

International Seminar
On
Philosophy of Culture

Jointly Organized by
Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), New Delhi
&
Department of Cultural Studies under UGC's SAP DRS (I), Tezpur
University
March 31-April 01, 2014

Call for Papers

“The history of the idea of culture is a record of our reactions, in thought and feeling, to the changed conditions of our common life.” [Raymond Williams, *Culture and Society*, 1966]

Culture, a much quoted expression in the public sphere today, has been subjected to interpretation from multiple perspectives. In the disciplines of the liberal arts and social sciences, culture both as a concept and as a phenomenon, is increasingly being validated as a social discourse informed by multiple theoretical interpretations in the academics of the west.

In the Indian context too, culture (generally translated as '*sanskriti*'), occupies a primary place as a discourse at all levels of social and religious life of the country. Beginning from the Upanisadic years of Indian life or civilization, in which *sanskriti* meant an internalized journey associated with religious underpinnings and manifested in multiple ways including visual and performing arts and their aesthetics, it has travelled a long way as a concept from the days of the freedom movement when it formed an important component of the nationalist aspirations prompted by the idea of cultural identity of India as a nation. Even after independence the question of culture has come to be of great importance for the construction of identities of different communities including the ethnic groups. In many ways the concept of culture has come to define the social and political process of India as a nation. Culture has thus emerged from a nascent religio-social postulation or spiritual-aesthetic ideation, into a major phenomenon and concern at all

levels of social existence. It is therefore, necessary to inquire and explore the philosophy which is constantly at work behind culture as a concept or as a phenomenon enduringly impacting the social, religious and academic spheres across the nations and India in particular.

The proposed International Seminar on *Philosophy of Culture* will address various issues and philosophical dimensions that interact or are intertwined with culture and look into the synthesis of philosophy and critique of social theory towards developing a multiperspectivist approach in understanding culture in wider contexts of nation or nations. A philosophical enquiry into the culture will also facilitate an articulation of its values, historicizing its gradual mobility to impact all walks of human existence and formulating concepts and providing standpoints of diverse critical discourses. The Seminar will also try to take North East India as an area of particular focus.

Sub-Themes of the Seminar:

- I. Philosophizing Culture
- II. Philosophy and Cultural Theory
- III. Religion, Philosophy and Culture: An Interface
- IV. Cultural Nationalism
- V. Philosophy and Ethnic World View
- VI. The Question of Culture in the North East of India

Interested participants are requested to send the soft copy of Abstract (Max. 300 words) and Full Paper (Max. 8000 words) in MS Word incorporated with contact details – E-mail ID, Phone-number, etc. 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.

Details:

Abstracts and Full Papers are to be submitted to:

Co ordinator: Prof. Pradipjyoti Mahanta, or
Dy. Co ordinator: Dr.Hashik N.K.
Department of Cultural Studies, Tezpur University, Assam-784028

E-mail IDs : sem.cs14@gmail.com
pjm@tezu.ernet.in
hashikk@tezu.ernet.in

Contact Persons: Dr. Mayuri Bordoloi
Dr. Manashi Borah
E-mail IDs : mayurib@tezu.ernet.in
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Submission Deadlines

Abstract submission: 6 March, 2014
Notification of Acceptance: 10 March, 2014
Full Paper Submission: 20th March, 2014

Venue: Tezpur University

Accommodation

Accommodation could be arranged for the paper presenters in university guest house, university hostels if intimated earlier.

How to reach

Tezpur is linked by road and rail with the rest of the state and the country. Buses are available from all the places from North East India.

About Tezpur University

Tezpur University was established, by an Act of Parliament, in 1994. Tezpur University is an Indian Central University located in Tezpur. The University campus is at Napaam about 15 km east of Tezpur.

Department of Cultural Studies

The Department of Cultural Studies, Tezpur University, is one of the earliest Departments fully devoted to the pursuit of Cultural Studies in India. Culture is increasingly being perceived as a premise from within which subjectivities are being validated as a rapidly transforming world grapples with ethnicity, notions of nation, radical revision of history and space.