



WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS

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CTD: 13PC - PEOPLES, CULTURES AND COMMUNITIES

SUB-DOMAIN: 3. COMMUNITY: CLASS FORMATION, IDENTITY ISSUES, PEASANT AND VILLAGE COMMUNITIES, TRIBES AND PVTGS, RURAL-URBAN INTERFACE, ENDANGERED COMMUNITIES, DE-NOTIFIED COMMUNITIES

PANEL TITLE:

ORAL TRADITIONS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE: REVISITING SPIRITUAL UNIVERSE

CONVENOR: DR. SANGHAMITRA PATNAIK

CO-CONVENOR: DR. PARIMITA DASH

DISCUSSANT: DR. TULISHREE PRADHAN

ABSTRACT

The Kondh indigenous community of Odisha remains the largest indigenous group in the state. However, over the years, their cultural traditions and indigenous knowledge systems are gradually in decline. It may be argued that the decline started with the advent of so-called modernity and material culture. One may see it as the physical and cultural displacement of the community. It is critical to explore the pre-historic foundation of indigeneity from Vedic period onwards, specifically, among the Adivasi communities in India. In that context, we take a case study among the Kondh of Odisha. We would address the transitions that are consequent of industrial revolution in the 'Niyamgiri' hilly terrain in the state of Odisha in India. These are impacting the indigenous cultural traditions of Kondh in the region. A large number have experienced physical and cultural displacement. The study would focus on the examination of the oral tradition(s) and thereby map their indigenous 'Spiritual Universe' and 'Worldview(s)'. It is needed to address the philosophical, spiritual, and legal dimensions of the 'indigenous' people and their culture(s). This panel invites papers from scholars working on these issues from other Adivasi communities to draw comparative analysis of nature of these transformations.

Keywords: Displacement, Material and Indigenous Culture, popular perceptions, Worldview

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