



Performing Identity:
Ethnicity and Ethno-Nationalism
in the South-east Asian Borderland
region of North-east India

Workshop Programme:

Thursday, 15th Dec. 2011

[Registration is not necessary to participate in Thursday's programme]

13:00 **Registration** Opens at the Workshop Venue

Screening of Ethnographic Films Related to Northeast India

13:00 *Songs of Mashangva*

(Community: Tangkhul Naga; Length: 62.27 mins; Direction: Oinam Doren)

14:15 *Notes on Man Capture*

(Community: Garo; Length: 43 mins; Direction: Nandini Bedi)

15:30 *Conducted tour of the Historical Observatory*

16:30 **Inaugural Ceremony**

Welcome

Inauguration by **Professor Roman Loimeier**

Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Göttingen

17:00 **Special Lecture: Professor Barend Jan Terwiel**

Northeast India: a Challenge to Anthropologists

Reception

18:00 **Special Screening of Film**

'A Measure of Impunity', introduced by **Professor Sanjoy Hazarika**

Friday, 16th Dec. 2011

Session I: Politics and Identity

9:00 – 9:45 **Special Lecture** (including discussion) by Professor **Sanjib Baruah**: *After Identity: Hydropower and the Politics of Anxiety in the Eastern Himalayas*

Panel A: Politics of Identity

09:45 – 10:05 **Mélanie Vandenhelsken**: *Negotiating Gurung Identity with and against the State in Sikkim*

10:05 – 10:25 **Debojyoti Das**: *The Power of the Past: Constructing Ethno-national Identity Through ‘Village Republics’ in Nagaland, Northeast India*

10:25 – 10:45 **Marcus Franke**: *Colliding Concepts: Democracy and Freedom in the History of the Naga Hills*

10:45 – 11:15 **Discussion** led by **Bert Suykens**

Coffee

Panel B: Dynamics of Identity Politics

11:30 – 11:50 **Kerstin Grothmann**: *‘Civilised’ or ‘Backward’: The Creation of the Scheduled Tribe Category ‘Membra’ and its Effects on Local Identities in Arunachal Pradesh, India*

11:50 – 12:10 **Miriam Bishikorma**: *Contested Imaginations of Darjeeling – Gorkhaland as an “Alternative Geography”*

12:10 – 12:30 **Kaustubh Deka**: *“Divide Assam Fifty-fifty”: From Movements to Accords and Beyond: the Critical Role of Student Organisations in the Formation and Performance of Identity in Assam*

12:30 – 13:00 **Discussion** led by **Mélanie Vandenhelsken**

Lunch

Session II: Religion and Identity

Panel C: Religion, Politics and Identity

14:00 – 14:20 **Lianboi Vaiphei**: *The Politics of Identity Formation Among the Ethnicities in Northeast India: A Case Study of the Kuki Mizo Chin*

14:20 – 14:40 **Sarit Kr. Chaudhuri**: *Conversion and Quest for Indigenous Religious Identity: Emerging Religious Terrain in Arunachal Pradesh*

14:40 – 15:00 **Charisma K. Lepcha**: *Influence of Buddhism and its Consequences to Lepcha Culture and Identity*

15:00- 15:20 **Abraham Lotha**: *The Paradox of Religious Nationalism in the Production of Naga Identity*

15:20 – 16:00 **Discussion** led by **Vibha Joshi**

Coffee

16:15 – 17:00 **Special Lecture** (including discussion) by Professor **Ülo Valk**: *The Mythic Landscape of Religious Conflict and Conversion: Notes on the Place-Lore of Assam*

Panel D: Religion, Beliefs and Narratives

17:00 – 17:20 **Rebekka Sutter**: *Tigermen in Nagaland: Collective Imagination or Intimate Knowledge of Other Worlds?*

17:20 – 17:40 **Margaret Lyngdoh**: *Name Magic among the Khasis*

17:05 – 18:00 **Discussion** led by **Barend Jan Terwiel**

19:30 *Conference Dinner*

Saturday, 17th Dec. 2011

9:00 – 9:45 **Special Lecture** (including discussion) by Professor **Guido Sprenger**: *Perspectives on Zomia: Social and Cultural Relationality in the Asian Uplands*

Panel E: New Approaches

9:45 – 10:05 **Vibha Joshi**: *'A Pastor's Cloth': Constructing a Story of Religious Conversion Among the Naga through Objects and Archives at the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford*

10:05– 10:25 **P. Thirumal & C. Lalrozami**: *Towards a Media Historiography of Borderland Regions: A Case Study of Mizoram*

10:25 – 10:45 **Andreas Küchle**: *"The Village is for the Poor People Only": Social Structure, Milieus and Strategies in Nagaland*

10:45 – 11:15 **Discussion** led by **Erik de Maaker**

Coffee

Panel F: Northeast and Beyond

11:30 – 11:50 **Wolfgang Mey**: *Performing Anthropological Identity: J.P. Mills and the Chittagong Hill Tracts*

11:50 – 12:10 **Gunnel Cederlöf**: *Climate, Commerce and Bureaucracy: Founding Colonial Rule in Northern East Bengal*

12:10 – 12:30 **Ellen Ball & Eva Gerharz**: *"They are Taking our Land": A Comparative Perspective on Indigeneity and Alterity in Meghalaya and the Chittagong Hill Tracts*

12:30 – 13:00 **Discussion** led by **Bengt G. Karlsson**

Lunch

14:00 – 14:45 **Special Lecture** (including discussion) by **Dr. Philippe Ramirez**: *Did the British Really Invent the Northeastern Tribes?*

Panel G: Performing Identity

14:45 – 15:05 **Sucheta Sen Chaudhuri**: *State and Indigeneity Interface on Construction of Historical Identity: An Ethnographic Study in Arunachal Pradesh*

15:05 – 15:25 **Meenaxi Barkataki-Ruscheweyh**: *From Ritual to Performance: The Transformation of a Tangsa Festival in Assam, Northeast India*

15:25 – 15:45 **Erik de Maaker**: *Performing the Garo Nation?*

15:45 – 16:15 **Discussion** led by **Guido Sprenger**

Coffee

16:30 – 17:15 **Book Reading** by **Bengt G. Karlsson**: *Unruly Hills: a Political Ecology of India's Northeast*

17:15 -- 17:45 **Round Table Discussion** led by **Sanjib Baruah**

17:45 – 18:00 **Concluding Session**

Sunday, 18th Dec. 2011

10:00 *City Excursion of Göttingen*

12:00 *Tour of the permanent Cook-Forster Collection in the Ethnographic Collection of the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology and the Photo Exhibition 'Life in the Asian Borderlands' by Willem van Schendel and Malini Sur*