



**WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS**

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# **WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS-2023**

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

**CRD: 04CS - CULTURAL-SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS, SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND SOCIAL DYNAMICS**

**SUB-DOMAIN: 0. GENERAL TRACK**

## **SYMPOSIUMS: CASTE, DISPOSSESSION AND PRIVILEGE**

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CO-CONVENOR: PROF. PADMANABH SAMARENDRA  
DISCUSSANT: PROF. RAMESH BAIRY**

### **ABSTRACT**

During the 1980s, Anthropological attention shifted from the ‘cultural other’ to the ‘suffering subject’ (Robins, 2013). This shift in focus was also a result of the exit of the elites from the identities and ethnicities that drew Anthropological attention to metropolitan sameness, abandoning historical identities of distinction in response to complex political-economic changes (Mosse, 2015). Recently, there has been a major shift in Anthropological studies to understand the formation or making of the elites and privileges. In the context of India, the transformation of caste as a system of identities has exposed the inadequacy of the concept of ‘hierarchy’ and, at the same time, has brought attention to the process by which caste produces and reproduces dispossessions and privileges. In its modern incarnation, caste privilege translates castelessness and dispossession into a stigma. This panel invites researchers, academicians, policymakers, professionals, activists, and experts to discuss caste's continuing relevance/irrelevance as a source that determines life chances in the Indian context. The panel intends to unite participants into an enduring network to understand the changing caste dynamics in contemporary India. It further aims to review the existing body of theoretical and empirical work on caste and the complex ways in which it helps create dispossession and privilege.

**Keywords:** Caste, Occupation, Merit, Privilege, Social Justice

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