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SYMPOSIUMS: IDENTITY, INDIGENEITY AND NEW MEDIA

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ABSTRACT

Identity is often associated with agency, politics, and the construction of collective selfhood. While Anthropology has conceived identities as stable historical subjects of scholarly inquiry, it has conceded that identities are not fixed essence. Identities can be multiple, varying, and subject to political and economic dynamics and localized contexts (Brodwin, 2002). The deconstructionists have declared the death of identity as a concept still in use due to a lack of better expression (Hall, 2003). Identity as a political and social category has become the most important aspect of the social constitution and political expression in the globalized world (Castells, 2010). Indigeneity has always been the basic element of the construction of identity. However, the recent surge of identity has a fundamentalist dimension to it. These identities are simultaneously global and local, powered by the new media and communication technologies. They are driven by the market yet strangely fixated on the indigenous locality.

This symposium, involving invited researchers, academics, professionals, and activists engaged in research and practice on identity and its transformation in contemporary contexts will discuss their experiences, perspectives, and observations on the contemporary forms of identity formation and their transformation. It will focus on identity and its contemporary manifestation in media and cultural contexts. The purpose is to engage with the questions of transformation of the idea and concept of indigeneity through its interaction with culture and media. The symposium proposes to develop a network of committed scholars to reflect on identity formation empirically.

Keywords: Identity, Indigeneity, New Media, Cultural Construction, Ethnicity

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