



National Seminar on
Negotiating Nature, Culture and the Future

28th February - 1st March, 2019

organised by

**Department of Geography,
Presidency University,
86/1, College Street, Kolkata - 700 073
West Bengal, India**

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The Seminar's ethos...

The greatest challenges facing humankind centre around sustaining and restoring the natural environment functions while providing equitable access to its resources and a higher standard of living to all. This assumes paramount importance, particularly set against decades of industrial innovation driven climate change, which while furthering growth have also morphed ecological balances. Geographical research into such realms, to fashion sustainable solutions and aid policymaking on how we plan to live going ahead, needs to be broad-based while retaining a detailed understanding of the inter-related phenomena that span multiple spatio-temporal scales and further incorporate dialogues on the great disparities that beset nations, communities and economies, and consequently influence their societal-environmental interactions. The continual emergence of new instruments and geospatial datasets and the growing interdisciplinarity of the subject has elicited diverse research strains on what such pathways might be. A **National Seminar on *Negotiating Nature, Culture and the Future*** has thus been organised, to collate such ideologies and merge viewpoints on how to proceed with human development and economic empowerment while sustaining or reviving the habitats and their operative processes that nourish and house us all.

Sub-Themes and points

1. Nature of the Nature

- Integrated landform systems: processes and evolutionary trends
- Landscape hierarchies and organisation
- Critical Zone studies: sustaining the biosphere

2. Cultural Transformations of Nature

- Anthropogenic landscape creation and natural process modification
- Meteorological and hydrological changes
- Geo-biodiversity in the Anthropocene

3. Nature - Culture Conflicts

- Habitat and Livelihood Threat Assessment
- Vulnerability and Susceptibility Analysis

4. Nature for Common Future

- Sustaining / Restoring Ecosystem Services
- Geoheritage and Landscape Conservation
- Environmental Impact Assessment Studies
- Climate Change Frameworks and Environmental Governance

5. Cultural Constructs and Constrictions

- Urban and Rural landscapes - development and spatiality
- Assessment of agricultural systems, productivity and policies
- Industrial growth and spatial economies of markets
- Economic development policy evaluation
- Tourism and economic development

6. Social Conflicts

- Inequality in access to infrastructures and services
- Gender Inequalities
- Social deprivation and marginalisation
- Development - displacement debates
- Migration and social impacts

7. Envisioning Future Societies

- Population dynamics and policies
- Public health, education and well-being
- Socio-cultural Identities and Transitions
- Globalisation and societal changes

Presidency University, Kolkata

Presidency University has a unique place in history. It was one of the first institutes of Western-type higher education in Asia. In 1817, a group of enlightened Indians and Englishmen set up the Hindoo College. This was taken over by the British Government in 1855 as the College of the Bengal Presidency, and placed in 1857 under the newly founded Calcutta University. Over the next hundred years and more, Presidency College was Bengal's pre-eminent centre of higher learning. Although a Constituent College of Calcutta University, it preserved a tradition of research matched by few universities in India. This gave a unique dimension to its undergraduate teaching. The formal establishment of Presidency University in July 2010 allows it to refashion its venerable traditions and continuing strengths into a leading institution of the future.

The Department of Geography

The Department of Geography at Presidency University is one of the oldest such departments in the country, with its genesis in the 1949-50 academic session as part of the erstwhile Presidency College. Geography at Presidency University comes under the Faculty Council of Natural and Mathematical Sciences and offers taught BSc (Honours) and MSc degrees in Geography. The syllabi are revised and updated regularly, conforming to national and international best practices and innovations, to meet the requirements of modern undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Geography, seeking to instill an understanding of the theoretical aspects while fostering marketable skills that may be applied in solving socio-environmental problems. Specialised courses in fluvial geomorphology, soil and environmental processes, tourism geography and regional development and planning further enable students to hone their skills in these very relevant realms. The Department further offers a number of General Education courses for students majoring in other disciplines and has also commenced a Doctoral Programme since 2014. The Department has a number of advanced surveying and laboratory research equipment and facilities and also performs consultancy tasks for other institutions in the realm of environmental measurement and monitoring.

The Department is driven by the following Vision:

To lead the development of academic, educational and research directions of human and natural systems, land cover and land use change and geospatial information science, harnessing the integrative nature of geographic enquiries to answer fundamental questions of global importance.

Towards this, the Mission of the Department remains committed wholeheartedly to:

- Conducting integrative research in Geographic Science across spatial scales with emphasis on geospatial perspectives of social and environmental issues in our country
- Equipping undergraduate and graduate students to meet the challenges in procuring and handling information necessary for policy making research
- Pursuing Geography as an academic and professional discipline to develop critical thinking, creativity and integrity among students to enable them to thrive as individuals and professionals who make meaningful contributions towards society

Visiting Kolkata...

Kolkata is well connected to the rest of the country by road, rail and air. The city is has a number of renowned heritage and educational institutions and numerous other facilities for entertainment and hospitality. End February and early March are ideal times to visit the city when the weather is pleasant. A number of famous tourism spots in West Bengal and eastern India are located in the city's hinterland and can be visited easily in a short time.

Call for Papers: Submission of Abstracts

Presentations on practical, theoretical and methodological aspects of the identified themes and related areas as well as case studies are welcome. Prospective participants are requested to Register and submit their details online at the link <https://goo.gl/forms/qjHqByqP2yJBV40j1> and simultaneously email their Abstract(s) latest by 20th January, 2019 to presigeoseminar2019@gmail.com. Selected participants shall be subsequently requested to proceed for the Payment process only after intimation of acceptance of their Abstract. An Abstract submission is required for both Oral and Poster presentation categories. Please observe the following guidelines for the Abstract preparation:

- Abstracts should clearly indicate the research idea, the methods used and the results obtained within 300 words. Kindly submit the file in only MS-Word .doc or .docx format and not in .pdf or any other file format. Please spell (UK English spelling) and grammar check the Abstract prior to submission to: presigeoseminar2019@gmail.com
- Abstracts must be written in Times New Roman, 12 font size and 1.5 spacing, without insertion of any special symbols, formulae, diagrams, tables or references and must contain (in sequence), the Paper Title, Authors' names and affiliations, Seminar Sub-Theme and point relevant to the research, the main Abstract text and 3-5 keywords.
- Abstract titles should be restricted to within 25 words.
- Full names, affiliations, e-mails and contact numbers of all authors should be included and the presenting author should be clearly denoted within the Abstract MS-Word document.

To prevent multiple submissions of the same Abstract, only the presenting author should email the same. The non-presenting authors attending the Seminar should register separately, mentioning the Paper title, once the Abstract Acceptance notification has been conveyed to the Presenting Author. Each attending delegate (presenting/non-presenting) shall need to fulfil the payment formalities. Multiple Abstracts may be submitted under the same registration, by mentioning the titles separately.

- Poster size for final presentation at the Seminar (maximum size: A0, in portrait format).

Target participants and the application process

Researchers in various stages of their doctoral and postdoctoral studies, career academicians and college and university teachers, who indulge in continuous research activities, are warmly requested to submit the Abstracts of their research. The Abstract selection shall be done by the Departmental Research Advisory and Doctoral Committees and revisions to the initial submissions may be requested before acceptance. Authors of selected Abstracts shall be informed accordingly and requested to complete their Registration by fulfilling the payment formalities. Participants who wish to attend without presenting a Paper, should fill out the Registration Form online accordingly. They shall then be directed to the payment process. The guidelines and dates for the application process are as follows -

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| • Last date for Registering online and submitting Abstracts: (extended) | 20th January, 2019 |
| • Notification of Acceptance (by): | 25th January, 2019 |
| • Last date for completing payment formalities: | 5th February, 2019 |

Registration Fees (revised and inclusive of GST):

Participant without Paper (without accommodation):	Rs. 500/-
Participant without Paper (with accommodation):	Rs. 1,000/-
Student / Research Scholar (without accommodation):	Rs. 1,000/-
Student / Research Scholar (with accommodation):	Rs. 1,500/-
Other Delegates (without accommodation):	Rs. 1,500/-
Other Delegates (with accommodation):	Rs. 2,000/-

Spot registration is permitted but shall be without the Seminar Kit.

Research scholars are required to attach a scanned copy of a valid identity card/ certificate from their Department/Institution for availing the lower rate, while emailing their Abstract(s).

The registration fee shall be paid only by those participants whose Abstract(s) have been accepted and only after intimation of the same via email, through Net-banking (as per Bank and Transaction ID details which shall be shared at that time). Accommodation shall be arranged only for those delegates who have informed about this requirement in advance and completed the payment formalities.