International Conference

on

Science, Society and Politics in South Asia

2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3\textsuperscript{rd} & 4\textsuperscript{th} March, 2020

Organised by

UTKAL UNIVERSITY
Vani Vihar
Bhubaneswar, odisha
It is a pleasure to invite you to the International Conference organised by Utkal University, Bhubaneswar on the theme “Science, Society and Politics in South Asia” on 2, 3 & 4 March, 2020

Science, Society and Politics in South Asia

It is a truism that regional cooperation depends on some degree of shared interests. Reinhold Niebuhr once wrote that an international community is possible if “moral obligations” rooted in philosophy and religion come to be defined in such a way that they transcend “the geographic and other limits of historic communities”.

The conference wishes to bring together scholars, academicians and policy makers on a single platform having interest in Odisha. Odiya scholars have made a name for themselves in Universities abroad contributing significantly to knowledge production. They might have worked on different areas but have a potential to understand and contribute their insight into areas of their interest.

Many international scholars especially from western countries find Odisha as a fascinating landscape for studies primarily in terms of indigenous communities, disaster management, climate change, inter-ethnic relations, gender issues, development questions, tourism, ethno-science etc.

There are many centres and many Indian scholars spread across to different countries of South and South East Asia such as National University of Singapore, University of Malaya, National University of Malaysia, University of Philippines, South-East Asia University, Thailand and so on.

Many such Universities and centres of study undertake studies on South Asia programmes. Odisha has a rich heritage of maritime trade with Indonesia, Java, Sumatra which has contributed significantly to the cultural flux and social dynamics of the state.

Utkal University also had at one point of time undertaken area study programs where South Asian studies was one of the components. It is proposed that some of the phenomena pertaining to science, economics, culture and politics could be investigated through a comparative perspective developed from the South Asian context. How ideas on education, Gender, leadership, politics and culture invites a kaleidoscopic view in this part of the world. Such an insight will promote better understanding among the neighbours where the research progress in Utkal University and in other Odishan universities finds a global outreach.

Nature has provided a complex character in South Asia. There is a vast country at the centre of the region, India around which there are smaller countries. The socio-cultural and religio-linguistic spectrum overlaps national boundaries and creates ethno-religious complexities in the region. From gender performances and stage depictions to protest movements, folk songs
to cinematic reconstructions and elections to war-torn regions, the region has it all that describes its socio-cultural landscape as being extremely complex.

The seminar will cater to different stakeholders from seasoned academic researchers to the neophytes and the upcoming ones. It will be marked by wide ranging academic activities such as plenary sessions, invited lectures, panel discussions, panel presentations, poster presentations, film shows, round tables and cultural programs.

**Sub-Themes**

Papers are invited from academics, researchers, policy makers, members of the civil society and young research scholars revolving around but not restricted to the following sub-themes:

1. Gender as a structural principle
2. Transformation of indigenous communities
3. Technology and Youth
4. Rural Leadership
5. Citizenship and National Responsibility
6. Public Policy and Governance
7. Literature, Heritage and Culture
8. Comparative Religion
9. Higher Education
10. Food and Culture
11. Leadership and Politics
12. Environment and Climate Change

**Points to remember:**

1. Conference Dates : 2, 3 & 4 March, 2020
2. Last date for Submission of abstract : 31 October, 2019
3. Announcement of List of Selected Abstracts : 15 November, 2019
4. Last date for the receipt of filled-in Registration Forms : 20 December, 2019
5. Last date for Submission of Full Papers : 23 December, 2019

**Abstract Submission**

Abstract will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- Connection of the topic to the theme of the Conference
- Relevance of the topic on regional and global platforms
- Conceptual clarity and methodological application
Abstract should contain the following:

- The major argument of the paper and how this argument is different from the existing literature.
- What is the basis of the corroboration/logic of this argument?
- The methodology adopted for inferring the argument.
- The context in which the study was carried out/exercise was undertaken (The intellectual and geographical universe).
- The reason for undertaking such an exercise by the researcher (providing the link between the researcher and research)
- Between 200-250 words,
- In Word or PDF format in Times New Roman, 12 font size and 1.5 line spacing
- The specifications for the font and format should be strictly adhered to, lest it will not be considered.

Abstract should be submitted on or before the last dates to uuconferencesouthasia@gmail.com. Abstracts should be submitted within the deadline and abstracts received beyond this date cannot be published in the ‘Book of Abstracts’.

Conference Registration

On-line Registration is mandatory for all paper presenters, participants and discussants. Interested scholars are required to register on line by submitting the filled-in Registration Form (FIRP) on or before 20th December, 2019.

Registration Fee (includes Seminar kit, tea and lunch): Rs. 2000/- for students
Rs. 3000/- for faculty

Selected papers will also be included in the conference volume to be published by international publishers of repute.

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