

**UGC SAP DRS(III) National Seminar-cum-workshop on  
*Research and Research Methods in Geography*  
Department of Geography, North Eastern Hill University  
Shillong 793 022  
24-25, March, 2017**

**Concept Note:** For much of the twentieth century, as geographers' concerns ranged over contemporary physical and human space and into their past arrangements in so far as they could be documented, the methods they used to explain, model, and predict different aspects of the human and physical worlds became progressively more quantitative. But the new technologies and theoretical perspectives that emerged in the latter decades of the twentieth century helped to redefine the objects of geographers' inquiry and extend the methods in use for collecting and analyzing data and evaluating research. They also raised concern about the criteria, norms, and values for human action and conduct (ethics); how we position ourselves and are positioned by others (positionality); and the relationship we, as researchers, have with the world (reflexivity). In physical geography, data availability increased dramatically after Earth observation satellites were launched in the 1970s. At about the same time some human geographers began to seek alternatives to using spatial analytic (that is, quantitative, objective, and scientific) methods to explain, represent, and understand human actions and landscapes. Among the enduring approaches developed since the 1970s are humanistic, Marxist, feminist, and poststructuralist geography. Nevertheless, for many students, research methods remain grounded in the traditional canons of spatial analysis and quantitative techniques, and methods instruction are, too often structured according to the prevailing divisions between human and physical geography.

Learning about research should be a rewarding experience that allows students to pursue their own interests, learn more about a chosen topic and, above all, examine a subject from different perspectives. The best reason for researching a topic in depth is that one finds it stimulating and important. But students should also be encouraged to approach the eclecticism of their chosen discipline with a broad mind and an ecumenical spirit. Many prominent geographers have been attracted to the field precisely because of its wide remit, and some topics that are now considered mainstream were, as recently as a generation ago, not considered to be part of the discipline. So we encourage students to let their imagination run free as they select objects of analysis and ways to study them.

The Department of Geography, North eastern Hill University intends to discuss some of these issues in its forthcoming Seminar-cum-workshop organised under the aegis of the UGC SAP DRS (III) programme. The Seminar-cum-workshop is designed for the research scholars currently pursuing their research in geography in different university/college departments, research institutes etc. Eminent resource persons from Indian Universities have been invited to speak on different aspects of research and research methodology in geography keeping the focus on diverse perspectives that are currently in vogue and on different types of research undertaken within geographical sciences. It is expected that the Seminar-cum-workshop will provide a good platform for the research scholars in improving quality of their research.

**Who can participate:** The target group for this Seminar-cum-workshop is the research scholars currently pursuing their research or intending to join research programme in geography.

**How to apply:** Interested scholars are advised to apply to the Convenor by email on or before **15<sup>th</sup> March 2017** to register for the Seminar-cum-workshop. Applicants should provide brief curriculum vitae giving details of their departmental/institutional affiliation, address for correspondence, email ID, telephone number etc. ***There is no registration fee.*** Participants will be informed about their selection by **17<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.**

**Travel, Lodging and Boarding:** Selected participants will be provided free boarding and lodging facility in dormitory accommodation in a guest house located within the campus from evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> March till the morning of 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2017. No TA/DA will be paid to the participants.

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