



Two-day Young Scholars Workshop
on
*Conducting Research in North-East India in
Contemporary Times: Issues, Concerns and
Challenges*
(Blended mode)

13-14th December 2024

Organised by
Department of Sociology
North-Eastern Hill University
Shillong

In collaboration with
Indian Sociological Society

INDIAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY - YOUNG SCHOLARS WORKSHOP

13-14th December 2024

Department of Sociology, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong

The Department of Sociology, NEHU in collaboration with the Indian Sociological Society, is organising the Young Scholars Workshop on 13-14th December 2024 in Shillong. The Department since its inception in the year 1976 has been a pioneer in conducting and promoting seminal research on diverse sociological issues and problems in the North-Eastern region. Keeping in line with its research tradition, the Department is organising a two-day Young Scholars Workshop (YSW) to provide a platform for young scholars (doctoral and MPhil students and independent researchers) from Sociology and other allied disciplines to share their work in the proposed workshop and receive mentoring from experts in the field.

The theme of the workshop is *Conducting Research in North East India in Contemporary Times: Issues, Concerns and Challenges*. North-East India has long been an object of inquiry from various disciplinary standpoints leading to the construction of myriad narratives and discourses about the region, its socio-cultural and historical landscape, and its people. Considerations of tribe, community, identity, colonialism, nationalism, migration, citizenship, cultural practices, religious conversion, development and change and the likes had been at the core of sociological and other social science scholarship on North-East India. However, with changing theoretical and methodological landscapes, one can observe a remarkable transition in the trend/s of research in and on the region. Additionally, in the neo-liberal and global-digital era, many new issues and problems have garnered the attention of scholars from different social science disciplines to critically examine and interrogate socio-cultural and developmental issues of relevance in the North-East. An exploration into this transformation provides an insight into the processes through which the object of inquiry becomes and is becoming a subject in inquiry.

Set against this background, YSW at NEHU intends to explore the ways in which research in and on the North-East has transformed over time to account for the changing socio-cultural, economic and political reality in the region. There is a need to acknowledge not only new (and possibly less explored) arenas and themes of study (music, art, folklore, media, material and visual culture, cultural connections with South East Asia/South Asia to name a few) but also novel ways of interrogating and analysing them (for instance visual and digital ethnographies and anthropologies). The workshop will create a shared space for senior and young scholars researching in and on the region wherein the latter can present their research themes and findings and receive mentoring from the former to develop a comprehensive understanding on the issues, concerns and

challenges that impact their research. It will also provide an opportunity to critically engage with both existing and novel theoretical and methodological directions of investigation and analysis on North-East India. Towards this end, we invite deliberations on conducting research in and on North-East India in contemporary times and problematise the many taken for granted sets of knowledge about the same.

The interested scholars are invited to submit an abstract for the workshop which will be evaluated by the screening committee. Selected participants will have to submit a full paper for the workshop to facilitate detailed feedback and discussions. Selected papers will also be considered for the possibility of publication in the form of an anthology.

We invite papers related, but not limited, to the following themes:

1. Theoretical and methodological challenges in studying issues in/of the North-East India
2. Colonialism, nationalism and decoloniality
3. Indigeneity, ethnicity and identity representation: self and other
4. State, people and citizenship: power, domination, resistance and violence
5. Migration, diaspora and community
6. Ecology and development
7. Gender and gender dynamics
8. Genealogies and geographies: North-East India, South Asia and South-East Asia
9. Law, traditions and customs
10. Religion and religious practices
11. Cultural heritage: language, rituals, food, clothing, healing practices
12. Memories and narratives: oral histories, folk tales, folklore, myths, stories of origin
13. Material and/or visual culture: politics and aesthetics
14. New media cultures and mediated knowledge production

We invite abstracts between 300-500 words to be submitted at this link:

[Google form for submission of abstracts](#)

Last date for submission of abstracts- **15th October 2024**

Shortlisted candidates notification- **21st October, 2024**

Submission of full paper- **20th November, 2024** (Submission of a full paper is mandatory for participation in the workshop.)

The shortlisted participants will have to register for the workshop

Registration fees

With Accommodation - 1800 INR

Without accommodation - 800 INR

Online participation - 300 INR

Please note:

- We will not be able to provide travel support to participants.
- This is an in-person workshop but the option of online participation is available for scholars who are based in cities outside of North-East India.

For any further information or queries, please contact - departmentofsociologynehu@gmail.com

Convenors: Prof. B. Panda, Department of Sociology, NEHU
Dr. Rashi Bhargava, Department of Sociology, NEHU