



Call For Papers (CFP) for a National Seminar on: Religion & Society in India: Contemporary Multi-Disciplinary Explorations

Studying the interface between 'religion' and 'society', at every age and space, inspires humanity immensely in its ongoing journey of life. There was a time when religion was studied as a sub-theme under social sciences, tending to reduce the former into the latter by way of causal explanations. Indeed these studies have put forth valuable insights into not merely the nature and content of religions, but also those of different societies across space and time. Today, however, there are fresh approaches to the interface, borne out of the contemporary realizations of 'stand-point' epistemologies, which open up the horizon of understanding with regard to different aspects of human experiences. Accordingly, religion acquires importance as a *sui generis* reality, which needs to be studied and understood on its own, without being reduced to economy, social systems, or political power dynamics. Phenomenological and ethnographic studies have put forth and continue to do significant contributions in the in-depth understanding of the different aspects and dynamics of the interface. Deeper understandings of the interface enhance the human wisdom and hope on them, and, contribute to enlightened practical, moral and spiritual activities in relation to the realities of religion and society.

Religion and Society in the Indian context are vibrant tropes for study, research and systematic explorations. Even while we acknowledge that India is a land of religions, we also realize that religions and their relationships to Indian society have not been sufficiently studied and researched upon. Unlike the West, we have very few Indian higher educational institutions which give opportunities for study of religion-society interface. However, we are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that religion is playing a critical role in the different aspects of Indian life. Be it education, personality development, social identity, negotiation of power, cultural creativity, counseling individuals with depression, solving social conflicts, promoting economic wellbeing, etc. Indians find the resources of religion integrated at various layers. Unfortunately, it is also being discouraged upon that religions in India are causing social conflicts and violence. Such negativities like 'stereotyping', 'hate-mongering', 'hegemonic dominations', 'gender oppression', etc. are unduly associated with religion by popular narratives.

At this juncture, aiming at promoting the positive potentials of the religion-society interfaces, NBCLC, networking with esteemed institutions of higher education in Bengaluru plans to organize a research seminar on 07-08, August 2023.

Possible Topics for Submissions under CFP:

- Social Identities and Indian Religions
- Personality Developments and Indian Religions, Spiritualities and Philosophies
- Indian Personality Traits and Religio-Philosophical Traditions
- Spirituality and Counselling
- Spirituality and youth
- Cultural Creativity and Indian Religious Traditions Today
- Indian Religions in their Contemporary Phase of Transformations



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- Indian Religions and Social Transformations Today
- Indian Religions and Spiritualities
- Indian Philosophical Traditions
- Indian Religio-Philosophical Traditions and Civil Society Today
- Global Civil Society and Indian Religious Diaspora
- Religions, Philosophies, and Spiritualities and the Public Sphere in India
- Indian Religio-Philosophical Traditions and Higher Education in India
- Gender and Religion in India
- Subaltern communities and Religio-Cultural Traditions in India
- Dietary Management and Religious Beliefs and Practices in India
- Physical wellbeing and Religious and Spiritual Practices in India
- Religion, Art and Culture in India
- Freedom of Religion and Indian Politics
- Religious Centres and Civil Society in India
- Etc.

The modality of organizing the seminar will be as follows:

1. Four lead-papers will be presented by prominent scholars who are exploring the interface in an in-depth manner, employing different disciplines with systematic research methodologies.
2. A group of research-scholars, who study on the interface in different regions of the country with appropriate research methodologies will be chosen through a process of call-for-papers (CFP) to present papers.
3. Submissions under the CFP will be peer-reviewed and paper presenters will be chosen to present papers; those selected will have to come to present their papers at NBCLC. They will have to travel on their own and accommodation will be given for two-days at NBCLC at concessional rates. For those from abroad, online platform will be arranged for paper presentation.
4. Participation certificates will be jointly given by the collaborating institutions.
5. Papers presented will be peer reviewed and selected for publications. Paper presenters whose papers are selected will be required to work on the papers, as per the suggestions of the peer reviewers.
6. Papers will be eventually published in peer reviewed journals or in a volume by reputed publishers.

Dates to remember:

Last Date to receive paper proposals: **30 April 2023**

Announcement of Selection of Papers: 15 May 2023

Full-paper submissions: 25 July 2023 (6000 – 7000 words, including notes and bibliography)

Seminar Dates: 07-08, August 2023

Venue: NBCLC, Bengaluru

Registration Fee:

For a paper presenter - Rs. 1500 and for a participant - Rs. 800 (Registration fee includes cost of lunches, snacks, tea, coffee, and files). Modality of payment of registration fee will be announced in due course of time.

Kindly send your proposals (maximum 500 words) to: nbclcresearch@gmail.com



Organizing Institutions



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