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CRD9. ETHNICITY, DIASPORA, AND COSMOPOLITANISM

ROUND TABLE TITLE:

ETHNICITY, CULTURAL PLURALISM, AND THE ROLE OF STATE

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ABSTRACT

Study of ethnicity concerns, for Drummond (1980), with 'the content and interplay of cultural categories' [Man (N.S.), 15: 368]. The concept implies 'compelling' ideas about one's own and others' distinctiveness that provide a platform for acting and interpreting others' actions. With the rapidly changing world in the era of globalization, construction of new ethnic identity of different cultural groups is the imminent outcome. Again, the process may be decisively influenced by the political form and agenda of the State concerned. Specifically, the agenda concerning the minorities including the tribals, migrants and diasporas may be the determining factor for creation or recreation of identities. Under such circumstances, the proposed Round Table seeks papers to address the following issues:

1. Whether cultural pluralism appears as a threat to nationalism
2. How far the identity reconstruction through cultural practices of the minorities and diasporas give rise to new dimensions of ethnicity; and
3. The State role in response to creation and recreation of new identity phenomena of the 'ethnos'.

Keywords: Ethnicity, identity construction, cultural pluralism, State role

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