

# **CALL FOR PAPERS**

## **A TWO-DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR**

ON

## **MODERNITY AND INDIGENEITY: SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES IN CULTURE, LITERATURE, AND LANGUAGE**

**DATE: 05<sup>th</sup> and 06<sup>th</sup> March, 2020**



Organized by  
**Department of English**  
**Rajiv Gandhi University**  
**Rono Hills, Doimukh**  
**Arunachal Pradesh-7911112**  
Tele: (0360)2277570  
[www.rgu.ac.in](http://www.rgu.ac.in)  
Venue:  
**Rajiv Gandhi University**

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### **ABOUT THE THEME**

Modernity and indigeneity assume to have received historically the antithetical positions both in the epistemological and cultural realms. Beyond their perceived intellectual and cultural opposition, there exists tacit correspondence between them. The contesting socio-cultural moods that they present and represent embody the latency of contradictory complementarity. This seminar intends to investigate the underpinnings of their complex cultural relation. The variant of modernity which India experiences is irrefutably of European kind. It came in conjunction with the European colonization of India. Modernity as a colonial import was brought to aid and immunize the European interest in India. The industrial and capitalist ethos and ethics and the Christian missionary ambition of promoting evangelism couching the doctrine of manifest destiny which started making strong inroads intended to safeguard the white European interests in India. The intentionality of colonial modernity was to fulfill the project of perpetuating the European mission of empire building in India. But this colonial intentionality spread the waves

of apprehension among the indigenous as it precipitated a feeling of uprootment and dislocation and cultural decadence. But contradictorily, in the fashion of Hegelian perception of history, the colonial intentionality turned out to be the historical antithesis to regenerate India towards a Renaissance. The European modernity that started settling on Indian soil began to produce the political leaders who could reverse the colonial intent. It opened a space for intercultural and intellectual dialogue. However, the colonial modernity was not without its ambivalence. It possessed an emancipatory streak and obsessional fetish for the different. This obsessional fever for the different developed a growing sense of distance from the cultural roots. The phase of assimilation succeeded the temporality of resistance. Cultural assimilation attracted the indigenous to embrace the foreign as latter seemed so promising and richly sophisticated. The cultural assimilation led to culture clash. The time-tested indigenous cultural paradigm fell prey to the cultural onslaught. The growing proximity of the different promoted cultural colonization. India's rich mosaic of cultural and linguistic heterogeneity submitted to the contemporary competitive cultural monotheism. The inundating force of the linguistic and cultural monotheism consigned many cultures and languages to the archival womb of forgetting and carelessness.

This seminar aims at engaging its discursivity on explaining the nature, feature and intentionality of colonial modernity and its impact on the indigenous people, cultures and traditions. It also tries to investigate how cultures conflict in the absence of inherent commonalities. In the absence of interdependent adhesives cultures are positioned as contraries. These contraries engender continuities of contentions. The paradox of colonial modernity in India is that the indigenous attempt to naturalize a contrary intellectual and cultural force remains in a state of attempt without graduating into a state of cogent and cohesive synthesis. The proposed seminar goes with the objectives to convene the discourse on the crucial features of modernity, race and class and its complex imbrications on culture, language and literature. The objective will also be to comprehend the relationship of a colonial past and a liberal present which finds ample manifestations in themes of identity and anxiety, assimilation and exile, and race and ethnicity. The discussions in the seminar will also have critical reflections on the tribal, the marginal and other displaced communities along with other sociological issues with interdisciplinary concerns. The focus will also be on the English writings of North-East writers who have focused both on regional and national issues and in the matters of modernity, globalization and identity.

### **Subthemes:**

- Modernity and history
- Modernity and memory
- Modernity and its sociological implications
- Cultural anthropology
- Comparative anthropology
- Colonization and trauma
- Modernity and its literary representations
- Politics of modernity
- Indigenous resistance and assimilation
- Tribal literature
- Oral literature
- Borderland narratives
- Northeast literature
- Animism and monotheism
- Representing the subaltern
- Literatures from socio-cultural margins
- Climate and economic refugees
- Linguistics
- Endangered languages
- Text books and tribal languages
- Tribal experience and its tryst with modernity
- Text, history and modernity

### **ABSTRACT/PAPER SUBMISSION**

Abstracts for presentation of papers on the sub-themes of the seminar as well as any other related aspects are invited.

The abstract should be written in about 300 words in English using MS Word (Times New Roman font) with the following requirements:

Title of the paper:                    **Font 14**                    Name of the author(s): **Font 11**

Designation and affiliation: **Font 11**                    Main text:                    **Font 12**

Keywords (min. four):            *Font 12*

Abstract and full papers should be sent as an email attachment to [engconf@rgu.ac.in](mailto:engconf@rgu.ac.in)

An Abstracts Volume will be published and released during the inauguration of the Seminar. Selected full papers are likely to be published in an edited volume with ISBN.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Last date for submission of abstract: 25th February, 2020

Intimation about the abstracts selected for presentation: 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

**REGISTRATION FEES**

For Academicians and others 1000.00 INR (without accommodation)

2000.00 INR (with accommodation)

For Research scholars and students 500.00 INR

In case of joint paper presenters both the presenters need to register.

**Dr. Doyir Ete**  
**Convener**  
**National Seminar**  
**Mob-9436046749**

**Dr. Dhriti Sundar Gupta**  
**Co-Convener**  
**National Seminar**  
**Mob-8974571407**