



WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS

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WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS-2023

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THEME: o4CS - CULTURAL-SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS, SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND SOCIAL DYNAMICS

SUB- DOMAIN: COMMUNITY: CLASS FORMATION, IDENTITY ISSUES, PEASANT AND VILLAGE COMMUNITIES, TRIBES AND PVTGS, RURAL-URBAN INTERFACE, ENDANGERED COMMUNITIES, DE-NOTIFIED COMMUNITIES

**PANEL TITLE:
SOCIAL STRUCTURE, RITUAL, AND IDENTITY CONSTRUCTION IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES**

**CONVENER: DR. SIMPUL BEHERA
CO- CONVENER: DR LIJISHA AT**

ABSTRACT

In contemporary world, religion plays a very important role particularly in the construction of the identities of individuals and groups. In this context social structure, membership in the society, is significantly important and wherever there is clash of interest identity tend to be reconstructed or redefined. Rituals are often used as opportunities for self-reflection and identity construction in societies. Hence, simulation of identity has become an important concept in the context of contemporary societies. For anthropologists the concept of religious and ritual identity was slowly becoming a hollow concept due to over-usage. However, even today it is deeply rooted and is often used for exploring self. It helps understand who we are, how our spiritual identities are shaped, and how we relate to each other and the world we inhabit. Therefore, it is important to seriously look at this concept and unpack the idea of reconstructing identities through rituals of the societies. As a society rooted in religious practises, the rituals associated with belief systems will reveal vital information about communities. It further will allow anthropologists to understand the origins and beliefs of people, to unfold processes for peaceful co-existence in a plural world. When people learn and respect other people's values, they also evolve means to live in harmony. From methodological perspective rituals provide a heuristic device to explore worldviews of co-existing communities and a framework for theoretical formulations. This can help us to understand the identity claim better for existence in contemporary world. This panel examines some of these concerns form a multidisciplinary perspective.

LIST OF PANELLISTS:

- Prof. Y.A Sudhakar Reddy (Dean School of Social Science and Head, Center for folk Culture Studies, University of Hyderabad) ysreddy99@gmail.com
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