

**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
**YOUNG SCHOLARS CONFERENCE**  
**SPACE, KNOWLEDGE, CAPITAL**

Organized by  
Special Centre for the Study of North East India  
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Date: 19-20 March, 2020  
Venue: Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

**CONCEPT NOTE**

How do we understand the nature of relation between space, knowledge and capital? In what ways they help us understand the production and transformation of geographies? In the process, are they connected to the reshaping of relations that constitute societies, economies, politics, ecologies or cultures in such geographies? How do we understand the patterns and shifts in the nature of historical connections and linkages between such geographies and their neighbouring areas?

Regions such as North East India have been significant sites of some of these processes. For instance, the making of the region as a “frontier” or “borderlands” can be traced to the interventions of capital and knowledge since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Besides, in the recent times, the region has also witnessed the production of new sites of capital such as economic zones, corridors, hubs and Special Economic Zones (SEZs). These interventions have also been linked to a range of practices, for example, such as state making, governmentality and subject making. They in turn have fundamentally shaped aspects such as the production of identity, inequalities, territorialities, strategies of governance, politics of recognition, resource management, forms of mobility, discursive practices, including the nature of violence.

The working of these processes also relies on the agency of a range of institutions and actors. For instance, surveyors, traders, capitalists, travellers, scientists, soldiers, missionaries, intermediaries, bureaucrats, artistes, anthropologists, NGOs etc., have played a crucial role in mediating the interventions of capital and knowledge in the region. Besides, these institutions and actors have also been crucially linked to the production and reshaping of a range of cultural forms and practices such as objects, heritage and ‘traditional’ institutions. These processes have in turn significantly connected “peripheral” regions like North East India to trans-regional as well as global circuits and networks.

The reshaping of the region through these interventions, however, has also been connected to moments of disruptions. These disruptions have also resulted in a range of complex encounters and experiences. From everyday life to grand infrastructural enterprises, from markets to questions of

land relations, from wars to disasters, are some of the significant instances of disruptions. However, these disruptions have also given new meanings to the ideas of space and relations. These transformations have also resulted in new articulations of empowerment as well as providing avenues for a range of policy interventions. Besides, is it also possible to find traces of underlying continuities from the past in the lived realities of people and societies in the present, despite these modern interventions and disruptions?

Based on the above issues and concerns, some of the broad themes under which abstracts are invited for the conference, but not limited to, are as below:

- Technologies of knowing: surveys, cartography, imperial botanical and geological sciences
- Producing “legible” subjects
- Ecology, resources, capital
- State, governmentality, borderlands
- Geographies and infrastructure
- Writing borders, producing space
- Trade, commerce, frontier capitalism
- Cultures in motion: objects, heritage, institutions
- Violence of state making, violence of capital
- Intermediaries: space, knowledge, capital
- Memory, experience, agency
- Work, labour, technology
- Body, negotiation, everyday life
- Geographies, connections, mobilities
- Policies and planning: local, regional, national, global
- SEZs, economic regions, trade, markets, corridors, global capital

The Young Scholars Conference invites M.Phil and PhD researchers, including recent PhDs, working on North East India and its neighbouring areas to submit an abstract of 250-300 words, along with a brief CV at the following email id: [scsneiYSC@gmail.com](mailto:scsneiYSC@gmail.com)

The last date of submission is 29 November 2019. The accepted proposals will be intimated by 06 December 2019. Participants from outside India are requested to seek funding from their institutions for travel costs. Participants from within India will be reimbursed with train fare based on availability of funds and as per university rules. Local conveyance and accommodation will be provided to the participants.

### **Conference Organizing Team:**

Student Coordinators: AmritKour, AnishaGogoi, Beauty Thounaojam, S. SeigoulienHaokip

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