

Conference

Continuities and Discontinuities of Asian Engagement

Borders, Mobility and Identity in Northeast India and Asia



Discipline of Political Science
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati

In Association With ICS, Delhi

17TH October to 18TH October, 2013
New Conference Hall, IIT Guwahati
Conference Program

Day 1	17TH October	Thursday
9:00 -9.30		Registration
9:30-10:30	Inaugural Session	
Opening Remarks	Organizing Committee members	Pahi Saikia, IIT Guwahati Jabin T. Jacob, ICS, Delhi
Brief Note	HOD / HSS, IIT-G	
Inaugural Address	Director, IIT Guwahati	
10:30-11:00	Tea Break	
11:00-11:30		
Key-Note Lecture	B.G.Vergheese	CPR, Delhi
Session Chair/Moderator	Dilip Barua	Former Professor of Economics, Cotton College
11:30- 12.30	Session I	Historicizing Borders and Mobility: New Directions in Research
Chair	Saundarjya Borbora	Professor, Department of HSS, IIT Guwahati
Presenter 1	Iftekhhar Iqbal	Associate Professor, Dept of History, Dhaka University
		Reclaiming the Crossroads between India and China: A view from the River
Presenter 2	Binayak Dutta	Assistant Professor, History Department, NEHU
		All For Neighbour's Sake: Cachar, Partition of India and the politics of Refugee Rehabilitation 1947-1953
Discussants	Jishnu Baruah	Principal Secretary to CM, Guwahati
	Arupjyoti Saikia	Associate Professor of History, HSS, IIT

12.30-1.30	Session II	Historicizing Borders and Mobility: New Directions in Research
Chair	Krishna Barua	Professor of English, HSS, IITG
Presenter 3	R K Debbarma	Assistant Professor, TISS Guwahati
		Celebrating and Mourning: Space, Place and Politics of commemoration in Tripura
Presenter 4	Susmita Sen Gupta	Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, NEHU, Shillong
		Transformation and Consolidation of Ethnic Identity in Arunachal Pradesh: Exploring the Role of the Educated Elite
Discussant	Rajib Handique	Associate Professor, Department of History, Dibrugarh University

1:30-2:30	Lunch Break
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2:30-3:30	Session III	Historicizing Borders and Mobility: New Directions in Research
Chair	Rakesh Gupta	Former Professor, Centre for Political Studies, JNU, Delhi
Presenter 5	Jishnu Baruah	Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Guwahati, Assam
		Locating North East in India's Geostrategic Significance of Northeast India: Reference to Myanmar and China
Presenters 6	Nani Gopal Mahanta	Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Gauhati University
		Ethnic Politics and Autonomy debates in India's Northeast
Discussant	Rajat Ganguly	Associate Professor, Politics and International Studies, Murdoch University, Australia

3:30-3:45	Tea Break
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3.45-5.15	Session IV	Historicizing Borders and Mobility: New Directions in Research
Chair	Girin Phukon	Former Professor, Department of Political Science, Dibrugarh University; Director Institute of Tai Studies and Research
Presenter 7	Pankaj Jyoti Gogoi	Assistant Professor of Political Science Arya Vidyapith College, Guwahati
	Trishna Rani Borah	Assistant Professor of Political Science B.Barooah College
		Ethnicization Vs De-ethnicization: Understanding the trajectory of Tai Ahom Movement in Assam
Presenter 8	Rena Laisram	Associate Professor, Department of History, Gauhati University

		Cultural Hybridity and Politics of Identity in Asian Frontiers: Revisiting Meitei-Tai History
Presenter 9	Munmun Majumdar (First Author)	Associate Professor, Dept of Political Science, NEHU, Shillong
	Haokam Vaiphei (Second Author)	Ph.D Scholar, Department of Political Science, NEHU,
		Border and linkages between Northeast India and Myanmar
Discussants	Chandan Kumar Sharma	Profesor of Sociology, Tezpur Central University
	Mrinal Gohain	Regional Manager, Action Aid, Guwahati

5:15- 5:30 Break

**5:30-6:30 PM Video Documentary Marichjhanpi 1978-79 Tortured Humanity
Tushar Bhattacharya**

Day 2	18th October	Friday
9:30-10:15	Session V	Political Membership: Reframing 'ethnicity and politics of marginality'
Key-note Lecture	Rajat Ganguly	Associate Professor, Politics and International Studies, Murdoch University
Chair/Moderator	Dilip Barua	Former Professor of Economics, Cotton College

10:15-10:30 Tea Break

10:30-11:30	Session VI	Political Membership: Reframing 'ethnicity and politics of marginality'
Chair	Rajat Ganguly	Associate Professor, Politics and International Studies, Murdoch University
Presenter 1	Debojyoti Das	Post-Doctoral Scholar, Birkbeck, London
		Crossing borders, Forced Migration and Political Persecution in the Sundarbans
Presenter 2	Achiransu Acharyya	Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics and Politics, Visva Bharati University, West Bengal
		Property Rights to Groundwater in India and China: Withering of the marginal?
Discussant	Jabin Jacob	Assistant Director, ICS, Delhi

11:30-12.30	Session VII	Political Membership: Reframing 'ethnicity and politics of marginality'
Chair	Rakesh Gupta	Former Professor, Center for Political Studies, JNU
Presenter 3	Anshuman Dasgupta	Assistant Professor, Department of Art History, Visva Bharati
		The Eye and the Ear: Politics of Spatiality in North Eastern India
Presenter 4	Rakhee Kalita Moral	Associate Professor, Department of English, Cotton College
		Narratives of Resistance, Narratives of Reconciliation: Discoursing Conflict and After in India's Northeast
Discussant	Rajib Handique	Associate Professor, Department of History, Dibrugarh University

12:30-1:30	Session VIII	Political Membership: Reframing 'ethnicity and politics of marginality' (continues)
Chair	Jabin T. Jacob	Assistant Director, ICS
Presenter 5	Kham Khan Suan	Associate Prof., Dept. of Political Science, University of Hyderabad,
		Revisiting 'equality as tradition': The question of women's reservation in Nagaland municipalities
Presenter 6	V.Sawmveli	Assistant Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati
		Law, Religion and Gender: A study of Women's Rights In Mizoram
Discussants	Rakhee Kalita Moral	Associate Professor, Department of English, Cotton College
	Sawmya Ray	Assistant Professor of Sociology, IIT Guwahati

1:30-2:15	Lunch Break
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2.15-3.15	Session IX	Political Membership: Reframing ‘ethnicity and politics of marginality’
Chair	Nani Gopal Mahanta	Associate Professor, Political Science, Gauhati University
Presenter 7	Lian Vaiphei	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Indraprastha College for Woman, Delhi University
		States, borders and political Identity: Addressing the ethnic marginalization of Kuki Mizo Chins in Northeast India
Presenter 8	Padam Nepal, Ph.D	Reader, Department of Political Science St. Joseph’s College, Darjeeling
	Priyanka Chhetri	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science St. Joseph’s College, Darjeeling
		Reclaiming Spaces: Politics of Place, Locality and Identity of Lepcha Community in the Eastern Himalayas
Discussant	Pahi Saikia	Assistant Professor, HSS, IITG

2.15-3.15	Session IX (Parallel Session)	Political Membership: Reframing ‘ethnicity and politics of marginality’
Chair	Chandan Kumar Sharma	Professor in Sociology, Tezpur Central University
Presenter 9	Samir Sharma	PhD Student, Centre for Political Studies, SSS, JNU
		Citizenship, Autonomy and Political Closure: Re-examining Accommodation of Diversity
Presenter 10	Kabita Chiring	Assistant Professor, Kaziranga University, Jorhat
		Modernity and its Doubles: Bangladeshi Settlements in the Sunderbans and New Forms of Visibility
Discussant	Liza Das	Associate Professor, HSS, IITG

3.15-3.30 Tea Break

3:30-4:10	Session X	Political Membership: Reframing ‘ethnicity and politics of marginality’ (continues)
Chair	Archana Baruah	Prof. Department of HSS, IIT Guwahati
Presenter 11	Thongkhohal Haokip	Assistant Professor of Political Science, Presidency University
		The Politics of Indigeneity in Manipur
Presenter 12	Biswajit Mohapatra	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong
		North East India and its Neighbourhood–Perspectives on India’s Look East Policy

Discussant	H Kham Khan Suan	Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad
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4:10-4:40	Session XI	Political Membership: Reframing 'ethnicity and politics of marginality'
Chair	Iftexhar Iqbal	Professor of History, Dhaka University
Presenter 13	Partha Protim Borthakur	Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, Dibrugarh University
		Assimilation of Tea Tribe Community in Assamese Society: Problems and Prospects
Presenter 14	Parag Jyoti Saikia	South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP) Environmental Governance of Hydroelectric Projects in India <i>vis a vis</i> India's Future Powerhouse Northeast
Discussant	Dhruba Pratim Sharma	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Gauhati University

4:40-5:10	Session XII	Political Membership: Reframing 'ethnicity and politics of marginality'
Chair	Rajib Handique	Associate Professor, History Department, Dibrugarh University
Presenter 15	Konthoujam Sarda	Ph.D Scholar, Department of Political Science, NEHU, Shillong
		India's Look East Policy and the Identity Question in North East India
Presenter 16	Anmol Mukhia	M.Phil/PhD Research Scholar, JNU
		Dragon Claims Over Elephant Territory: An analysis of Arunachal Pradesh in International Politics
Discussants	Rajshree Bedamatta	Assistant Professor of Economics, HSS, IITG
	Anamika Baruah	Assistant Professor of Economics, HSS, IITG

5:10-5:40	Session XIII	Political Membership: Reframing 'ethnicity and politics of marginality'
Chair/Discussant	Rajat Ganguly	Murdoch University
Presenter 17	Ch. Sekholal Kom	Ph.D Scholar, Department of Pol. Sc. NEHU, Shillong
		Problems of Autonomy Movements in Northeast India: The case of Manipur
Presenter 18	Aniruddha Kumar Baro	Research Scholar, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Guwahati
	Bhasker Pegu	Research Scholar, Department of Humanities

and Social Sciences, IIT Guwahati

**Electoral incentives and inter-group riots:
Riots in Goalpara district of Assam**

Presenter 19 Dilip Gogoi Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Cotton College

**A Possible 'region-states': Overcoming Imperial Design
Political Chaos in Post Colonial Northeast India**

5:40-6:00

Concluding Session

Organizer's Concluding Remarks