**International Conference on**

**Reimagining India's North East: Narratives, Networks and Negotiations**

Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research

Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

4-6 February 2014

**Programme**

**Day One: 4 February 2015**

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| **Time** | **Programme** | | |
| 9:00-9:30am  9:30-11:00am | **Registration**  **Inaugural Address:** Prof Shahid Ashraf, Registrar, Jamia Millia Islamia (TBC)  **Opening Remarks:**  Prof Sanjoy Hazarika, Director, Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research, JMI  **Remarks and Book Release: (TBC)**  **Keynote Address**: Prof Willem Van Schendel, University of Amsterdam on ‘***Why Northeast India is not 'Remote': Narratives and Networks of Modernity’***  Dr M Amarjeet Singh, Associate Professor, Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research, JMI, will deliver Closing Remarks | | |
| 11:00-11:15am | Tea | | |
|  | **Narratives and Identity in the North East Region and its Neighbourhood** | | |
| 11:15-1:15pm | **Session I**  **Identity, Difference and Belonging**  Chair: Prof Imtiaz Ahmad  Contesting elections, negotiating narratives – Election campaigning in Meghalaya  **Cornelia Günauer**  Baptist Missionaries: The Politics and Poetics of New Faith in the Naga Hills  **Debojyoti Das**  God, Emotion and Expression:  ‘Assamese’ and performing the Assameseness (1890-1930)  **Ankur Tamuli Phukan**  Special Presentation on ‘Demystifying the Stilwell Road: Travels and Tales ’  **Findlay Kember** | **Session II**  **Understanding Identity Through Literary Texts**  Chair: Prof Mukul Kesavan  Nagas in the Frame: The Photographic Collection of Milada Ganguli  **Pouriangthanliu**  Rethinking The Khasi Identity: A Study Of Identity Through The Prism of Literature  **Anamika Deb Roy**  “Finding Expressions for the ‘Victimised Identity’: Thangjam Ibopishak’s Poetry”  **Loiya Leima Oinam**  Effects of Identity Conflicts on Organizational Behaviour: Inquiry in the Field of Education in Contemporary Assam  **Bidita Das** | |
| 1:15-2:15pm | **Lunch Break** | | |
| 2:15-4:15pm | **Session III**  **Identity and Power**  Chair: Ms Preeti Gill  Rumour, Rhetoric, Rebellion in Assam: Contested Narratives  **Rakhee Kalita Moral**  Where have all the bawdy songs gone? The politics of censorship in Ao Folklore  **Talilula**  Contested Space and Identity : The Impact of Arbitrary Drawing Boundaries on the Identity Discourse of the Mao Naga in Manipur  **K Kokho**  Karbi Mythic Consciousness, Its Collapse and the Search for Identity and Power  **Raju Pokhrel** | **Session IV**  **Contested Narratives**  Chair: Dr Joy Pachuau  Soldiers, settlers and cooliers-Gorkhas in the Northeast frontiers of British India, 19th- and early 20th century  **Binayak Sundas**  Language, Community & Culture: Transitions in Ao-Naga Community  **Arenkala Ao**  North East India and Identity Assertions: Unraveling the Ethnic Discourse  **Bitasta Das**  Contesting Territorial claims: Struggle for the Promised Land  **Bhabananda Takhellambam** | |
| 4:15-4:30pm | **Tea Break** | | |
|  | **Networks, Mobilization and Rationalization** | | |
| 4:30-6:30pm | **Session V**  **Depicting Identities**  Chair: Prof Savyasaachi  The ‘return’ to Buddhism of Sikkimese Gurungs, or the dialogue between religious fluidity and compartmentalization  **Mélanie Vandenhelsken**  The Dorbar Shnongs in the Urban Scene:  A Case Study from Shillong  **Bankerlang Kharmylliem and Anamika Barua**  Negotiating the Queer: In the Realm of the Politics  of Sexualities, Regimentation and Control in Mizoram  **Anup Shekhar Chakraborty**  Centre and Peripheries of a Civil Disobedience Movement and Militant Nationalisms in Assam: Reading Abirata Jatra and Felanee  **Pallabi Konwar** | | **Session VI**  **Migration: Conflict and Accommodation**  **Chair:** Prof Binod Khadria  Cross-border movement, conflict and regional relations: a view from India’s North-East margins  **Anne Hammerstad**  The Migraine of Migration: The North Eastern Conundrum  **Dhiraj Borkotoky**  The Home and outside : Youths of the Northeast at Crossroads  **Kaustubh Deka**  Migration & Rural Depopulation: A Case Study of North East India  **Lamneivah Sitlhou**  Collective Identity in Question-The Mizos and Frontier Politics  **Shahnaz Kimi Leblhuber** |

**Day Two: 5 February 2015**

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| **Time** | **Programme** | |
| 9:00-11:00am | **Session VII**  **Cultural Transformation and Cultural Identity**  Chair: Prof Sanjoy Hazarika  Beyond Tribe? Class and Social Trajectories among the Naga youth  **Andreas Kuechle**  The Gender Narratives: An Attempt To Bring Out A South East Asian Feminist Paradigm  **Vijaylakshmi Brara**  Identities in Quandary: The Complex Narrative of the ‘Assamese Muslim’  **Malini Bhattacharjee & Nazrul Haque**  Explicating ethnic identity among the Khasis through the lens of the identity process theory  **Korsi Dorene Kharshiing** | **Session VIII**  **Ethnicity across borders**  Chair: Prof Tiplut Nongbri  Ethnicity Across Borders –The Kuki – Chins of Manipur and Myanmar  **Salam Irene**  Narrating the past and the present of India’s Northeast and Myanmar  **Sumitra Thoidingjam**  Living on the Edge: The Case of Chakma-Buddhists  **Rajeev Dubey and Rita Chakma**  Northeast India and Southwest China: Re-visiting the Unexplored Domain of Historical Contact, Re-thinking Colonial Space  **Dhriti Roy** |
| 11:00-11:15am | Tea Break | |
| 11:15-1:15pm | **Session IX**  **Ethnicity across borders**  Chair: Mr PD Rai  Historical Linkages across Frontiers: A Study of the Indo-Myanmar Borderlands  **Reshmi Banerjee**  Border fencing in Manipur: Implication for the border communities  **Munmun Majumdar & Haokam Vaiphei**  Dilemmas of Identity: Revisiting the Identity Puzzle among the Zo people of North-eastern  **Roluahpuia**  Networking and Development: Northeast Indian Diaspora and Homeland  **Moses Kharbithai** | **Session X**  **Cultural Transformation and Cultural Identity**  Chair: Dr Meenaxi Barkataki-Ruscheweyh  The politics of aesthetics in the market place: visual culture in post-reform Nagaland  **Akshaya Tankha**  “Breaking Custom”: British Colonial Courts in Naga Hills and the Process of Legalizing the Unusual  **Khekali**  The identity debate in Bangladesh and the rights of the indigenous people in CHT  **Joyeeta Bhattacharya**  Contending Factors of State Building in Manipur  **Abdul Gaffar** |
| 1:15:2:15pm | **Lunch Break** | |
|  | **Negotiations, Exploration and Expanding Ethnicities** | |
| 2:15-4:15pm | **Session XI**  **Contesting Transformation**  Chair: Dr Bimol Akoijam  Identity Claims to Contested Environments - Lessons from the Political  Ecologies of Hydropower in Northeast India  **Amelie Huber**  Refashioning Cultural Aspirations: Assam after 1947  **Arupjyoti Saikia**  Intersections of Space, State and Everydayness Colonial and Post-Colonial Constructions of Char as Exceptional Space  **Bikash Sarma**  Religion and Shifting Identity: Dynamics of Meitei Identity in Contemporary Manipur  **Yumlembam Khogen Singh** | **Session XII**  **Challenging the Idea of Mainstream**  Chair: Dr Rajesh Dev  Tangsa for a day: can small ethic groups survive in Assam?  **Meenaxi Barkataki-Ruscheweyh**  ‘Khasi by blood, Indian by accident’: The ‘Inside/Outside’ Politics of the Inner Line Permit Movement in Meghalaya  **Teiborlang T. Kharsyntiew**  Identity Formation and Demand for Autonomy in North East India  **Komol Singha**  Democratisation and Governance: Conflict between State Actors and Non-State Actors  **Athikho Kaisii**  Towards Charting a less Totalizing Colonial Mizo Historiography: An interpretation of Puma Zai movement and the Early Colonial Lushai society  **Poojari Thirumal and Laldinpuii** |
| 4:15-4:30pm | Tea Break | |
| 5:30pm-9:30pm  5:30pm-5:35pm  5:35pm-5:40pm  5:40pm-5:50pm  5:50pm-6:20pm  6:20pm-7:10pm  7:10pm-8:40pm  8:40pm-8:45pm | **Fifth North East Annual Day**  ***Rhythms of North East***  Supported by the Sikkim Studies Programme  Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research, JMI  Chief Guest: Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, JMI (TBC)    Introduction & Welcome: **Prof Sanjoy Hazarika**  Remarks by Chief Guest: Prof Talat Ahmad  Guests of Honour: Prof David Reid Syiemlieh, Member, UPSC  Prof Shahid Ashraf, Registrar, JMI (TBC)  Mr Sanjay Kumar, Finance Officer, JMI(TBC)  Dr Abdul Malik, Joint Registrar, JMI(TBC)  Dr Axel Harneit-Sievers, Country Director, Heinrich Böll Stiftung - India(TBC)  Ms Caroline Bertram, Program Coordinator, Heinrich Böll Stiftung - India(TBC)  **Bihu Dance** by **Brahmaputra Bihu Group**  **Footwings**, Indie Pop Band  **Lou Majaw and band**,(a Khasi guitarist and singer from Shillong, renowned for his Bob Dylan tribute shows)  Vote of Thanks, **K Kokho**, Assistant Professor, CNESPR, JMI | |

**Day Three: 6 February 2015**

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| **Time** | **Programme** |  |
| 9:00-11:00am | **Session XIII**  **Contested Narratives**  Chair: Prof Udayon Misra  Negotiating Identity across social and political in network in the borders of Northeast India  **Lianboi Vaphei**  Hate & Allophilia of “the Others”: The Dark Spots in Mizoram  **N William Singh**  Identity politics and its challenges to security and development in Assam  **Farzia Yasmeen**  The Politics of Complexity in Bodoland - Shifting Alliances and Dynamics Pre and Post 2014 National Elections  **Anwesha Dutta** | **Session XIV**  **Literary Texts and Identity**  Chair: Dr Melanie Vandenhelsken  Elections and Ethnic Relations in Sikkim  **Ph Newton & Sunil Pradhan**  An attempt at understanding Assamese culture in terms of tea, food and dining : exploring some sources of ethnic identity  **Ananya Barua**  Understanding Identity and Conflict through literary texts from NE India  **Sanghamitra Choudhury & Jayanta Madhab Tamuly**  Politicization of Ethnic Identity  **K.N Tennyson**  Interrogating Modernity: Perspectives of Contemporary Northeast India  **Rakhee Bhattacharya** |
| 11:00-11:15am | **Tea Break** | |
| 11:15-11:20am  11:20-1:15pm | **Session XV**  **A Thousand Years in a Lifetime**  **Opening Remarks:** Prof Talat Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia  Prof Sanjoy Hazarika in conversation with Prof Ramachandra Guha, Prof Imtiaz Ahmad and Prof Udayon Misra  Chair: Prof. Mahesh Rangarajan | |
| 1:15-2:00pm | **Farewell Lunch** | |