



**Indian Sociological Society
42nd All India Sociological Conference**

on

Rethinking Sociological Traditions of India

December 27-30, 2016



Organized by

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
TEZPUR UNIVERSITY
Napaam, Sonitpur, Assam, India- 784028**

Theme of the Tezpur AISC

Rethinking Sociological Traditions of India

Sociology as a subject and as a discipline of knowledge has a long institutional history in India. Even before its first department was established in Bombay in 1919, its organization was initiated in the colonial period. Sociologists have documented this history from its mid-19th century beginnings to its growth and expansion after independence with the development of the University system.

With the expansion of the teaching and research in the 50's and 60's, the discipline developed an identity and perceived itself as teaching and research in 3 key sociological areas: Family, Marriage and Kinship systems; the Caste system; and the Religious systems, more particularly Hinduism. Though ethnography was the key defining attribute of this identity, Indian sociological traditions started using a diversity of methods and perspectives to study these themes.

Since the late 70's onwards new interests and themes of teaching, reflection and research have emerged. Sociologists started doing research on contemporary trends and on modern lives and assessed the implications of development policies on various social groups (not studied till recently), processes and institutions. Massive expansion of the University system and investments in higher education across the country helped sociologists to document the diversity and uneven nature of experiences that the development processes have engendered.

Thus new themes started being explored; such as the emergence of the stratification systems and its interface with caste and gender as also the way family, marriage and kinship systems intersect the private/public domains. As a consequence, in 2000, ISS nurtured this growing interest in secular processes by encouraging formation of new RC committees on themes such as social change and the nature of the development process; population growth and its impact on development; industrialization and urbanization; new forms of community formations and hierarchies; migration and mobilities; environment and new social movements.

Today we are in a new moment. The globalizing process has impacted social and economic lives of Indians radically; protests and subaltern churnings have challenged sociologists to relook at the past and the present in new and novel ways. These interrogations have also led some sociologists to ruminate on their disciplinary history and its constituted traditions of theories, perspectives, methods and methodologies. Sociologists have asked whether these traditions have salience in the contemporary situation. In a situation where intellectual priorities have been reorganized, should earlier traditions be retrieved or reinterpreted or should these be changed and even substituted?

This Conference is organised to reflect on these concerns and to ask questions regarding our sociological traditions in the present context. These considerations, it is hoped will build a new repertoire of issues, theories and perspectives and elaborate whether some of the old questions still have salience. But paradoxically these concerns are being raised at a time when higher education and the University system is facing its most important crisis raising questions whether these new perceptions can be institutionalized in the present context. The plenaries will initiate the debate on the post-independence sociological traditions and articulate recent perspectives that are reformulating these in fresh ways and the challenges it faces to institutionalize them. The RCs and Ad-hoc groups will also reflect in a similar fashion on the various themes that have been focusing on and assess the significance and relevance of these in today's context.

Objectives of the Tezpur AISC:-

1. To critically reflect on contemporary changes in processes and institutions and evaluate them.

2. To reflect on the sociological traditions since independence and contextualize them in today's circumstances.
3. To elaborate the theoretical architecture for such reflection and evaluation.
4. To assess the relevance and significance of these new perspectives in today's interconnected global world of sociological traditions.

**INDIAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY
PROGRAMME-SCHEDULE FOR 42nd AISC CONFERENCE**

27th December 2016

DATE & TIME	PROGRAMME
9.00 am onwards	REGISTRATION AND KIT DISTRIBUTION
4.30 pm-7.00 pm	INAUGURAL CEREMONY & Cultural PROGRAMME Lifetime Achievement Awards and M.N. Srinivas Prize
7.30 pm – 8.30 pm	DINNER

28th December 2016

DATE & TIME	PROGRAMME
8:30-9.30 am	BREAKFAST
9.30-11.00 am	RESEARCH COMMITTEE SESSION-I
10.45-11.00 am	TEA BREAK
11.00- 12.00	Presidential Address: Colonial Modernity and methodological nationalism. The structuring of sociological traditions in India
12:00-1.30 pm	PLENARY SESSION-I THEME: Contemporary Perspectives on Family, Marriage and Kinship
1.30-2.30 pm	Lunch Break
2.30-4.30 pm	RESEARCH COMMITTEE SESSION-II
4.30-4.45 pm	Tea break
4.45-6 pm	Plenary II –Class, Caste, Tribes and Exclusions
7.30 pm – 8.30 pm	Dinner

29th December 2016

DATE & TIME	PROGRAMME
8:30-9.30 am	BREAKFAST
9.30-11.00 am	RESEARCH COMMITTEE SESSION-III
10.45-11.00 am	TEA BREAK
11.00- 12.00	MN Srinivas Lecture: Imtiaz Ahmad: India's Secular History
12:00-1.30 pm	PLENARY SESSION-III

	THEME: Faith and Religion: Contemporary perspectives
1.30-2 30 pm	Lunch Break
2.30-4 30 pm	RESEARCH COMMITTEE SESSION-IV
4.30-4 45 pm	Tea break
4.45-6 pm	General Body Meeting
7 .30 pm – 8.30 pm	Dinner

30th December 2016

DATE & TIME	PROGRAMME
8:30-9.30 am	BREAKFAST
9.30-11.00 am	PLENARY SESSION-IV THEME: Higher Education and its present crisis
11.00-11.15 am	TEA BREAK
11.15-12.15	Radhakamal Mukerjee Lecture: A.R. Vasavi: Eroded Life-Worlds and Emergent Assemblages: Rethinking Sociologies/ Anthropologies of the Contemporary
12.15-1.30	Plenary V –Panel Discussion on Contemporary Northeast India: Inequities, Marginalisation and Violence
1.30 pm-2.30 pm	Lunch Break
2.30-4.00 pm	Valedictory : Presentation of RC reports and Thanks by President, Secretary and Organising Secretary