

The Organizing Committee will provide hospitality including breakfast, lunch, tea and dinner (on the days of the seminar). Accommodation will be arranged by the committee for which prior information must be provided well in time in the format given in the Registration form.

A local sightseeing tour of Kaziranga National Park can be arranged for the outstation participants on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2014 for which the participants would have to bear the costs themselves.

### **Bursary**

Based on the recommendations of the Screening committee a limited number of bursaries (Rs.5000/- only) would be awarded to select participants who submit their full papers by 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

### **Important Dates:**

- Last date for sending abstract (as email attachment): **10 December 2013**
- Intimation of acceptance of abstract after scrutiny: **15 December 2013**
- Last date of registration (DD with registration form): **20 February 2014**
- Last date for sending full papers: **14 February 2014**

### **Email Address for sending Abstracts & Full Papers and all enquiries:**

everydayefl@gmail.com

### **Address for Correspondence:**

To Convenor  
National Seminar on Everyday Life in Northeast India  
Department of English & Foreign Languages  
Tezpur University  
P.O. Napaam, Sonitpur  
Assam- 784028  
Phone: 03712-275216 (O)

The Department website may be checked for updates.

**URL:** <<http://www.tezu.ernet.in/deng/>>

## REGISTRATION FORM

Name of the Participant: Prof./Dr/Ms/Mr \_\_\_\_\_

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Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address for Correspondence: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mobile No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Id: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Title of the Paper: \_\_\_\_\_

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Whether Accommodation required: YES/NO

Date, Mode & Time of Arrival \_\_\_\_\_

Date, Mode & Time of Departure \_\_\_\_\_

Details of Registration Fee:

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

DD No. \_\_\_\_\_

Bank \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Place

Date

Signature of Participant

*\* Ignore if not applicable*