

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: 'Social marginality: Issues and Concerns', Organized by: Department of Sociology, University of Gour Banga, NH 34, P. O. Mokdumpur, Malda, West Bengal, India: 2 and 3 February 2017

Call for papers

A 2-days International Conference of the Department of Sociology, University of Gour Banga, Malda, West Bengal in the theme: " Social marginality: Issues and Concerns" will take place on 2nd and 3rd February, 2017.

Concept note:

The concept of marginality as it has generally been used to describe inter-group relations implies some form of hierarchical ordering of groups and consequently their members, according to differentials of power, prestige and privilege. Such differentials may in turn reflect the evaluations of cultural properties, physical attributes of members, lineage and behavior patterns and traditions of the people involved in some kind of inter-group relations. The notion that marginality invariably involves differentials of status and power may be questioned; although in most cases certain kinds of inequalities do exist.

Marginality presupposes some kind of barrier, limiting or obstructing social interaction and cultural interchange between members of groups that are in some form of relationship with each other. The function of the barrier may be varied; to maintain social distances between individuals and collectivities, to keep individuals and groups spatially apart, to retain separateness of identity, to restrict, or prevent the interchange of cultural possessions, and other similar functions. These barriers may vary in rigidity or flexibility according to the specific situation or conditions governing social interaction or cultural exchange. In the final analysis they reflect the attitudes and values relative to restrictions on interaction whether manifest in overt behavior or in the maintenance of traditions, upholding exclusionist arrangements. Barriers separating groups may be bent, broken, or penetrated, when the penalties for so doing are severe. Penalties may, in some instances, apply to violations of the laws or customs of either group. The penetration of barrier involves an acculturative or assimilative process in which the individuals may acquire certain aspects of the out-group culture that make for acceptability. But penetration of the barrier separating people depends largely on the motivation and interests of the individual. If the barriers are rigid and the disadvantage of one's own group identity becomes burdensome, the personal problem may be resolved by clandestine and perhaps illegal penetration of the barrier.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: 'Social marginality: Issues and Concerns', Organized by: Department of Sociology, University of Gour Banga, NH 34, P. O. Mokdumpur, Malda, West Bengal, India: 2 and 3 February 2017

Marginality with reference to the relationship of two or more groups may be either cultural or social. Cultural marginality has reference to the belief and value systems, established behavior patterns, forms of social organization, skills and bodies of knowledge and symbols representing the cultural possessions or status of a group which exists more or less permanently in some kind of functional relationship to another group. The rejection of the culture of another people, especially a minority group is not at all unusual in many societies, but it sometimes happens that individuals reject or abandon part or all the cultural heritage of their own natal community. It is not at all unusual in a stratified, multiethnic society, people to be socialized into the culture of the other group more than their parental community. Social marginality has reference to inter-group and inter-personal relations that exist between two or more groups. The criteria of marginality on the social level, then, would be the degree of acceptability or unacceptability of members of a particular group by another group for designated relationships or roles. The criteria of social marginality would likely to vary from one group situation to another depending on the values attached on particular cultural, behavioral, physical or psychological characteristics of the persons involved. Multiple marginalities denotes not only marginality in regard to several dimensions as far two cultures are concerned but the term also denotes marginality in regard to more than two cultures. Not only there are different levels of acceptability within a particular group or community but there may also be more than two cultures to which an individual is marginal. Marginality, whether cultural or social is undoubtedly influenced by other-directed attitudes or hostility or friendliness, of prejudice or preference, of the need or desire to identify with another group and be accepted by it or the desire to avoid such identity. The individual may not only be excluded from membership of participation because of lack of acceptance for one or more reasons. He or she may simply not wish to be identified or be accepted in another group. Virtually, every aspect of marginality is social-psychological in the sense that the concept itself implies a set of attitudes and values concerning the inter-relationships of groups, their cultural possessions, their position in the social order, and the nature of barriers that separate them. Marginality implies not only an awareness of differences between groups but also assumes an assessment of these differences, sometimes accounting to moral judgment of the strengths or weaknesses, virtues or vices of other groups. It invariably involves the notion of ethnocentrism, which is a judgment of one's own group as well as an implied, if not explicit, judgment of other groups.

Against this backdrop, the conference aims to take up the issue in the context of Indian society and the society at large and generate an academic discourse especially in a globalized context and see how relative positioning of the social groups, hierarchical formations and evaluations of these give way to further exclusionary politics. The conference attempts to engage these issues theoretically as well as empirically.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: 'Social marginality: Issues and Concerns', Organized by: Department of Sociology, University of Gour Banga, NH 34, P. O. Mokdumpur, Malda, West Bengal, India: 2 and 3 February 2017

In the context of the discussion, the conference will look forward to papers on the following sub-themes:

1. **Concept of marginality and its practice in academics: Theories, Theorists and Methods; Marginality in History**
2. **Forms of marginal experiences: Womanhood, Gender, Trans-sexualities, Experiences of the Elderly, Disabilities**
3. **Social order: Religion and Politics, Communalism and fundamentalist perspectives**
4. **Power, politics and exclusionary policies: Caste marginalities, Dalits, Tribes and the marginal question**
5. **Status and role: Minorities, Ethnic communities, Immigrants**
6. **Marginalities and legalities**
7. **Marginalities in Science and Technology**
8. **Textuality and marginality: Marginal literature, literary marginalities**
9. **Marginalities, localization and Globalization**
10. **Experiences of bursting marginal positions, traversing in the 'margins**
11. **Diaspora and marginal experiences**

Papers need not be restricted to the above issues. We welcome abstracts and papers from all the disciplines of Language, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Important Information:

Deadline for abstracts: 10th January 2017.

Acceptance of abstracts will be communicated by: 15th January 2017

Submit to: socio.con.2017@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: 'Social marginality: Issues and Concerns', Organized by: Department of Sociology, University of Gour Banga, NH 34, P. O. Mokdumpur, Malda, West Bengal, India: 2 and 3 February 2017

General information:

Abstracts should not be more than 300 words. It should include the title, author(s), name(s), and their institutional affiliation with their email addresses and contact numbers. The abstract should be typed in 'Times New Roman' with font size 12 and line spacing of 1.5. The selected papers of the conference are likely to be published as an edited volume book.

Registration fees:

Teachers: Rs 1000

Research Scholars: Rs. 800

Registration fees for foreigners: 2000 (INR)

Prior registration details will be communicated shortly

Spot registration will be available at the Venue.

Local hospitality:

Accommodation (payable) to the participants (on demand) will be provided to the outstation paper presenters with prior intimation of at least 15 days before the Conference starts. No TA / DA will be provided to paper presenters

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: 'Social marginality: Issues and Concerns', Organized by: Department of Sociology, University of Gour Banga, NH 34, P. O. Mokdumpur, Malda, West Bengal, India: 2 and 3 February 2017

Contact Persons:

Joint Convenors:

Dr. Mallarika Sarkar (Das) (9007828531)

Dr. Sudarshana Sen (9830944470)

All abstracts may be sent to socio.con.2017@gmail.com