



DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR MARATHWADA UNIVERSITY, AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ANCIENT INDIAN CULTURE

With Wellcome Trust, UK and Rural South Asia
Organizes an International Seminar (ONLINE)

'INDIGENEITY AND PANDEMIC PAST AND PRESENT: CROSS CULTURAL EXPERIENCES'

Dates:

**14th to 16th
August, 2020**

Time: 7 p.m to 10 p.m.

(Indian Standard Time)

Venue: Online Portal Google Meet

For Public Youtube Live: History and AIC-Dr. BAMU Channel
(Through Registration)



For registration and further details contact:

Coordinator of Online Seminar-Dr. Bina Sengar Email: drbamuhistoryaic@gmail.com

Registration on Google Form: <https://forms.gle/g4kZUoazQchnyiNEA>

or send comments and follow us on our Instagram & Facebook pages for further details
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ANCIENT INDIAN CULTURE

OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: https://www.instagram.com/departmentofhistoryaic_drnamu/

OUR INSTAGRAM PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/DepartmentofHistoryandAIC>

OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiH1_quJJ2_X2Z2up-Ca7hw/channels

RURAL SOUTH ASIA

RURAL SOUTH ASIA-INSTAGRAM: <https://www.instagram.com/ruralsouthasiaindia/>

RURAL SOUTH ASIA-FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/RuralSouthAsia>

Design By Jitendra Pawar 9579114096



DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR MARATHWADA UNIVERSITY, AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ANCIENT INDIAN CULTURE

With Wellcome Trust, UK and Rural South Asia
Organizes an International Seminar (ONLINE)

'INDIGENEITY AND PANDEMIC PAST AND PRESENT: CROSS CULTURAL EXPERIENCES'

Dates:
**14th to 16th
August, 2020**
Time: 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
(Indian Standard Time)

Venue: Online Portal Google Meet

For Public Youtube Live: History and AIC-Dr. BAMU Channel (Through Registration)

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

DAY-I: 14th August, 2020, Time: 07 pm-10 pm IST

Inaugural Session

Chief Guest: Hon. Vice Chancellor: **Prof. Pramod Yeole Sir**

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad

Welcome of Dignitaries, Panelists and Participants: **Prof. Umesh Bagade,**

Head Department of History and Ancient Indian Culture

Introduction: Dr. Bina Sengar, Convener of Seminar

Theme
Visualizing Past:
Colonial Epidemics
turning Pandemics
Panelists

Dr. Maria Luisa Veisaga
(FIU-Miami)
Mr. Miguel Reyes Contreas
(Mexico City)
Prof. Sugam Anand
(Agra University-Agra)

Panel Steering Members
Dr. BINA SENGAR-Coordinator
Dr. PARAMITA GHOSH-Discussant
(Mainaguri College-West Bengal)
Mr. Ojas Borse-Reporter
(Research Scholar-Dr. BAMU University)

DAY-II: 15th August, 2020, Time: 07 pm-10 pm IST

Theme
Combating Pandemic:
Post-Colonial
Indigeneity and State
Response in
20th Century

Dr. T.G. Patel
(Sevak Foundation-US/India)
Dr. Tvli Jacob
(OSU-Oklahoma)
Prof. Gene Tinnie
(BHM-Miami)
Dr. Jayanta Bhattacharya
(New Jalpaiguri-West Bengal)

Panel Steering Members
Dr. BINA SENGAR-Coordinator
Prof. Dennis Wiedman-Discussant
(FIU-Miami)
Mr. Ravi Khillare-Reporter
(Research Scholar-Dr. BAMU)

DAY-III: 16th August, 2020, Time: 07pm-10 pm IST

Theme
21st Century
Pandemic...
Global First
Response

Mr. Jimmy Beason
(HINU-Kansas)
Mr. Roche Myburgh
(Stellenbosch University-South Africa)
Mr. Firuz Barotov
(Tajikstan Media-New York)
Dr. Onkar Mittal
(Swasth Hind-Delhi, India)

Panel Steering Members
Dr. BINA SENGAR-Coordinator
Dr. Haripriya Narsimhan-Discussant
(IIT Hyderabad-India)
Mr. Muthanna Fahem-Reporter
(Alumni Research Scholar-Dr. BAMU)



DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR MARATHWADA UNIVERSITY, AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ANCIENT INDIAN CULTURE

With Wellcome Trust, UK and Rural South Asia
Organizes an International Seminar (ONLINE)

'INDIGENEITY AND PANDEMICS PAST AND PRESENT: CROSS CULTURAL EXPERIENCES'

Dates:
**14th to 16th
August, 2020**
Time: **4 to 7 p.m.**
(Indian Standard Time)

Venue: Online Portal Google Meet

For Public Youtube Live: History and AIC-Dr. BAMU Channel (Through Registration)

The perplexing year of THE 2020, is the exclusive year when whole world is dazed and terrified with the ongoing and upcoming developments of continuous natural and human induced disasters. The major anthropogenic-environmental calamity and challenge to human societies this year remains the SARS-Covid-II pandemic commonly known as Corona or COVID-19. The epidemic which perhaps began from China took shape of a pandemic somewhere around January 2020 and by March, 2020 it brought entire world on a notorious standstill. Whenever this pandemic may end, it will be inscribed as one of the major historical episodes in history of humankind. At present entire world is reacting and adjusting with the state induced methods to combat COVID-19 pandemic. The instances to control pandemic are leading some societies to submissively follow the norms irrespective of increasing financial inequalities, whereas some communities and nations are adversely reacting. The present dynamics inherent in the community behavior patterns to react pro and against the epidemiological norms (of WHO) are unraveling the global colonial-capitalist legacies. The community reactions world-wide bring us into postcolonial era debates of decolonization and postnationalism against the centralized bureaucracy which forcibly homogenized or sectionalized communities against its inclusive tribalism (Acton:1861, Breen et. al: 2010). In shrouding pandemic, decolonization through the voices of indigenous centric geopolitics are asserting themselves further. The indigenous assertion becomes even more applicable as we see how some of the decolonized indigenous nations have proven their success in dealing with COVID-19 (for e.g. Taiwan and New Zealand). On the contrary in some regions of world pandemic is reliving its colonial memory and cultural orthodoxy. The polemics of epidemiology and determinants of colonization, regressive and progressive indigeneity propose need for restudying epidemics through historical narratives. For our present state and community reflexes to pandemic are inherent in colonial narratives and indigenous responses to diseases and epidemics in historical timelines.

Thus, through this online seminar we propose a global cultural discourse on indigeneity and pandemic.

INTRODUCING

GUESTS, ORGANIZERS, PANELISTS, DISCUSSANTS AND YOUNG SCHOLARS TEAM



Hon. Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Pramod Yeole

**Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad
(Chief Guest of International Seminar)**

Hon. Prof. Yeole is present Vice Chancellor of our Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad-India. He is extensive research experience in scientific research and academic teaching in field of Pharmaceuticals. He was Professor of Pharmacology and Principal of Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Wardha (M.S.), India as well.

WELCOMING THE CHIEF GUESTS AND PANELISTS FOR SEMINAR BY



Prof. Umesh Bagade

Head Department of History and Ancient Indian Culture, School of Social Sciences
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, Aurangabad-India

Prof. Bagade has wide experience in teaching and research in field of Subaltern history and history of Ambedkarite historical thought. He is renowned scholar and contributed immensely to the 'Caste histories and narratives'. His various columns are published in several national level daily newspapers in Maharashtra and India.

Dr. Bina Sengar is Assistant Professor in the Department of History and Ancient Indian Culture at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University of Aurangabad. She was Fulbright Visiting Scholar (2018-2019) at Florida International University in Miami. Her areas of research interests are rural and tribal histories of South Asia and their connection with global indigeneity through cultural, health, and environmental perspectives.

She was awarded her PhD on the 'Role of Gandhians Social Transformation of Gujarat Tribes, 1920-1960' in 2005 from The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara. She explored and published her research findings on the tribal histories of Western Indian and Himalayan regions. She also studied the cultural aspects Native American communities and their cultural connections with the Asian indigeneity. Based on these global indigenous connection with South Asia she along with other academic alliances she developed 'Rural South Asia': www.ruralsouthasia.org; A research network for indigenous and rural communities of South Asia and their global connections through historical and cultural trajectories. Presently she is engaged in exploring the transnational and trans-regional connections among rural and tribal communities through Global perspectives. The present seminar on 'Indigeneity and Pandemics Past and Present: Cross Cultural Experiences' is part outcome of her research project on Indigenous healing practices of Western India supported by Wellcome Trust UK and her Fulbright Award (Fulbright Nehru Award for Excellence and Research: 2018-2019) research on Indigenous communities 'Native Americans' of United States of America.

The conference 'Indigeneity and Pandemic past and present: Cross cultural connections' is about problematizing and discussing the different aspects of socio-politics of epidemic, pandemic and associated genres of indigenous healing practices. Wherein, how the practice of healing is understood by mainstream and those of localized communities. As the Wellcome trust project funded where Dr. Sengar is working on aspects of "Healing Practices through Local Perspectives: A Historical-Anthropological Study in Rural Western India (Eastern Gujarat, Khandesh and Marathwada), c. 1850 – 2000

<http://ruralsouthasia.org/projects/rural-healinng-practices/>

<https://sudarshanfoundation.blogspot.com/>



Dr. BINA SENGAR- Coordinator and organizer of Seminar

DISCUSSANTS

Dr. Paramita Ghosh is Assistant Professor and Head, Department of English, Maynaguri College, in Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. She has done her M. Phil from Hyderabad Central University in Comparative Literature. Her doctoral research, done from North Bengal University, is based on a comparative study of Naipaul and Amitav Ghosh in the post-colonial context and the way they have incorporated travel writing in their fiction. Her other areas of interest include Popular Literature, Myth and Folklore. She has published various articles in academic journals and has also contributed a number of articles in edited volumes.



Dr. PARAMITA GHOSH
Discussant
(Mainaguri College-West Bengal)



Prof. Dennis Wiedman
Discussant (FIU-Miami)

Dr. Dennis Wiedman, Professor of Anthropology, Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies at Florida International University, Miami, Florida. Medical anthropologist specializing in Native American health, and sociocultural factors for global pandemic of Type II diabetes. Experience with Florida Miccosukee, Alaska Inuit, Oklahoma Delaware, Plains Apache, and Cherokee. Founding Director of the Global Indigenous Forum (2013 to 2020) with a mission to bring the Indigenous voice to FIU and the world.

Dr. Haripriya Narsimhan is an anthropologist and her research interests are in three areas: medical anthropology, and anthropology of the media, and more recently, sustainability. She is working on two research projects at the moment one is an ethnographic study of the production and viewing of Hindi television soap operas in India, and the second, on diabetes among the urban poor and middle classes in Chennai, south India. She is also partner of project funded by Wellcome Trust: 'Margins: health practices, resources and governance in India, ca. 1870 to the present day' to which Dr. Sengar is one of the partners.



Dr. Haripriya Narsimhan-
Discussant (IIT Hyderabad-India)

PANELISTS



Dr. Maria Luisa Veisaga
(FIU-Miami, USA)

Dr. Maria Luisa Veisaga (FIU-Miami, USA)

Theme of Presentation: Indigenous Communities of South America in times of Covid-19

Abstract: Many peoples from indigenous communities and first nations in South America are being disproportionately impacted by Covid-19. Historical and systemic inequities, racialization, discrimination, poor economic conditions, fragile access to healthcare systems, between others, had contributed to social disparities and had leaved them vulnerable making them face several internal and external challenges. At the same time, indigenous communities are stepping up to provide support to each other to better protect themselves where governments have not.

Short Bio: Dr. Maria Luisa Veisaga Maria-Luisa Veisaga, Ph.D is Director of Andean Studies Program at Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean

Center Florida International University

Read More: <https://lacc.fiu.edu/about/administration/>

Mr. Miguel Reyes Contreras (University of Mexico, Mexico City, USA)
Theme of Presentation: Where are we? visibility of indigenous peoples in the Public discourse of Pandemics.

Abstract: There is no doubt that the worldwide situation is putting some social groups on the spotlight, but some more than others. Indigenous groups in Mexico have been affected in a stronger way than the rest of the population as they belong to poor or isolated communities. In this talk, the different indigenous groups from the central part of Mexico are presented and some examples are provided about how these peoples are represented in the mass media, in some social networks and in the official discourse of the government. In contrast, some examples of how these people are facing the pandemics will be provided.

Short-Bio: Miguel Reyes Contreras is a professor and researcher at Universidad de Ixtlahuaca CUI, Mexico in the English Language Department. He's an associate professor at the Institute of American Indian Arts in New Mexico. He belongs to the Mazahuan indigenous community in central Mexico. His main areas of studies are in the Linguistic areas: Onomastics (place and person names), Paremiology (Proverbs, phrases, etc.), Discourse Analysis, Teaching Methodologies and cultural studies related indigenous peoples in Mexico. Most of his work is related to the study of minority languages in the linguistics landscape (in Mexico and New Mexico), Interdisciplinarity in Discourse Analysis, corn and its relation to Proverbs and sayings in Mexican Spanish and methodologies for language and culture teaching. He is a member of ONOMA, Seminario interinstitucional de Onomastica and is a member of the Mexican Linguistics Association. He is currently studying the presence of minority languages in the New Mexican Toponomastic Landscape and settled in Santa Fe New Mexico as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar.



Mr. Miguel Reyes Contreras
(University of Mexico, Mexico City, USA)



Prof. Sugam Anand,
Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University
-Agra, India.

Prof. Sugam Anand, (Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University-Agra, India)
Theme of Presentation: Epidemics and experiences of native communities in colonial India

Short Bio: Prof. Sugam Anand is Head, Department of History & Culture and Chairman of Ambedkar Chair and also Dean, foreign student Affairs and Deputy-chairman, IQAC in Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Agra. He is also Vice Chancellor's nominee in Dr. Hari Singh Gaur Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar (M.P). Member, Expert Committee for Museums, ASI, New Delhi. To his credit are six major publications on medieval and modern Indian history and numerous research papers and presentations in conferences and seminars.

Dr. Tvli Jacob, (OSU-Oklahoma, USA)

Theme of Presentation: Epidemics among Native American Communities

Abstract: There is a history of diseases that Native American Indians have suffered since the first impact of colonialism. These diseases have, at times, nearly decimated our tribes. This new pandemic has disproportionately affected many Native American Indian tribes in the United States which is, in a large part, due to the lack of healthcare funding, and limited resources to assist Indigenous populations.

Short Bio: Tvli is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. He is the Clinical Assistant Professor for Oklahoma State University (OSU) Center for Health Sciences (CHS) Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, holding a position on the Cherokee Nation Campus. His research is done in collaboration with the Center for Indigenous Health Policy and Research (CIHRP)



Dr. Tvli Jacob
(OSU-Oklahoma, USA)

at OSU. Having worked with tribes throughout the United States and Canada, Tvli has used media content through community-based participatory research media methods to study and understand health with Indigenous Peoples. Tvli has also worked in developing, implementing, and evaluating research in tribal communities. People in his family walked the Trail of Tears, resisted oppression, preserved the Choctaw language, and fought for tribal rights and sovereignty – all while surviving the pandemic of colonialism. He has a daughter, Nuseka, who is a philosopher, free-thinker, creator, artist and the reason he exists — which is a lot for an 8-year-old. Tvli feels weird writing bios and is uncomfortable when writing about himself in the third person.

Dr. T.G. Patel, (Sevak Foundation-USA/India)

Theme of Presentation: Sevak Project in Epidemics and Pandemic

Abstract: Sevak project has been in existence for the past 10 years. Initially, it was only in Gujarat. Now, it is present in Gujarat covering about 110 villages, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Bihar. Over the years through partnership with other NGO's like WHEELS and Habitat for Humanity India we have built toilets and today all the Sevak villages have more than 80% household with in house toilets, some have 100%. We have also built Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants to provide RO water at an affordable rate of rupees five for 20-liter bottle. In partnership with WIN Foundation, we are screening girls age 11 to 40-year women for anemia using TouchHb machine. In partnership with CETI of Indore Sevaks screen the villagers for active TB. During COVID



Dr. T.G. Patel
(Sevak Foundation-US/India)

pandemic most of the Sevaks are certified by the online government course on COVID. This course prepares the Sevaks to help the villagers and the government in combating the pandemic. Improvements in water, sanitation and the screening programs have a huge impact in controlling COVID pandemic. Sevak Project is a unique project as the Sevaks live in the village and can be trained to take care of any major medical issues affecting the population. It should be implemented in all the villages. Sevaks primary job is to screen the entire village for diabetes, hypertension and chronic disease. They also get information for the source and quality of water, toilets, sanitation and other issues of health. Website is: www.sevakproject.org

Short Bio: Thakor G. Patel, MD currently serves as an Adjunct Associate Professor of c Medicine at the Uniformed Services of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Patel is Board Certified in both Internal Medicine and Nephrology and is a Master of the American College of Physicians. Following his training, Dr. Patel joined the US Navy where he served with distinction and received numerous awards for his service of 23 years. On retirement from the Navy, Dr. Patel joined the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, DC as the Program Director for Renal Diseases, Diabetes and Oncology where he was instrumental in the developing and implementing critical policies on cancer, vascular access for hemodialysis, and hemoglobin A1C standardization. He retired from federal service in March 2016 to devote more time to public health projects in rural India. His current project and passion are devoted to improving health care in the villages of India. To accomplish this, he created the Sevak Project to bring access to care by utilizing the Navy 'corpsman' model, similar to the use of physician assistants in the medical office. The selected individuals are trained and supported by the staff of Baroda College in implementing education, screening and health care tracking programs in the assigned village. This project has been in place since June 2010. Sevak Project is now in over 110 villages in four states of India and has now expanded to ten villages in Guyana.

The Sevak Project has now garnered awards from the GOPIO and AAPI organizations for the valuable work being done. Sevak Project has become all things to the villagers by providing clean drinking water, building Reverse Osmosis Water Plants, Sanitary Napkin Factory to improve female hygiene, two Sewing Centers to provide livelihood to local women, screening for TB, screening for anemia in girls 11 years old to women 40 years old. During COVID pandemic, Sevak are certified to help the government and private programs curtail the epidemic.



Prof. Gene Tinnie,
(Black History Research
Centre, Miami, USA)

Prof. Gene Tinnie, (Black History Research Centre, Miami, USA)

Theme of Presentation: "The Future is now: Africa/Indigenous North American Perspectives on Proactively creating a More Harmonious Post-Pandemic Society

Abstract: The presentation will be discussing about the silver lining ahead after the chaotic and depressing times of COVID lockdown after the global lockdown. Where the possible contributions from indigenous knowledge systems are of major significance.

Short Bio: Professor Dinizulu Gene Tinnie is a well known visual artist, retired educator, writer and independent researcher. He is also Co-director of Middle Passage Ship Replica Project. Dr. Gene Tinnie a New York-born, Miami-based visual artist and designer, writer, retired educator, and an activist in historical preservation and cultural affairs, with an academic background in the study of foreign languages, literature and linguistics, earning graduate university degrees from France and the United States as a Fulbright scholar. He is founder and co-director of a Slave Ship Replication Project and serves on a board of trustees related to boards related to the restoration and preservation of historical and natural landmarks related to Indigenous and African North American history and heritage. His artworks have been widely collected and exhibited, including several public art commissions, and his writings and commentaries have frequently appeared in South Florida newspapers and scholarly publications including the venerable Journal of African American History. He is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards and recognitions for his diverse community service.

Dr. Jayanta Bhattacharya, (New Jalpaiguri-West Bengal, India)

Theme of Presentation: COVID-19 Pandemic and Social Paranoia

Abstract: The virus is SARS-COV-2, the disease is COVID-19, and the impact is the pandemic we are witnessing. It has given rise to suppressed panic and anticipatory dread in social psyche. To emphasize, in the time of the present pandemic we encounter some very poignant issues which remain not in the realm of science or medicine, but beyond it – in the realm of society, politics, economics, media and more. The fissure lines inherent in our everyday practice of medicine and public health get opened up. Some probable and indelible changes are most likely going to take place in the post-pandemic era.



Dr. Jayanta Bhattacharya
New Jalpaiguri-West Bengal,
India

Short Bio: Dr. Jayanta Bhattacharya, did his MBBS from Calcutta Medical

College and Ph.D. in history of Medicine. He is socially committed doctor and actively engaged in community health practices. He presently works in Raiganj town of West Bengal. Apart from his community health services he actively publishes and contributes in the health and healing research. His major research contributions are; he is reviewer of the Bulletin of the WHO, Graduate Journal of Social Science, Social History of Medicine, Indian Journal of History of Science, Indian Journal of Medical Ethics and others. He is author of book 'Biomedicine theke Najardari Medicine (From Biomedicine to Surveillance Medicine), 2nd edn, 2017, he is editor: Bharatiya Patabhumite cikitsa-bijnaner Itihās: Ekti Sankshipta Paryalocana (History of Medicine in India: An Appraisal), 2009 and also contributed a chapter on "The Body: Epistemological Encounters in Colonial India", in Making Sense of Health, Illness and Disease, (ed.) Peter L. Twohig and Vera Kalitzkas (Amsterdam, New York: Rodopi, 2004), pp. 31-54.



Mr. Jimmy Lee Beason II, MSW
(Haskell Indian Nations University
-Lawrence, Kansas)

Mr. Jimmy Lee Beason II, MSW (Haskell Indian Nations University-Lawrence, Kansas)

Theme of Presentation: "Impact & Response to Pandemics in Native American Communities"

Abstract: Historically, Indigenous people in North America suffered great losses from diseases during the process of European colonization of tribal territories. As a result, social systems were severely disrupted, some to the point of total ruin. As a result, Native peoples had to adjust and learn to live amid this threat to their communities. In the current Covid19 pandemic, Indigenous people are once again enduring losses of life due to gaps in healthcare funding and resources. Spiritual leaders have also needed to adjust to these circumstances by cancelling or altering traditional ceremonies that involve close physical contact.

This has resulted in traditional Natives pondering how to respond and maintain ties to ceremony, while keeping each other safe amidst this new reality of Covid19.

Short Bio: Jimmy Lee Beason II (Osage Nation, Eagle Clan) is a faculty member in the Indigenous and American Indian Studies department at Haskell Indian Nations University, instructing courses such as Theories of Decolonization and Indigenization, Concepts of Indigenous Leadership, Community Health in Indigenous Communities and American Indian Issues. He has a history of advocacy and community organizing to bring awareness and education to Native issues through speaking, lecturing, writing, along with advocating a return to traditional value systems to counter the process of colonization.

Mr. Roche Myburgh, (Stellenbosch University-South Africa)

Theme of Presentation: Saving the Tree for the Forrest.

Abstract: With pandemics set to become a more frequent occurrence, it is becoming increasingly important for us not just to look at how best to be prepared for the interconnected viral age, but also to understand the underlying causes of the increased emergence of new biological threats. Over the course of the last century, painful lessons have been presented to us on how to combat pandemics, although, more often than not, those lessons were learnt on the back of how not to combat a pandemic. With the scars of South Africa's initial botched handling of the HIV/Aids pandemic still affecting the lives of millions of South Africans, it is a cause for concern to see that US President Donald Trump not only severed ties with the World Health Organisation, but is also threatening funding to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. If anything was learnt from the way former South African President Thabo Mbeki mismanaged South Africa's HIV/Aids response, it is that viruses do not play politics, they thrive on it. Yet, once the scale of the HIV/Aids crisis in South Africa forced a change in the government's response, an effective strategy to combat the virus, was possible, however, that change could not undo the damage done to lives of millions of HIV positive people. Infections, that would have been prevented had the government not embarked on a curious powerplay. That the scope of the spread of COVID-19 could not have been predicted is true, however, equally true, and of greater consequence, is that viruses are contagious, that our modern systems of transport are tailor made to aid their spread at great speed, and that eventually, a virus, such as COVID-19 will emerge and inflict great human and economic cost. That we cannot know beforehand which virus would cause this is of little concern. If the same mistakes are repeated, we will find that the economic costs of combatting viruses after the fact come at a greater cost than creating the resources to combat them. But perhaps the best policy that we can adopt to protect ourselves from the increased emergence of new viruses, is to protect nature from us. By understanding the connection between our ever expanding destruction of nature for economic purposes, we may yet find that we will save more by protecting nature, than by investing in vaccine development.



Mr. Roche Myburgh
(Stellenbosch University-
South Africa)

Short Bio: Roche Myburgh holds a Bachelor's in the Humanities, majoring in the history of the Ancient Near East, and an MPhil in Social Sciences, specializing in Nonlinear Systems theories. After spending 12 years in the private sector in South Africa and the UK as a Learning and Development consultant and director at two companies, he is now the Head of Department for Social Sciences at a Cambridge school in Istanbul, Turkey, where he teaches 20th Century History, American History, and Global Perspectives and Research.



Mr. Firuz Barotov
(Tajikstan Media Tajikistan
and New York)

Mr. Firuz Barotov, (Tajikstan Media Tajikistan and New York)

Title: Experience of Tajikistan on pandemic past and present

Abstract: The experience of Tajikistan with pandemic and other infections which covered the entire country in the last 100 years. The situation with COVID and the actions which the government takes to prevent the spread of the virus. It is started with limitation of family events, funerals, and weddings up to the travel to different countries. Tajikistan also adopted a law which will punish for the spreading disinformation about COVID. 1000 of immigrants in Russia are waiting to come back to the country, as they cannot find a job in the host country.

Pandemic impacts very badly the economic situation of people.

Short Bio: Mr. Firuz Barotov journalist and media experts with extensive experience in multimedia journalism, photography, editing, media consulting, social media, media and human rights trainings for the journalists and youth.

Firuz lead the regional media project "Contributing to stability and peace in Central Asia through media literacy, improved reporting, and regional cooperation" in Tajikistan funded by European Union and implemented by Internews. In that position, he managed the process of implementing this project in the country and supporting media representatives to develop their professionalism on conflict sensitive reporting. Firuz Baratov has been working in the media field since 2002 and provides consultancy about media and political situation in Tajikistan to local and international media organizations and Youth NGO and conducts training on international professional media standards, photojournalism, radio and online journalism. Professional covering specific issues in Tajik media like an election, human rights, gender issues - domestic violence, HIV Aids, agricultural, youth radicalization etc. As a journalist, he has written more than 1500 reports for the Tajik service Radio Liberty for 10 years and as a trainer has conducted hundreds of training for the youth and journalists. During last 7 years under his coordination and management, Tajik media outlets and media NGO implemented 20 media projects in Tajikistan which were focused on media development, new media, youth journalism, citizen journalism, environment, legal and digital security. Firuz, in his project and training gives special attention to media law and teach colleagues to avoid media lawsuits. From January to October 2017, NANSMIT implemented the project "Legal support for Tajik journalists" and Firuz as a media law consultant administrates the Facebook page "Digital Self Protection Journalism Group" and provided journalists with recommendation on cybersecurity and law. Firuz investigated 42 cases of journalists in conflict with the law and prepared legal consultation according to every single case, as well.

Dr. Onkar Mittal, (Swasth Hind-Delhi, India)

Theme of Presentation: Freedom from Terror of Corona - 19 Pandemic

Abstract: The PM of India, in his first address to the nation, on the eve of announcing nation-wide lock down, had said that the problem had global dimension and that experts have warned of millions of deaths if the lockdown was not imposed.. However, four months later, it emerged that actual number of death and sickness attributed to Covid -19 are said to be far less, despite large number of Corona positive cases reported. In this context – Anthony Fauci of US had predicted 2 million deaths in USA, however the actual numbers are said to be only one tenth of it, not much higher than their annual pneumonia deaths. In western countries the problem is mainly related to old aged people and people in nursing homes under long terms care who are vulnerable to influenza deaths and comorbidities every year.



Dr. Onkar Mittal
(Swasth Hind-Delhi, India)

Short Bio: Dr. Onkar Mittal is a social health activist for the past 39 years. He worked at grass root for raising the voice of the poor and developing an understanding of social praxis with my colleagues and civil society. He also worked with government and donor-development agencies like UNICEF, WHO-India and DFID India, on a range of sectoral issues in urban basic services, health sector reform, RMNCH, water and sanitation, disaster prevention and relief, to name a few. I worked as a health adviser to DFID India in the years 1995 -2003. In these years, I worked in States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala, in various projects and programs of DFID. He was with DFID-UK in London in the year 2001 when the MDG were being worked out. For the past 16 years, he is working on his own on health policy and governance issues in Delhi, UP, Bihar and Jharkhand. His current interest is to focus on defining the framework of accountable governance in India through decentralization of governance and administration and empowerment of communities and at the same time contributing to the SDGs - post 2015. According to him, the change of development delivery systems and governance in India has to define a pragmatic road map of decentralization, beginning from Center to States to districts to block and below and do that, incrementally. At the same time the passion and push for change has to come from tapping the innovative capabilities in the common man in society- the lokvidya- and creating listening and action space for these ideas and creative potential in our polity. His current work on governance is focused around access to health, water and river protection.

REPORTING AND TECHNICAL TEAM



Muthanna Fahem

(Alumni Research Scholar-Dr. BAMU)

Mr Muthanna Fahem is Assistant Professor of History in Najaf University of Iraq, he is Alumni of Department of History, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad. Presently he is engaged in working for his research on Indigeneity and associated debates in Iraq and West Asia.

Ojas Borse

(Ph.D. Research Scholar-Dr. BAMU)

Mr. Ojas Borse is presently doing his Ph.D. under supervision of Dr. Sengar, Sengar at Department of History and Ancient Indian Culture of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University of Aurangabad. His areas of research are Indigenous communities of Western India in medieval and late medieval era. He is also actively engaged in digital ethnography and documents in wide frame field experiences which could be experienced through his Instagram profile.



Ravi Khillare

(Ph.D. Research Scholar-Dr. BAMU)

Mr. Ravi Khillare is presently doing his Ph.D. under supervision of Dr. Sengar at Department of History and Ancient Indian Culture of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University of Aurangabad, his areas of research are 'Buddhist and Peace Studies' and ethnographic study of communities in ancient times India.

Jitendra Pawar

(Ph.D. Research Scholar-Dr. BAMU)

Mr. Jitendra Pawar is doing his Ph.D. in Department of Fine Arts at Department of History and Ancient Indian Culture of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University of Aurangabad. He is specializing in graphic expressions and visual art of humanities.



Dhanraj Gusinge

(Ph.D. Research Scholar-CUGO Gandhinagar and Alumni Dr. BAMU)

Mr. Dhanraj Gusinge is his Ph.D. on diaspora studies in Central University of Gujarat and is alumni of Dr. BAMU. He is actively engaged connecting cultural ties among diasporic communities of Asia.

Dwijay Bane

Research Scholar-IIT Delhi

Dwijay, is affiliated to Rural South Asia Research Network and actively supports the activities and initiatives of Rural South Asia: www.ruralsouthasia.org

