

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

The word culture has gained immense salience in the present multicultural (also plural cultural) context. Ward Goodenough argues that culture is located in the minds and hearts of men but C. Geertz goes against his school of thought which holds that culture is composed of psychological structures by means of which individuals or groups of individuals guide their behavior. Geertz remarks, "Though ideational, it does not exist in someone's head; though unphysical, it is not an occult entity." He espouses a semiotic concept of culture wherein he talks of culture as webs of significance (in a weberian sense) which man himself has spun. Understanding a people's culture exposes their normalness without reducing their particularity. This idea of normalness conforms to William's idea that culture is ordinary. Williams brings forth two aspects of culture:

1. The known meanings and directions
2. The new observations and meanings

He argues further that the nature of a culture is always both traditional and creative. We seek papers exploring such different perspectives on culture and applying them in the Indian plural social context.

The word culture has become synonymous with the word identity and is both an identity marker and differentiator. There has been a lot of politics around the identities of different groups and individuals which has given rise to what we call identity politics. Different groups forming around different identities demand legal recognition and resource allocations from the state and its agencies to preserve and protect their cultural specificities. The states, in return, respond with policies of positive discrimination and affirmative action policies.

Seyla Benhabib explains that the contemporary cultural politics is an odd mixture of the anthropological view of the democratic equality of all cultural forms of expression and the Romantic, Herderian emphasis on each form's irreducible uniqueness. This is what made Ayelet Shachar talk about the "Paradox of Multi-cultural Vulnerability". Keeping this in the background, different groups have been claiming recognition and various redistributive measures. We find that identity politics is fundamentally linked with both redistribution and recognition claims. The claims of individual search for an authentic selfhood also run parallel to the claims of different groups or collectivities. The seminal work of social scientists like Will Kymlicka and Judith Butler take these concerns into consideration. The papers should explore these theoretical concerns with an empirical insight of the various policies of the state. This seminar also aims to explore the link between the politics of collective difference and the recognition of one's individual identity.

Multiculturalism holds the fabric of cultural laws. In a multicultural society minority community laws are accommodated so that the identity of minority communities should not be assimilated into the culture of majority. The concept of multiculturalism emphasizes on the cultural laws. Individuals are part of the community and their fullest development and identity very much depend on their community. Hence communities are more important and hence encompass the collective rights over individual rights. There is always been a debate over individual rights versus community rights. Many a times individual rights of some members within the community are abrogated in the name of cultural laws. This has remained a matter of concern by many human rights scholars and has been widely debated.

Keeping this in mind, the seminar is being organized with the following objectives-

- To provide a platform to students/ research scholars to further enhance the quality of research.
- To discuss theoretical/methodological aspects of Multiculturalism.
- To promote a dialogue between experts, academicians and researchers so as to initiate an interactive communication process.
- To further develop a better understanding on culture, identity and multicultural dilemmas.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The seminar will bring together academicians, researchers as well as experts in the field of public administration, management and other social sciences. Original research papers are invited having theoretical, empirical or case study approach. During the seminar through its plenary and technical sessions, the discussions will be on the different sub-themes of the seminar and try to suggest useful and pragmatic ideas and approaches in the genre. The contributors may send their papers on the following sub-themes:

- a. Influence of politics on culture and identity and vice versa.
- b. Role of culture in the struggle for recognition
- c. Multiculturalism and nationalism (since multiculturalism is based on 'recognition of difference' and cultural diversity or plurality on the one hand, and nationalism on the other hand is based on cultural homogenization)
- d. Contestation between individual and group claims of identity.
- e. Shrinking cultural spaces (of oppressed minorities).
- f. Legal sanctions and cultural expressions.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Abstracts and Full Papers should be sent in MS Word, Times New Roman, 12 font size in 1.5 line spaces on A4 paper.

e-mail: seminar2016multiculturalism@gmail.com

Abstract Submission: The abstracts should be submitted by 16th March, 2016 in not more than 500 words.

Full Paper Submission: The contributors should submit the final paper (6000 – 8000 words) not later than 26th March, 2016 that include- Introduction, Significance of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Research Methodology, Findings and Conclusion, References etc. APA style of referencing should be strictly followed for references.

IMPORTANT DATES

Seminar Date:

31 March 2016

Last Date of Submission of Abstract:

16 March 2016

Acceptance of Abstracts:

18 March 2016

Last Date of Submission of Full Papers:

26 March 2016

NOTE:

- Registration Fee: INR 300 (payable at the time of registration)
- Registration Fee includes Seminar Kit, Lunch, High Tea.
- No provision of TA/DA

CONTACT FOR FURTHER DETAILS :

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VENUE:

Mir Anis Hall/ Tagore Hall

Dayar-e-Mir Taqi Mir

(Administrative Block)

Jamia Millia Islamia

New Delhi-110025

REGISTRATION TIME : 09 : 30 AM

STUDENTS' SEMINAR

“CULTURE, IDENTITY AND MULTICULTURALISM”

31st MARCH 2016



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
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