



National Seminar on 'Mobility and World View of the Singpho and Khamphti Tribes of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam' (27th -28th March, 2014)

Sponsored by Indian Council for Philosophical Research, New Delhi

Organized by Department of Cultural Studies, Tezpur University

Call for Papers

Mobility is a common phenomenon. Owing to socio-economic transformation and societal outlook towards mobility, migration patterns tend to be reflected in spatial and social terms. Increased social mobility within and across the state promotes economic integration. Mobility is related to social, economic, political, religious factors and to local conflicts and natural calamities. Various factors that contribute to mobility today include a demand for labour, relative cheapness of international transport, the advent of electronic communication, the emergence of transnational family networks etc.

North East India has been traditionally defined in terms of the clichéd metaphor of the 'melting pot' of various tribes and castes those gathered from various parts of the world. The Singphos and Khamphtis are two tribes that inhabit parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. At one point of time they were living in the plains and hills of greater Assam. The post-independence period saw the reorganization of the states of North east India and therefore, at present, some of the people of these two tribes are living in Arunachal Pradesh whereas some continue to live in Assam.

Singphos have no written history. But it is known that due to the atrocities faced by them in Burma and also because of famines, the Singphos entered the eastern part of India through what is known as the Dihing Patkai region. In Arunachal Pradesh the Singphos live in Lohit and Changlang Districts and in Assam they live in the districts of Tinsukia, Sibsagar and Golaghat.

The Khamphtis or Tai Khamphtis were originally from North East Burma and are now settled in the Lohit Dist of Arunachal Pradesh and some of them are settled in the Narayanpur area of the Lakhimpur District of Assam. They migrated from east Burma during the 18th century.

Mobility brings about a change in social values and beliefs. Ethnic associations have given strengthened group solidarity in order to strive for social upliftment and development of the community through education, eradication of superstition and inculcation of spiritualism among the community members. Mobility shapes the worldview of a people. It is interesting to note the way in which connection with the erstwhile ethnic homeland is maintained by the people. It would be of particular interest to see how the expressive behaviour of people, in terms of their folk ways, get

altered and modified through cross-cultural contact and interaction. In such situations people generally follow a twin process of acceptance and resistance to the new ways of life that they encounter in the adopted homeland.

Set against this backdrop, the national seminar has been organized to discuss the issues related to mobility and worldview with special reference to these two tribes of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Topics of sub themes for seminar include, but are not limited to

1. Reimagining the ethnic homeland
2. Cross-border movement and solidarity
3. Displacement, changing worldviews and gender
4. Ethnic identity and social mobility
5. Urbanization and development

Interested participants are requested to send their abstract (max. 300 words) and Full length paper in MS Word, Times New Roman, Font size 12, line spacing 1.5. The information to be incorporated are: (a) title of the paper, (b) name of the author(s) underlining the speaker, (c) designations, (d) institutional affiliation, and (e) contact details – e mail, phone no should be submitted by 28 February 2014 in soft copy. All papers selected for presentation will be published in the form of a book. All participants are required to submit one hard copy at the time of presentation.

Details:

Abstract are to be submitted to:

Co ordinator: Dr Juri Gogoi Konwar, or

Co Co ordinator: Dr Mandakini Baruah

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e mail ID : sem.cs14@gmail.com

Submission Deadlines

Abstract submission: 28 February, 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.