



Newsletter April 2017

In this Issue

- About IAA
- Editor's Note
- Recent Activities
- News from regional Chapters
- Forthcoming Events
- Debates and Trends in Anthropology
- Young Anthropologist's Corner

The Indian Anthropological Association represents India at the World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA) as its elected member. WCAA is a network of Anthropological Associations from different countries all over the world committed to the cause of furthering the interest and presence of Anthropology in the contemporary world. Dr. S.M. Patnaik, President, IAA is currently the member, Organising Committee, WCAA.

The Indian Anthropological Association (IAA) is the representative body of professional anthropologists in India. It focuses on the understanding of the diversity and variations that the Indian society, culture and populations exhibit, without ignoring the important findings of the world of anthropology. It seeks to provide a platform to anthropologists and those working on allied disciplines, to promote interest and encourage research through publication of the journal and holding seminars and conferences.

Since its inception in 1964, IAA has been untiringly pursuing the goal of making Anthropology meaningful in public life. *Indian Anthropologist*, the official journal of the Association has reflected the anthropological insights on complex social processes with implications for development policy and practice. The IAA has five regional chapters to carry out its goal and highlight regional concerns across India.

The membership of IAA spreads to all corners of the country and efforts are on to further increase its outreach.

From the Editor

This newsletter comes after an unintentionally long hiatus with the hope of its steady continuity this time around. The idea is to share the latest happenings in the world of Anthropology in South Asia and the world. In the process, the audience gets a medium to connect with each other and come abreast with some of the latest events in the field. It is also a platform to discuss, divulge and debate issues concerning our lives both within the confines of the discipline and the society at large.

Young Anthropologists are specially encouraged to contribute to the newsletter in the form of short essays, write-ups, comments or even news about the latest in their interest area. Let us all make the subject more accessible and come together as a community to celebrate Anthropology. Happy Reading!

Recent Activities

1. **Summer internship 2016** - Indian Anthropological Association organized an internship programme for MSc Forensic Science students, Department of Anthropology in summer of 2016 on 'research methods', mentored by Prof. S.M. Patnaik and Dr. Indrani Mukherjee. The internship was an extension of facilitating research aptitude. The students were motivated to observe and document the body markings with respect to tattoos. Some of the interns presented their papers at the 18th International World Congress of Criminology Conference, under the banner of IAA in a round table discussion on '**Relevance of Tattoos in Identity and Identification**'.
2. The Indian Anthropological Association conducted a two day National Seminar '**Negotiating Fieldwork: Unfolding of Institutional Practices and Contemporary Challenges**' (16-17 September 2016) at the International Guest House, University of Delhi. The conference brought together different departments of Anthropology from across the country to discuss their respective fieldwork traditions and gave a chance to budding Anthropologists to present their work.
3. Prof. S.M. Patnaik organized a Thematic Panel under Theme IV: **Crime and Gender at the 18th World Congress of Criminology** (15th to 19th December, 2016) held at OP Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Haryana. The panel saw presentations on importance of looking at different crimes from a gender lens covering diverse topics – from gender related crimes in Mining areas, Hypermasculinity among truckers and their space and environmental crimes that are stacked against women to women in conflict and domestic crimes.
4. A National Seminar on "**Role of Anthropology and Forensic Science in National Development**" (24-25th March 2017) was organised by Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi, India. The seminar was well attended by scholars and faculty from various universities and saw a range of presentations on topics spanning human evolution, origin, adaptation, variation and biological changes, history, behavior, social practices, communications as well as their environment, determination of ethnic peculiarity in physical features as well as health dimensions and reasons behind the same. It intertwined Forensic Science with Anthropological knowledge emphasizing the far reach of the discipline of Anthropology.
5. Rajiv Gandhi Central University, Itanagar in collaboration with Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sanghralaya organised a **National Seminar on Anthropology and Public Policy** where Prof. R.K. Mutatkar delivered the keynote address and Prof. S.M. Patnaik delivered the valedictory address. It was inaugurated by the Minister Higher Education, Government of Arunachal Pradesh. Prof. Tamo Mibang (Vice Chancellor, RGU) presided the event. The idea to establish a Centre for Policy Studies was appreciated by the VC.
6. The IAA under the inspiration of WCAA has floated '**Anthropologists Without Borders**', an independent body that endeavours to bring together Anthropological knowledge on current subjects to the people who most need it – policy makers, communities, individuals, and other institutions. AWB is a network of professional anthropologists who are willing to contribute freely to society through advice, review and comment on relevant public policies, documents related to development, acting as interlocutors for communities, or other works that warrant anthropological understanding. Supriya Singh is

currently facilitating the activities and can be contacted at supriya7979@yahoo.co.in

7. IAA has also floated an Ethics Panel that shall look into the development of a Ethical Code of Conduct for the subject practitioners through a series of consultations, seminars and amalgamation of ideas. A separate Panel on 'Ethical Questions in Anthropological Research' was organised during the Seminar on 'Negotiating Fieldwork' held in September 2016. Dr. Indrani Mukherjee is currently incharge of the Panel and can be contacted at isen.78.im@gmail.com
8. *Indian Anthropologist* has come out with a special issue on Everyday State and Politics, Vol.46, No.2, July-December 2016.
9. Prof. V.K. Srivastava, Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi, has been recently appointed as the Director, Anthropological Survey of India (ASI), Headquartered in Kolkata. IAA takes this opportunity to congratulate him and wishing him great success in providing leadership to Anthropology in India.

News from Regional Chapters

1. Ethnographic and Folk Culture Society, Lucknow organised an International Conference on Politics, Society and Culture in South Asia on March 3-5, 2017. The conference was a big affair with attendance from a majority of Indian states. Prof. Nilika Mehrotra delivered the valedictory address on 'Gender, Disability and Everyday Politics in India'.
2. Rajnikant Pandey, Central University of Jharkhand and Prof. Nilika Mehrotra, JNU have initiated the process of setting up a Visual Anthropology lab in their respective universities.
3. Currently the Visual Anthropology lab at Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi is fully functional and engaged in documenting ethnographic films.

Forthcoming Events

1. Prof. S.M. Patnaik will be co-hosting a session on 'Multi-Scalar Water Crisis and Governance' under IUAES commission on Anthropology, Policy and Development Practice and IUAES commission on Anthropology and Environment at the upcoming IUAES- CASA conference in Ottawa, Canada, 2-7 May 2017.
2. Prof. Patnaik is currently the Chair of the IUAES commission on Anthropology, Policy and Development Practice, and shall hold a meeting of the Commissions at Ottawa. The Commission is also mulling over the idea of starting a journal under its rubric.
3. IUAES commission on Anthropology, Policy and Development Practice in collaboration with IUAES Commission on Migration (Chair: Prof. Anand Singh) is bringing out a Special Volume of *Indian Anthropologist* based on the papers presented in IUAES 2016, Croatia.
4. IAA has announced the setting up of the following awards for young Anthropologists
S. C. Dube Memorial Award for Best paper published in any journal
L.P. Vidyarthi Memorial Award for Best Fieldworker
J D Mehra Memorial award for Creative Anthropology
to celebrate the works and inspirations of these eminent anthropologists.

5. IAA is finalising a directory of its members for easy reference and access to practicing anthropologists across the country. It will be published online. Kindly send us your details at iaadelhi@rediffmail.com
6. IAA Summer Internship program 2017 shall commence from 15th May – 30th June for young anthropologists at the masters level. Interested persons may contact Secretary HQ at avitoligz@yahoo.co.in

Debates and Trends in Anthropology

Anthropology And the Question of Identity

While people have plural identities – social, familial, religious, ethnic, national, etc. and identify themselves as one or the other, why is it so important that identities become the markers of social behaviour often leading to negative consequences. On one side, the way we form identities helps us understand ourselves better and gives us a sense of bearing. However, looking at today's situation when religious, sectoral, and group identities are becoming more important than issues and causes, Anthropology helps me understand these questions better and understanding is the first step towards resolution of conflicts! General perceptions about identities, violence against the 'Other', the politics of othering and the effects these have on people on the ground are better understood in the ethnographic field. The discipline also helps address some basic questions –

Why is it important to know people's identity?

How does knowing one's identity affect our behaviour towards them?

Social and personal stereotypes, how they affect us and others.

(Supriya Singh)

Young Anthropologist Corner

Experiential Health

Sonali Kamle is exploring the experiential aspects of what is perceived as health and wellbeing among *Birhor*- a vulnerable indigenous community in Central India. She aims to unfold the institutional, cosmological and cultural aspects of health in the backdrop of political ecology. linkswith.sonali@gmail.com

The Land- People Complex

Richa Joshi is a budding Anthropologist starting out her PhD on the very complex and important issue of Land. Land is the most important entity which integrates the rural social system and is the main basis of survival, wealth, and home. The ownership of the land has been endowed in two ways. The first is when the person has authority and rights over land and second is when the person has right of cultivation and dwelling purposes in the land. She is trying to understand how meaning of territory and identity are produced, articulated and mobilized in relation to land deals. Simultaneously she will explore how the state helps in the negotiation and implementation of land deals. How legal frameworks, bureaucracy and customary laws of tribal land regulate land access and management in India and Nepal. reshikaj91@gmail.com

Address of Correspondence

Indian Anthropological Association
Department of Anthropology
University of Delhi
Delhi - 110007
Email: iaadelhi@rediffmail.com

Subscribe to IA and IAA newsletter: send a request at the above address.
or

Become a member: download, fill and send us the form along with a cheque addressed to the Indian Anthropological Association
<http://www.indiananthro.org>
Subscription Details :
Student Membership – Rs. 1500 for 3 years
Life Membership – Rs. 5000
IA subscription – Rs. 2500 per copy

Newsletter Editorial Team

For questions, clarifications, contributions write to us
Supriya Singh – supriya7979@yahoo.co.in

Office Bearers

Executive Committee –

President	S. M. Patnaik
Vice Presidents	H.S. Saksena, S. N. Ratha and S. K. Chaudhury
General Secretary	Manoj Kumar Singh
Secretary (HQ) cum Treasurer	Avitoli Zhimo
Joint Secretaries	Supriya Singh (Delhi) Rajnikant Pandey
Regional Secretaries	Abhik Ghosh (Chandigarh), Mini Bhattacharya (Guahati), Vinita Menon (Kannur), Lancy Lobo (Ahmedabad), Kali Nath Jha (Sagar)

Members

A.K. Kapoor (Delhi), Deepshika Baranwal (Delhi), Sonali Chatterjee (Delhi), Surendra Kumar Jena (Raipur), S R Mondal (Siliguri), Geetika Ranjan (Shillong), Supriya Singh (Delhi) Benrithung Murry (Delhi), Buddhadeb Chaudhuri (Kolkata), Subir Biswas (Kolkata), Archana Shukla (Delhi), Ranju Hasini Sahoo (Jagdalpur) and the following members of the IA editorial team.

Editor	Nilika Mehrotra
Assistant Editors	Mahima Nayar Sumit S. Srivastava

Editorial Advisory Committee: D. K. Bhattacharya (Delhi) Budhadeb Chaudhary (Kolkatta); A.C. Bhagabati (Guwahati); A.K. Kapoor (Delhi); T.N. Pandey (U.S.A.); Shobhita Jain (Delhi); K.K. Misra (Hyderabad) S.M. Patnaik (Delhi)

Academic Advisory Board:
Prof. T.N. Madan, Delhi
Prof. S.C. Tiwari, Delhi