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PANEL TITLE: CULTURAL HERITAGE OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH: RETHINKING THE ISSUES AND CONCERNS

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ABSTRACT

UNESCO's definition of heritage can be perceived as an umbrella concept which encompasses both tangible and intangible attributes of human societies at large. However, this is not a static concept. Arunachal Pradesh is an essentially tribal state with immense cultural diversity linked with the historicity, identity, as well as political ecology of this bordering state. Present panel is an attempt to deal with various emerging issues and concerns of the tribal people, who are passing through the state of transition. Obviously, intensity of such change depends on multiple issues such as their exposure to various induced development initiatives by the state and non-state actors, such as, accessibility to power structure, acceptance of new faiths and practices, evolving state policies and even numerical strength of the tribes etc. This panel looks for contributions, which will deal with some of the core issues, to understand, the evolving realities of cultural heritage in Arunachal Pradesh, giving emphasis on historicity, identity, oral and performing tradition, language and evolving sacred and profane dimensions of a bordering tribal state. Hope that the scholars across the disciplinary frames will focus on a critical discourse, keeping communities at the centre, while dealing with variegated issues and concerns, while addressing the sustainability goal within the cognition.

Keywords: heritage, identity, ecology, orality, performing tradition, sacred & profane, sustainability.

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