



Netaji Subhas Open University
(Established By Act (W.B. Act (XIX) of 1997 and Recognized by U.G.C)
School of Social Sciences,
DD – 26, SECTOR – I, SALT LAKE CITY, KOLKATA – 700 064. Phone : (033) 4066-3220,
Kalyani Campus: Ghoshpara, Kalyani 741235; Phone: (033) 2582-0103,
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Website: www.wbnsou.ac.in

Notice

In view of the incessant requests and popular demand for extension of the deadline of the National Webinar, we are pleased to extend the last date of submission of abstracts to 14th September, 2022.

Organizing Secretary:
Dr. Srabanti Choudhuri,
Assistant Professor of Sociology,
School of Social Sciences,
NSOU

srabantichoudhuri@gmail.com

One-day National Webinar organized by the Department of Sociology under the School of Social Sciences, NSOU in collaboration with the NSOU Centre for Social studies

Theme: Giving voice to the voice-less?: The sociology of identity politics in Contemporary India.

Date: 23rd September, 2022

Time: 11.00 am to 4.00pm.

Venue: Zoom platform. The link will be shared before the webinar

Call for Paper

The Department of Sociology under the School of Social Sciences, NSOU in collaboration with the NSOU Centre for Social studies will organize a one-day National Webinar on the occasion of the seventy fifth year of independence, *Amrit Mahotsav*. We invite scholarly papers for presentation and the selected papers will be published as an edited volume to be duly published by the University.



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Concept Note

We are celebrating the seventy-fifth year of independence with much pomp and show and the extravagance is steeped in every layer of the society we take stride of. We should not forget that we live in a severely stratified society where almost every socket has its own ethno-graph to narrate. The narration becomes even so striking since the very last decade of the 20th century that witnessed galvanizing and far sighted changes. It had redefined the Indian polity through an interesting yet intensifying interface between caste, class, gender and ethnic identities. The liberalization and the concomitant economic reforms championed a new phase of development which made India embark on a new journey since the 1990s with its own promises and challenges. The period remained entrenched with many strains, some of which were manipulated by the political system itself for extra electoral leverages. The era saw an unprecedented rise of diverse and plural categories and backward classes which had already lost voices for decades. The society was myopic of such groups and so was the polity which refused to accommodate such plural but undermined groups. Their voices went unheard and drowned in the cacophony of political rhetoric and shrill meta-narratives. It was only in this era that the unvoiced were represented and patted with concern, at least the polity seemed to hear their murmurs. The muffled voices were beginning to marshal some identity though smeared by the accoutrements of crafty politics. Hence was born the dispensations of identity politics that was soon to radicalize the socio-political landscape of the Indian society.

However, whether the new regime could bring any solace to the emaciated is doubtful and that is what we shall be debating in this seminar. We shan't begin with any presumption but only present the timeline of the reorganization of the state and the polity to record the morphed picture of the backward and the minority categories. It is only after presenting a gross picture of this Metamorphosis, shall we be dialoguing. We will debate whether at all the excluded groups have carved out some niche for themselves or is it only a cosmetic change pretending welfare. Is new Indian polity and society facilitating social inclusion or is it a farce after all? Is the very process of politicizing the identity formations help bring some relief to those teetering on the margin? Or is it all illusion for the masses and optimization for the handful? These are some of the basic questions we shall be asking in this one-day national seminar.



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We will surely note that several communal eruptions followed to necessitate a distinctive kind of mobilization that wreathed the state and the polity. This was coupled with a new spree of economic reforms and military conquests that made the Indian society more resilient to enduring changes. As the country stepped in the threshold of the twentieth century, the triad forces of globalization, authoritarianism and communalism had built up gradually to the final and the brassy tune of crescendo from where there was no stepping back.

The decision made by the V.P Singh in August 1990 to initiate the Mandal Commission came as a bolt from the blue which reserved twenty seven percent of seats in all public services for the backward classes. This of course was a water-shed moment in the panorama of the post-independent India. It chartered a journey for the electoral history with dynamic caste illustrations. It initiated an articulation and re-affirmation by the lower castes, a kind that was unknown to us before.

In the similar note, riding on the tide of exclusive reservation, women's movement scaled new heights. The 73rd amendment of the Indian constitution offered one third reservation to women across the three tiers of the Panchayati Raj and the same was followed in the urban bodies as well in the subsequent 74th amendment. However there was a growing demand for giving extra boosts to those from the backward castes and classes within the category of women itself. Though this could not be put into practice yet the caste-gender interface clasped with class and minority status became increasingly prominent since a substantive slice of the women came from the lower or the middle class strata. The period witnessed yet another chequered history of increasing voices for autonomy and a rising clamor for ethnic identity. The conquests in North-East and Jammu in 1980s presents sinuous lines of inter-connections between gender, caste, class and ethnicity. The interface became even more fascinating in the light of the ongoing phases of economic reforms, liberalization and globalization which added a zing to it. The interface has not subsided but has only become more hooked up with time. From the rise of minority leader of the Bahujan Samajwadi Party, Mayawati in the early 90s to the present president, Draupadi Murmu, the nexus between caste, gender and minority has only taken up new dimensions which requires deep sociological penetration and engagement which the current seminar will take up.



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Sub-Themes

Papers will be invited for the webinar on the following themes

- Identity Politics in India
- Indian polity and rights of women
- Gender, caste and minority
- Coalition politics and electoral mileage
- Sociology of identity politics
- Tribal rights and the question of identity
- Politicizing the social saxophone of multiple voices
- Literature depicting the sites of multiplicity
- Structured and situated history of social exclusion
- Policies for social inclusion

Who are eligible to apply?

Students, research scholars, faculties, policy analysts from the field of sociology, political science, history, public administration, literature, comparative literature, folk studies and any allied discipline of Social Science and Humanities who are working on this field. The applicants are required to send an abstract of 300 words. The Abstract should contain:

- The Title
- Objectives
- Methods
- Findings
- Recommendations (if any)

The authors of the selected abstracts will be asked for presentation. Kindly mail your abstract to the following mail id:

srabantichoudhuri@gmail.com

Publication of the Edited Volume

The authors will submit full length paper of 4000 to 5000 words within the given dead-line. An edited volume will be published containing the selected papers after the necessary review process. The paper must be developed following the style sheet of the *Sociological Bulletin*. For further information, visit



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<https://journals.sagepub.com/authorinstructions/sob#:~:text=Sociological%20Bulletin%20adheres%20to%20the%20APA%20reference%20style.>

The edited volume will be a collection of the Selected Papers only, duly edited by Dr. Srabanti Choudhuri, Assistant Professor of Sociology, School of Social Sciences and Director, School of Social Sciences, Professor Chandan Basu and bearing an **ISBN**. The copy right of the edited volume will remain with the University.

Registration fees: Rs. 1500 for paper presenters. The selected authors will also get a hard copy of the edited volume in the due course.

Rs. 300 for participants without presentation

Dates to remember:

Last date for submission of abstracts (Revised): 14th September, 2022

Date of intimation to authors: 15th September, 2022.

Let's do it:

Come let's celebrate the power of plurality on this occasion of *Amrit Mahotsav* as we speak out and publish our thoughts vigorously. Let's not be dumb spectators or mute audience. Try and leave behind an unforgettable mark on the national canvass at this holy juncture as we reach out to the nation.

You can make it happen.

For any query please write to:

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