



**National Seminar
on**

**Converging Spectrum of Anthropology with
Emphasis on Assam and Adjoining Areas**

**Under UGC-SAP-DRS I
Department of Anthropology,
Gauhati University**

14-15 March, 2019

Invitation

It is our privilege and pleasure to invite you all to the Department of Anthropology, Gauhati University which is organizing a national Seminar on Converging spectrum of anthropology with Emphasis on Assam and Adjoining areas on 14-15 March, 2019

We, on behalf of organizing committee, solicit your gracious present and active participation in the seminar to make it a grand success.

With regards

Prof. Dwipen Bezbaruah
Coordinator, Seminar

Prof. A.A. Ashraf
Head, Dept of Anthropology

Venue:

Department of Anthropology,
Gauhati University
Guwahati-781014

The Department of Anthropology, Gauhati University:

The Department of Anthropology was established in 1948 and since then it has been imparting quality education to its students and research scholars. The department has expanded its academic horizons of study and research in newer fields sometime in collaboration with allied academic institutions of national and international repute. The Department has been awarded DRS-I under UGC, SAP programme (2016-2021) to work in the thrust areas – (i) Cultural heritage: Tangible and Intangible, (ii) Population Ageing and Health. In addition a number of individual research projects are being conducted by the faculty members. The academic activities are given additional momentum through organizing of national and state levels seminars and special lectures by eminent resource persons. Presently the department carries out programmes for Post Graduate courses (M.A./M.Sc.), Ph.D. and Post Doctoral in Anthropology.

About the seminar:

The development of anthropological studies in many of the third world countries including India took place under the colonial patronage. Colonial interventions in anthropological studies were more rampant in NE India or erstwhile Assam which have been inhabited by numerous ethnic groups through ages with diverse cultural and physical/biological attributes. Several monographs on the tribes of NE are an outcome of such academic initiative.

The disciplinary boundary of the subject has made an extensive journey since the colonial initiative and reached the stage where mankind is moving towards a digitised world. The courses of study and research investigation have adopted many of the strategies befitting to the changing scenario. While culture has assumed newer meanings with incorporation of such theoretical perspective as deconstruction and postmodernism the physical anthropological studies have marched to a newer level of understanding with the introduction of updated statistical packages together with molecular and DNA studies. Anthro-archaeological studies have also tuned itself to the changing pace by adopting such approaches as environment and contextual archaeology and application of GIS for understanding the human cultural adaptation in a changing landscape. All these have led to the understanding of human development and variation in a more concrete and assertive ways.

Assam and adjoining areas have been considered as fertile ground for anthropological studies due the diversities that exist in the realm of ethnic composition and landscape variation. It is a territory where all the major racial and linguistic groups characterised by varied biological and sociocultural traits reside. Ethnoarchaeological scenario is another significant dimension that

has made us understand the cultural formation of this territory by bypassing the limitation of temporal dimension.

The time has come to give a critical look on these aspects anthropological discourses with emphasis on Assam and adjoining territories in the changing circumstances befitting to the situation

* The problems of identity assertion, ethnic conflict overall social changes and transformation can be better understood and policies framed to address these issues from an anthropological perspective. Anthropological studies on Indigenous practices sustainable practices of livelihood and subsistence can be of great value in the context of NE India where the existence of such practices are many and varied. Indigenous craft, of bamboo, textile and weaving, terracotta, mask making, performing arts can be better understood and analysed from the perspective of anthropology.

* Likewise anthropologists particularly physical anthropologists can focus on varied issues of health and medical anthropology, traditional health care practices and help in formulating policies on maternal and child health, population and demography in a social situation marked by diversities. Likewise scope of modern studies of DNA and gene mapping can also be applied well in the context of NE India. The base of Forensic anthropological studies can also be expanded in NE India.

* Anthropological scope on studies of heritage both tangible and intangible including the cultural history and ethnohistory of the region is immense. GIS based studies of the physical environment together with updated application of absolute chronological studies can give us a concrete idea of the trajectory of prehistory and protohistory of the region.

The proposed national seminar on *Converging spectrum of Anthropology in Assam and adjoining areas* shall therefore try to address these issues from a holistic perspective keeping in view the changing facets of culture and biology in the region. The subjects which will try to be addressed are:

1. Tangible and intangible heritage of the region.
2. Ethnographic representation with special emphasis on the plain tribes
3. Ethnographic representation with special emphasis on the Karbis and the Tiwas
4. Issues of identity and ethnic assertion
5. Human growth and body composition
6. Ageing and Geriatric issues
7. Reproductive and Child health
8. Epidemiology of health and nutrition
9. Population and demographic dimensions
10. Prehistory, Archaeological studies with emphasis on Assam and adjoining areas
11. Ethnoarchaeology and issues of conservation

Call for Papers:

Interested scholars are invited to submit their abstract either in English or Assamese within 300 words (mentioning the name/s, affiliation, email address and contact number of the participant/s) typed in Microsoft word, in 12 font size, Times New Roman, with 1.5 spacing and sent to: guns.anthropology@gmail.com

- * All the abstracts /papers will undergo a blind peer review.
- * Selected full papers will be published in an ISBN volume.

Important Dates to Remember:

- * Last date for submission of Abstract: 25th February, 2019
- * Notification of selection of Abstracts: 28th February, 2019
- * Last date of submission of full paper: 8th March, 2019
- * Last date of registration: 3rd March, 2019

Fees:

Students and Research Scholars	700/- (on or before 3 rd March)	On spot 1000/-
Faculty Members and Others	1200/- (on or before 3 rd March)	On spot 1500/-

Important Points:

- Registration is compulsory.
- The author and co-author need to register separately
- Registration fee can be deposited/ transferred to the SBI A/C No. 37495479006, G.U. Branch IFSC SBIN0002060.
- Scanned copy of fee deposition receipt along with duly filled in registration form should be sent to guns.anthropology@gmail.com
- The registration fee includes conference kit, session tea and working lunch.
- No TA/DA will be provided.
- Very limited Accommodation will be arranged only on prior request on first cum first serve basis. The accommodation charges to be borne by the participant.

Registration Format

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Name (in Block Letters):

Sex: M/F

Designation:

Institution/ Organization:

Address for Communication:

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Contact Number:

E-mail id:

Amount paid:

Paid by: Cash/Cheque

Cheque/DD Number: Date:

* Accommodation sought: Yes/No
(Very Limited: First come first basis)

Signature of the Participant

NB: * Accommodation charges to be borne by the participant.

For any Assistance:

Prof. Dwipen Bezbaruah- 9435034172

Dr. Smita Devi Bora- 7002776947

Dr. Jyotishman Taye- 9476693284

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Organized by

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