



MAKARAS

Sponsored

Seven-Day National Workshop

On

Documenting Oral & Folk Cultural Traditions of the North East [Special Focus: Barak Valley]

22nd to 28th April, 2018

Organized by:

*Department of English,
Assam University, Silchar*

In collaboration with,

ICHR, New Delhi

Workshop Concept Note

The North-East of India, comprising eight states, has been home to a myriad of ethnic groups whose lives and art have crisscrossed in the course of the region's history. Constant migrations, forced and unforced, have resulted in the development of a folk culture, primarily oral, that is united only by its diversity and shared network of influences. This unique history has resulted in the development of indigenous spaces of Oral Traditions that are at times unique and at others dialogic, especially at the intersections of cultures.

The Oral Cultural Traditions, folk or otherwise, do not merely contain the population's history, but are also a gateway to the lives and struggles of ethnic groups that have survived across time. In other words, the oral traditions can actually function as a portal, a time-machine that transports us to different temporal dimensions and helps us to put our lives and struggles under the present circumstances in the proper context.

Southern Assam/ Barak Valley in particular has historically been a multicultural space including 'indigenous' populations of various ethnicity and race as well as migrant populations with an even greater racial and ethnic variety. The movement and constant intermingling (mostly driven by political realignments or economic causes) of these varied population groups have created a site of dynamic cultural interaction and interface. On the one hand, there have been conflicts over the control of land and resources: these conflicts have thrown up questions of identity, indigeneity, and ethnicity which, in turn, have found expression in the cultural traditions of the area. On the other hand, such close mingling of cultures and the resultant cultural exchange have created a multi-cultural space that more often than not celebrates hybridity and furthers an ambivalent postcolonial identity. In order to understand this hybrid space where multicultural and multiethnic identities compete and mingle, it would be fruitful to study the oral cultural traditions of the area and theorize the same. A focused research in this field will surely throw up new cultural and historical material and shed new theoretical light on the matter.

The Workshop aims at training participants in collecting, assessing, analyzing, translating and archiving oral cultural expression related to identity, ethnicity, indigeneity and cultural interfaces. It is open to all interested in gaining and sharing knowledge and research expertise on the Oral Cultural Traditions of North East India with special reference to Southern Assam/ Barak Valley. This Workshop is intended to be a forum training, knowledge sharing, discussion and interaction for academics, researchers, professionals, educationists, policy makers and scholars from the different disciplines of Arts, Humanities, History, Philosophy, Language, Anthropology, Linguistics, Social Sciences etc. The Workshop will provide the participants with the opportunity of interacting with leading scholars in the area of Culture Studies and thus contribute towards creating and expanding a global network of scholars and professionals.

Objectives:

1. General Training on how to collect, assess and archive existing (published/ documented) oral cultural expressions and performances related to identity, ethnicity, indigeneity and cultural interface.
2. Training for Field work for undocumented/ unarchived oral cultural expressions and artefacts related to identity, ethnicity, indigeneity and cultural interface. This would include oral

literature/culture, undocumented folk culture and performances, documentation of oral narratives and experience, both first hand and inherited etc. and therefore would require audio-visual documentation when necessary.

3. Providing guidelines for Translation of the collected material to English for purposes of archiving. Due to the multicultural and multiethnic population of the proposed area, the Oral Culture would naturally be multilingual and multidialectal and would necessitate translation in a common language, preferably English, for assessment, analysis and for moving towards a generalised theory.
4. Providing guidelines for assessment, analysis and archiving of the available as well as the newly collected Oral Cultural Tradition(s).

Who Can Participate:

1. Research Scholars
 2. Academicians
 3. Professionals
- Number of participants will be limited to 40 (Forty). Participants will be selected as per criterion set by the Organisers and will be intimated accordingly by 20th of April, 2018.
 - Participants will have to make a presentation pertaining to the subject in the course of the Workshop for final certification.

Last Date of Registration: 18th April, 2018.

N.B. Attendance will be recorded in each session and will be considered compulsory for certification for the Workshop.

Organizing Committee:

- 1) Chairperson: Head, Department of English, Assam University, Silchar
- 2) Coordinator: Professor Dipendu Das, Department of English, Assam University, Silchar
- 3) Joint Coordinator(s): Dr. Saugata Kr. Nath, Department of English, Assam University, Silchar
Anindya Sen, Department of English, Assam University, Silchar

Members:

- 4) Dr. Anindya Syam Choudhury, Department of English, Assam University, Silchar
- 5) Dr. Sib Sankar Majumder, Department of English, Assam University, Silchar
- 6) Arunabha Bhattacharjee, Department of English, Radhamadhab College, Silchar

For further details, please mail us at: workshoporallitengau@gmail.com

Or Call us at:

Dr. Saugata Kr. Nath
Phone: 9435179050

Anindya Sen
Phone: 9706538097

- Prospective participants are requested to download the attached Registration Form and mail us a filled in scanned copy of the same at workshoporallitengau@gmail.com



*Documenting Oral & Folk
Cultural Traditions
of the North East
[Special Focus: Barak Valley]*

Registration Form

Name:

Designation:

Institutional Affiliation:

Phone Number:

WhatsApp Number:

Email Id.:

Accommodation Required: Yes/ No

Statement of Purpose:

(Within 100 words, please write how you will be academically benefited by this Workshop.)

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Signature with Date