



WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS

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# WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS-2023

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o1GT- GENERAL THEMATIC DOMAIN  
SUB-DOMAIN- INGENEITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

## SYMPOSIUMS: YOUNG ANTHROPOLOGISTS TAKE A LOOK AT WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY (YALWA)

CONVENOR: PROF. R. P. MITRA

### ABSTRACT

The production of anthropological knowledge takes place in certain contexts. Other than the historical, social and the political-economy background, one important influence that has shaped the practice of Anthropology in India has been the global or the world anthropology. As a discipline, anthropology emerged in the west as a science of alterity or ‘others. In India also anthropology as subject of study emerged during the colonial times as a science of classification of populations and a discipline dealing with descriptive study of communities especially those which are termed as tribes. There were political, moral or economic underpinnings that shaped how Indian anthropologists interpreted the social reality. In this regard, the global practice of anthropology has been an important influence in the work of Indian anthropologists. We use theories, concepts and categories , which are rooted in western thoughts and understanding. But it has been observed that many of these concepts when applied, undergoes subtle revisions and changes to reflect the Indian situations. Often overlooked, this dynamic adaptation has been a key feature in the practice of anthropology in India.

Indian anthropology in the post independent era has followed an independent path of inquiry, settings its own agenda, with applied aspect replacing the focus on exotica of colonial era. Application of anthropological knowledge for nation building with practical value replaced the mere documentation of knowledge. There were independent development of sub-discipline specializations within anthropology with each of them charting their own course, with their respective methodological and epistemological interests. While physical anthropology moved closer towards biological sciences, the social and archeological anthropology tatedgravitted more towards study of social, economic, political and cultural problems. There are talks of decolonizing key conceptual categories and an indigenization of anthropology in India. But barring few instances we were able to make do with the concepts and theories borrowed from the world anthropology. The attachment to global anthropology has remained a strong influence in the practice of all branches of Indian anthropology. The present panel discussion will look at the impact of the influence of global anthropology in the practice of India anthropologists. The speakers will present a reflective account of how they adapted the concept and categories in their interpretation of reality and explore the possibility of developing an ‘indigenized Indian anthropology in the context of the global anthropology.

**Keyword:** Indignity, Anthropology, Indian Anthropology

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