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## CALL FOR PAPERS- NSOU JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Research papers are invited for the *NSOU Journal of Social Sciences* Volume 4, No. 1 (Double Blind Peer-Reviewed Journal, ISSN: 2581 5512) School of Social Sciences, Netaji Subhas Open University, West Bengal, India

Theme: Producing Knowledge in Colonial Indian Society: Imperial agencies and Native undercurrents

### Concept Note

There are some intriguing questions in the domain of colonial knowledge that have for a longtime left ripples in such courses like history, political science sociology, Indology and other areas of South Asian studies. This has sparked considerable debate not only in these subjects but across the larger interdisciplinary canvas and the social fresco. Painstaking study of the colonial knowledge system had become an integral part of the social sciences which intend to unearth the agencies and interstices of such knowledge. This is a vibrant area of study which has become a hot bed of lively interlocutions and arguments that is supposed to metamorphose the social science corridors in unbelieving ways. There had been a gradual shift of paradigm in the very analytical category of knowledge<sup>1</sup>. The academic space saw large massive interpolations. The unfolding and recasting in this area of scholarship may be comprehended through the works of Bernard Cohn<sup>2</sup> (1996), Nicholas Dirks<sup>3</sup> (2001), Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak<sup>4</sup> (1988), Ranajit Guha<sup>5</sup> (1989), Bayly<sup>6</sup> (1996)

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<sup>1</sup> Indra Sengupta and Daud Ali, *Knowledge Production, Pedagogy, and Institutions in Colonial India* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011).

<sup>2</sup> Bernard S. Cohn, *Colonialism and Its Forms of Knowledge* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996).

<sup>3</sup> Nicholas B. Dirks, *Castes of Mind* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2001).

<sup>4</sup> Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" in *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*, ed. Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1988), 271-313.

<sup>5</sup> Ranajit Guha, "Dominance without Hegemony and Its Historiography," in *Subaltern Studies VI* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1989), 210-309

<sup>6</sup> C. A. Bayly, *Empire and Information: Intelligence Gathering and Social Communication in India, 1780-1870* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996).

and many more.

We must remember that the early scholars in this field of expertise had focused on the interrelationships between knowledge and agencies of power only. However, there had been a steady haul of the locus of study, for now we are more concerned about the reproduction, reaction, accomplishment and the comprehensibility of such a body of knowledge. Not just the political or the state relations of power, but the alternative bodies of knowledge making have become our point of attention too.

#### Objectives of the Journal

The idea is to undertake contextualized studies that take into account the constructed and the situated conditions instead of studying just the structured ones. This will provide more flexible, open-ended and multidimensional answers laced with historical and eclectic nuances instead of producing hackneyed stereotypical research questions embedded in unidimensional axis of power. The idea is to make knowledge making more multifarious and challenging so as to capture those latent bodies that contributed to knowledge more silently and subtly. Those bodies that equally participated in knowledge making but were not cherry picked by the colonial discourse will crave for our attention. To gauge the whispers, murmurs and mutterings of those reproducing alternative forms of knowledge on the dim horizon outside the authorized precincts of the Raj shall remain the subject of our analysis.

#### Research questions that the Journal asks

The questions that we seek to answer in this Fourth volume of the Netaji Subhas Open University Journal of Social Sciences are:

- How organized were the constructions of colonial knowledge?
- How consistent and understandable are such constructions of knowledge in colonial India?
- How was such knowledge reproduced and emblemized in social interfaces?
- What kind of power relations were shared by such edifices of knowledge?
- Who produced such knowledge?
- Is knowledge only produced by the imperial agencies of power?
- Were the indigenous communities the stakeholders of such a process of knowledge production too?
- What was the point of interface between these two bodies of knowledge making?
- Was it a hegemonic edifice of powerful knowledge making altogether or was there a parallel stream of indigenous knowledge making too?

#### Sub-themes

- Role of the Learned societies
- Strategies of creation and dissemination of colonial knowledge
- Spread of the alternative forms of knowledge,
- Interpolation of the marginal,
- The vernacular mediums of communication

- Social and religious movements
- Agencies of control over the colonial knowledge
- Ascendency of the colonial subjects.
- Any other relevant theme

#### Abstract submission

- The title of the research paper should be bold, centred and typed in capital letters in a 14 point Times New Roman Font.
- The author(s) details i.e. full name, designation, name of the organization, city, pin, state country e-mail ID, contact details i.e. mobile/landline phone numbers, in 11 point Times New Roman should be centred below the title.
- Abstract including key words must not exceed 250-300 words, 12 Times New Roman, double-spaced. It should be in fully justified and italicized text. It should highlight research background, methodology, major finding(s) and conclusion in brief.
- Authors must mention 6-8 keywords. Key words should be listed alphabetically separated by commas and full stop at the end.

#### Full paper submission

- The full paper is to be submitted only after the acceptance of the Abstract. The first page should have the Title and Author(s) details only.
- The body of the paper should begin on the second page, along with the Title but no author details. The research paper should be written in 5000-8000 words, 12 Times New Roman, double-spaced, APA 6<sup>th</sup> Edition citation style.

#### Important Dates

- Last date for abstract submission: 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2023.
- Intimation of acceptance of abstract: 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2023
- Last date for full paper submission: 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2023
- The abstracts/full papers should be mailed to:  
[njss@wbnsou.ac.in](mailto:njss@wbnsou.ac.in)

#### General Instruction for the Authors:

- The Editorial Board will publish all the selected papers in the Journal (with ISSN: 2581 5512). The Editorial Board will reserve the right to accept/reject any paper for publication.
- Mere acceptance of the abstract is no assurance for the acceptance of the full paper. The full paper may be rejected at any stage by the team of the Reviewers after blind paper review.
- The author must be ready to make all the necessary revisions if suggested by the Reviewers.

- Once the paper is accepted, the authors must complete the work of proof checking very carefully and on an urgent basis immediately after they receive the processed manuscripts.
- Referencing must be done following strictly the citation style. Any aberration from the standard framework will not be allowed.
- Plagiarism should be checked following the stipulations of UGC. Plagiarism report must be attached with the soft copy of the full paper.
- The author declaration form to be duly signed and submitted along with the final paper.

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