Minutes of the Expert Consultation

Venue: Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research
Date: 05 July, 2017
Time: 04 PM

The expert consultation meeting was held on the above mentioned date, time and venue. The following members were present:

1. Prof. A.C. Sinha (Former Professor of Sociology), External Expert
2. Prof. M. Amarjeet Singh, Professor, CNESPR
3. Mr. K. Kokho, Assistant Professor, CNESPR
4. Dr. Raiie Rocky Ziipao, Assistant Professor, CNESPR
5. Dr. Kaustubh Deka, Assistant Professor, CNESPR
6. Ms. Anamika Deb Roy, Assistant Professor, CNESPR

Prof. A C Sinha gave his inputs on the proposed integrated MPhil/PhD and PhD programmes and suggested the following:

1. Historicity of the region i.e. North East should reflect in the course
2. Incorporate and give due importance to the all the eight states in the programme
3. Linked language perspective is important
4. While designing the courses one much keep in mind how much student will benefits from it
5. Look for career prospect of the course
6. Suggested to include historiography in research method paper
7. It was suggested to include urbanisation/development of small town in the region
8. The concept of borders/borderland/frontiers/periphery be make part of the course
9. Suggested to include reorganisation of North Eastern states in the course.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Prof. M. Amarjeet Singh.
Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research

Syllabus for M.Phil./Ph.D. Entrance Test - 2018

Unit-I: Situating the North East
- Theoretical Framework of Regional Studies
- People, livelihoods & environment
- Development
- Traditional institutions
- Literature and Culture

Unit II: Colonial Intervention
- Pre-Colonial Phase
- Advent of the colonial rule
- Political transformation
- Economic transformation

Unit-III: Partition and border
- Border and livelihoods
- Migration
- Border management
- Land use, biodiversity conservation, & developmental debates

Unit-IV: Insurgency and Ethnicity
- Geopolitics
- Insurgency
- Ethnic politics
- Politics of peace
- Media
Minutes of the Expert Consultation
Venue: Director's Office, CNESPR
Date: 03 July, 2017
Time: 10 AM

The expert consultation meeting was held on the above mentioned date, time and venue. The following members were present:

1. Prof. Savyasaachi, External Expert, Professor of Sociology, Jamia Millia Islamia
2. Prof. Simi Mallotra, Director, CNESPR
3. Prof. M. Amrjeet Singh, Professor, CNESPR
4. Mr. K. Kokho, Assistant Professor, CNESPR
5. Dr. Raile Rocky Ziipao, Assistant Professor, CNESPR
6. Dr. Kaustubh Deka, Assistant Professor, CNESPR
7. Ms. Anamika Deb Roy, Assistant Professor, CNESPR

The director briefed the proposed integrated MPhil/PhD and PhD programmes of the centre and the eight courses developed for the same.

Prof. Savyasaachi gave his inputs on the courses and suggested the following:

1. Catchy and attractive title of the course. It was also decided to revise the title of some of the courses.

2. The course should reflect theoretical debate, public discourse and lived experience from the region.

3. Develop course on tribal social movement, tribal notion of justice, and feud.

4. Look into public discourse while framing the courses.

5. It was suggested to address the question of forest history, shifting cultivation and Indigenous/Tribal contribution to knowledge production in the course.

6. Suggested to include the study of stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination in the context of North East people in other parts of the country. It has been suggested to include comparative study between North East and other regions.

7. Look into the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and experiences of Indigenous people across the globe and their voices.

8. Focus on protracted conflict, different notion of dissent in the context of North East.
1: Research Methods in Humanities and Social Sciences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course No.</th>
<th>PhD01/Integrated M.Phil-PhD01</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Research Methods in Humanities and Social Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course In-charge (s)</td>
<td>Prof Tiplut Nongbri &amp; Prof M Amarjeet Singh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Method of Instruction</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Group Discussions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>Assignment and mid-term examination (25/1 Credit)</td>
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<td>End-semester examination (75/3 Credit)</td>
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Course Objective:

The objective of this course is to introduce basic concepts and techniques of social science research and develop research capabilities of the students. The course hopes to give them hands-on experience in preparing them for their research work.

This course is compulsory.

Evaluation procedures:

Grades for this course are based upon classroom participation and the following grading instruments:

- Assignments: 10%
- Mid-term examination: 15%
- End-semester examination: 75%

The course is divided into five units:

**Unit I: Social science research**

- Principles of social research
- Types and stages of research
- Research ethics
- Why social science research methods?

**Unit II: Designing of research**

- Research proposal
- Literature review
- Research design
- Qualitative methods
- Quantitative methods

**Unit III: Data collection**

- Sampling
- Case study method
- Content analysis

Lecture per unit

8

7

7
Questionnaire
Interview
Field observation
Conducting research in conflict zones

Unit IV: Data analysis
Qualitative data
Quantitative data

Unit V: Regional Studies
Techniques of analysis

Reading list


Johannes Wheeldon, Mauri K. Ahlberg, *Visualizing Social Science Research: Maps, Methods, & Meaning*, 2012


2: Society, Culture and Polity of North East India

Course No. : PhD02/Integrated MPhil-PhD02
Course Title : Society, Culture, and Polity of North East India
Course In-charge(s) : Prof Monirul Hussain & Prof M Amarjesh Singh
Credits : 4.0
Method of Instruction : Lecture & Group Discussions
Evaluation : Assignment and mid-term examination (25/1 Credit)
End-semester final examination (75/3 Credit)

Course Objective:

This course is aimed at developing an understanding of North East of India on a range of issues. This course will introduce students to selected topics to understand society and politics of North East India.

Evaluation procedures:

Grades for this course are based upon classroom participation and the following grading instruments:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>10%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term examination</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>75%</td>
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The main themes of the course are divided into four units.

**Unit I: Situating the North East**
- People, State & Livelihoods
- Ideas of border, borderland, frontier and periphery
- Diversity
- Development
- Traditional institutions
- Institutions of local self governance

**Unit II: Colonial Intervention**
- Advent of the colonial rule
- Political transformation
- Constituent Assembly debates
- Economic transformation

**Unit-III: Partition and border**
- Border and livelihood
- Migration
- Border management

Lecture per unit

7

5

6
Unit-IV: Insurgency and Ethnicity

- Geopolitics
- Insurgency
- Ethnic politics
- Politics of peace

Reading list


Elwin V., *A Philosophy of NEFA*, 1959a

Elwin V., *India's North East Frontier in Nineteenth Century*, 1959b


Mackenzie, Alexander, *History of Relations of the Government and the Hill Tribes of the North East Frontier of Bengal*, 1884


Syiemlieh David R (Ed.), *Challenges of Development of North East India*, 2006

Ted Robert Gurr, *Peoples versus States: Minorities at Risk in the New Century*

Willem van Schendel, *The Bengal Borderland: Beyond State and Nation in South Asia*, 2005
Course No. : PhD03/Integrated MPhil-PhD03
Course Title : Writings from North East India: Poetry, Fiction & Non-Fiction
Course In-charge (s) : Simi Malhotra & Anamika Deb Roy
Credits : 4.0
Method of Instruction : Lecture & Group Discussions
Evaluation : Assignment and mid-term examination (25/1 Credit)
              End-semester final examination (75/3 Credit)

Course objective:

This course is aimed at developing an understanding of the literature from the North East region of India. This course will introduce students to writings from the region in terms of poetry, fiction and non-fiction.

Evaluation procedures:

Grades for this course are based upon classroom participation and the following grading instruments:

Assignments 10%
Mid-term examination 15%
Final examination 75%

The main themes of the course are divided into four units.

UNIT I: Situating the Literature from North East India
- Bengali Renaissance and its Effect on Assam and others
- Christianity and Introduction of Print Media in the North East
- Emerging Literatures from North East India - An Overview

UNIT II: Poetry
- Thangjam Ibopishak Singh
- Desmond Kharmawphlang
Robin Ngangom  
Kynpam Sing Nongkynrih  
Mamang Dai  
(Various works of the abovementioned poets would be studied to give an idea about the body of their work and their concerns)

UNIT III: Fiction

- Temsula Ao, “These Hills Called Home”  
- Mamang Dai, “The Legends of Pensam”  
- Esterine Kire, “Bitter Wormwood”  
- Esterine Iralu, “A Terrible Matriarchy”  
- Siddharta Deb, “The Blind Witness”  
- Anjum Hassan, “Lunatic in My Head”  
- Janice Pariat, “Boats on Land”  
- Aruni Kashyap, “The House with A Thousand Stories”

UNIT IV: Non Fiction

- Sanjoy Hazarika, “Strangers in the Mist”  
- Mamang Dai, “Arunachal Pradesh: The Hidden Land”  
- Binodini, “The Maharaja’s Household: A Daughter’s Memories of Her Father”  
- Nandita Haskar, “Across the Chicken Neck: Travels in Northeast India”

Reading List

Baruah, Manjeet, *Frontier Culture: A Social History of Assamese Literature*, 2012


Bayly, C.A., *Empire and Information: Intelligence Gathering and Social Communication in India*. 1999

Cohn, Bernard, “Colonialism and its Form of Knowledge: The British in India”, *The Bernard Cohn Omnibus*. 2011

Gurdon, P.R.T., *The Khasis*. 2010

Hazarika, Sanjoy, *The Rites of Passage*. 2000

Hazarika, Sanjoy, *Writing on the Wall*. 2008
4: Folk Cultures of North East India

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course No.</th>
<th>PhD04/Integrated MPhil-PhD04</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Folk Cultures of North East India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course In-charge (s)</td>
<td>Debajit Bora</td>
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<td>Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Method of Instruction</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Group Discussions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Evaluation                       | Assignment and mid-term examination (25/1 Credit)  
                                          End-semester final examination (75/3 Credit) |

Course Objective:

This course intends to introduce students to the basic theories of folklores and folkloristics and analyzing oral traditions, folk forms and folk cultures in India while comparing it to the oral traditions, folk theatre, folk arts, folk music and other folk forms of the north eastern region of India. The paper would aim to locate the north east in the larger scheme of the folk traditions prevalent in the country.

Evaluation Procedures:

Grades for this course are based upon classroom participation and the following grading instruments:

Assignments   10%
Mid-term examination   15%
Final examination   75%

The main themes of the course are divided into three units.

Unit I: Introduction to Folkloristics

- What is Folklore?
- Folklore and folkloristics
- Theories and Methods

Unit II: Introduction to Indian folklore

- Introduction and growth of Folklore Studies in India
- Oral traditions
- Folk Art and Culture
- Folk Performances
- Other Folk Forms

Lectures per Unit

8
Unit III: Folk cultures and Traditions of North East India

- Oral Traditions of the region
- Folk Theatre of the region
- Folk arts tradition of the region
- Music and crafts of the region
- Other Folk Forms of the region

Reading List

Bareh, H, *The History and Culture of the Khasi People*. 1985


Datta, Birendranath, *Folklore and Historiography*. 2002


Dundes, Alan (ed), *The Study of Folklore*. 1965

Dundes, Alan, *Interpreting Folklore*. 1980

Dundes Alan, *Analytical Essays in Folklore*. 1975

Dutta, Birendranath, (Ed) *Traditional Performing Arts of North East India*. 1990


Elwin Verrier, *The Art of North-East Frontier of India, North East Frontier Agency Shillong"


Handoo, J, *Folklore in Modern India*. 2008


Kharmawphlang, Desmond L & Sen, Soumen, *Orality and Beyond A North-East Indian Perspective*. 2007

Khiangte, Lalituangliana, *Folktales of Mizoram*. 1997


Murasingh, Chandrakanta, *Kokborok Folksongs, Tales and Myths*. 2008


Sarat Kumar Chaudhuri, “The Institutionalization of Tribal Religion Recasting the Donyi-Polo Movement in Arunachal Pradesh” Asian Ethnology Volume 72, Number 2, 2011


5: Tribes, Epistemology and Methods of Enquiry in North East

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course No</th>
<th>PhD05/Integrated MPhil-PhD05</th>
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<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Tribes, Epistemology and Methods of Enquiry in North East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course In-Charge</td>
<td>Dr. Chinmayi Sarma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method of Instruction</td>
<td>Lecture, Presentation and Discussion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Evaluation | Assignment and presentation (25/1 Credit)  
End-semester examination (75/3 Credit) |

Course objective:

This course attempts to make a critical engagement with tribes, epistemology and methods of enquiry in North East India. The learning objectives of this course is to build an embedded theoretical approach to understand tribes in a state context, situating the foundational value of ecology, history and culture as viewed from the reality of tribes, understanding epistemological issues and its political implication on the tribes, developing tribe centric perspective and methods of social science research. The course will also orient students towards contextualizing methods and approaches while engaging on knowledge production.

Evaluation procedure:

- Assignment : 15%
- Presentation : 10%
- Final Examination : 75%

The main themes of the course are divided into four units.

Unit-I: The Tribal Question: Conceptual Categories:

Lectures per Unit: 8

- Perspectives on Tribes and the State: Colonialism, Nation-State, Nationalism, Oriental Others, Natives and Nation, Subject-Citizen Dichotomy;
- Tribal Identity & its Construction: Ethnicity, Tribe & Caste Continuum, Tribe-Peasant Continuum, Schedule Tribe and Adivasi, Tribe as Indigenous People;
- Tribal Culture: Culture and Politics, Tribe in Transition: Perspectives from Within.
Unit-II: Tribal Epistemology:

- Tribe and Social Structure: Kinship & Clan, Gender Norms, Political Systems, Beliefs and Rituals, Cosmology and Worldview;
- Tribe and Ecology: History and Contemporary, Ecological Romanticism, Forest Communities
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems;
- Legal Framework and Tribal Question, PESA

Unit-III: Theory and Critique:

Unit: 6

- Science and Tribal Society (an object of enquiry): positivism, empiricism and constructivism; functionalism and structuralism, essentialism and elementalism, tribal studies;
- Representation of Tribe: Discourses and Difference, Politics of Colonial Ethnographer, Tribes as Static Societies, Death of Tribes, Universal Altruism versus Universal Individualism;
- Social Anthropology and Tribe.

Unit-IV: Enquiring About the North East: Framework and Methods:

Lectures per Unit: 7

- Methods: Historical Re-construction, Rational Re-construction, Narratives, Discourse Analysis,
- Alternative Framework for Re-imagination of the Tribal Question: Decolonizing Methodologies, Subjectivism and Hermeneutics, Phenomenology; Indigenous methods, Context Dependent Methods versus Generalization-Dependent Methods; Disciplinary versus Interdisciplinary; Value and Ethics of Research.
Reading List


Akhup, Alex. 2016 (ed.). Identities and Their Struggles in North East (Tribal and Adivasi Studies: Perspectives From Within 2). Kolkata: Adivaani.


Women in India’s North East: Voices, Spaces and Conflict

Course No.: PhD06/Integrated MPhil-PhD06
Course Title: Women in India’s North East: Voices, Spaces and Conflict
Course In-charge(s): Prof. Simi Malhotra
Credits: 4.0
Method of Instruction: Lecture & Group Discussions
Evaluation: Assignment and mid-term examination (25/1 Credit)
End-semester final examination (75/3 Credit)

Course Objective:

The course will introduce students to India’s North-eastern region through a gendered lens to understand the region through a feminist sensitivity and criticality by looking at the culture and memories, politics and dilemmas of the people, especially women, over the ages. It will also look at agencies of change and how the region has been represented, and shaped and consequently evolved over time as a result of the interface with different agents and forces from the colonial period to the present day, especially women.

Evaluation Procedures:

Grades for this course are based upon classroom participation and the following grading instruments:

- Assignments: 10%
- Mid-term examination: 15%
- Final examination: 75%

The main themes of the course are divided into three units.

UNIT I: Framing of the India’s North East  
Lectures per Unit: 8
- Trajectories of History and Identity
- Race, Ethnicity and Culture
- Impact of Christianity in the region
- Gendered History- or the lack of it

UNIT II: Realities of the Gendered Space- Assumptions and Realities  
Lectures per Unit: 6
- Matrilineal Societies
- Political Representation
- Customary Laws and Practices
- Contribution of Women to the labour and economy of the region
- Women’s Movement in the North East

UNIT III: Conflict and its Impact on Women

- History of conflict in the region
- AFSPA
- Effect of conflict on women
- Women in Civil Society Movements

Lectures per Unit: 8

Reading List

Adino Vitso, *Customary Law and Women - The Chakhesang Nagas*. 2003


Asad, Talal, *Anthropology and the Colonial Encounter*. 1973


07: Rights, resources and identities: Matrix of Ecological Politics in North East India

Course No. : PhD07/Integrated MPhil-PhD07
Course Title : Rights, resources and identities: Matrix of Ecological Politics in North East India
Course In-charge (s) : Sunil Pradhan
Credits : 4.0
Method of Instruction : Lecture & Group Discussions
Evaluation : Assignment and mid-term examination (25/1 Credit)
             End-semester examination (75/3 Credit)

Course Objective:
This course is aimed at developing an understanding of the North East region of India through the theoretical and methodological approach of political ecology, the study of socio-ecological systems that focuses on conflict, power relationships and the unequal distribution of environmental costs and benefits. The course will thus initiate the students in carefully examining the socio political articulations in the region in the context of the interfaces between people, nature and nation state. Specially in the light that most of the conflicts in post colonial northeast are related to issues of resource control amidst the growing inability of the people to interact meaningfully to the ecological habitat (Karlsson, 2011) and the growing understanding that ‘varieties of nationalism are mediated and constructed through reference to the natural’ (Cederlof and Sivaramakrishnan, 2015), engagements with political ecological approach will provide the students with fresh insights to examine the nature of state-society interactions and identity construction in North East India.

Evaluation procedure:
Grades for this course are based upon classroom participation and the following grading instruments:

Assignments 10%
Mid-term examination 15%
Final examination 75%
The main themes of the course are divided into four units.

Unit I: Understanding the North East as an ecological unit and a site of ecological politics

Lecture per unit :  8

- Ecological politics: theories and perspectives
- Ecological question and the paradigms of development in the Northeast: from colonial to post-colonial
- Climate change debates in the context of Northeast India

Unit II: Ecology and the society in North East India: the interfaces

Lecture per unit :  8

- Ecological Nationalism as a framework: issue of identities and community rights in the North East
- Nature, culture and religion in North East India: interfaces
- Ecology and gender practices: with a focus on eco feminist critiques

Unit III: State, social movements and disputes in North East India: The ecological context

Lecture per unit :  8

- Making of a hydraulic frontier: disputes over water resources and dams
- Issues of forest rights and resources: the narratives and the unfolding.
- Dispute over minerals and minerals extractions
- Case Studies from each state.
- Political Economy of Green Growth In North East India: State led Green Initiatives, Organic Agriculture, Eco Tourism

Unit IV: North East in transition: challenges and concerns, the ecological perspective

Lecture per unit :  10

- Issue of displacement and the ‘climate refugees’
- Ecology of ‘out migration’ and ‘in migration’: the consequences
- Politics of compensation and rehabilitation
- Ecological politics under the era of Neo-liberalism in India: Energy and carbon emission in North East India
- Trans border cooperation and Act East initiative: the ecological perspective.