**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** |
| 9:00-9:30am9:30-11:00am | **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 AhmadContesting 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 KesavanNagas 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 GillRumour, 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 PachuauSoldiers, 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 KhadriaCross-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 HazarikaBeyond 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 NongbriEthnicity 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 RaiHistorical 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-RuscheweyhThe 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 AkoijamIdentity 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-9:30pm5:30pm-5:35pm5:35pm-5:40pm5:40pm-5:50pm5:50pm-6:20pm6:20pm-7:10pm7:10pm-8:40pm8:40pm-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, JMIChief 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 VandenhelskenElections 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 IslamiaProf 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** |