



**WORLD  
ANTHROPOLOGY  
CONGRESS**

**Organized by**



**Hosted by**



**In Association with**



# **WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS-2023**

**BHUBANESWAR, INDIA | 9-14 AUGUST 2023**

**CTD:oiGT - GENERAL THEMATIC DOMAIN  
SUB-DOMAIN: 1. INDIGENEITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**PANEL TITLE:  
INDIGENEITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE: EXAMINING THE ISSUES  
THROUGH THE SOCIO- LEGAL LENS**

**CONVENOR: DR. BINITA BEHERA  
CO-CONVENOR: DR. CHINMAYEE NANDA  
DISCUSSANT: DR. TULISHREE PRADHAN**

## **ABSTRACT**

Indigeneity has caught international attention due to several reasons. It is to do with the discourses of development as also the sustainability debate in the wake of the global climate crisis. It is well understood that the global as well as national governments have been found wanting in reaching out or leaving out this section of the society. This has compelled nations with large indigenous populations to demand justice and equity. Industrialization and purported development have left behind a trail of injustice, exploitation, and further marginalization of the most vulnerable sections of any population. Wealth generated over a century continues to be cornered by the upper echelons of the society. The historical, pre-colonial, and generational experiences of domination, exclusivity and extermination both ontologically and epistemologically have all come at the cost of indigenous populations. But the dominant discourse of western neo-liberalism dismissed these anomalies as inconsequential. It is ironic that some social movements in the name of indigenous communities are also engineered by the same western class that benefited from their exploitation. These have generated a debate on immediate need, from a socio-legal recognition of citizenship rights to empathetic understanding of their plight and the damages suffered by them. Urgent need of the hour is to institutionalize an entire framework of governance, resource management wherein the process of decolonizing can start and reach its logical end of giving justice to all. It calls for sharing of space in all domains- economic, social, and political and actual sharing of resources, power, and the wealth of the land. This panel tries to examine the situation in a prismatic spectrum. It incorporates participants from indigenous communities, state and other governance networks, activists, legal and social science experts to deliberate on these issues of immediate concern for the future of the indigenous communities.

It proposes to discuss the entire gamut of rights from forest to intellectual property rights, patenting of indigenous art and craft to laws ensuring equal sharing of power. Critical Question of legal institutionalization of indigenous identities in different continents of the world requires instant attention. With this perspective, we have invited experts working in the field of pluri-nationalism, intellectual property rights of the indigenous peoples in terms of their traditional knowledge as well as indigenous environmental justice. The panellists are from Kenya, New Zealand, Canada, and India. The gender balance too has been maintained and there are two panellists who are from the indigenous nations themselves. However, given the criticality of the issues involved, we seek further contributions from interested researchers and activists.

**Keywords:** Indigeneity, social, legal, justice

**Pre- and Post-Congress In Collaboration with**

