

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference
on
Indigenous/Tribal Communities - Reframing Research Methodologies
7 - 9 August 2025

There is a story running through the history of knowledge-making, spoken in a quiet but enduring voice for generations through memory, movement, and land. These voices belong to Indigenous/Tribal communities across India and around the world, whose ways of knowing are not only ancient, but living and dynamic. Knowledge here is not abstract or distant but lived, shared, and held in relationships. A story passed down around a fire. A seed saved for the next season. A sacred grove tended through time. These are not simply symbols but methods grounded in place, community, and practice.

India’s approach to safeguarding Indigenous/Tribal knowledge is shaped by a dual framework of Constitutional Hard Law and aspirational Soft Law instruments, such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007; Shillong Charter, 2015; and the IGRMS Bhopal Charter, 2024. These envisage the need for Free, Prior, Informed and Sustained Consent providing ethical guidelines for collaborative research and co-creating knowledge.

History is preserved in memory that has long been sustained in oral and embodied traditions. This history has often been set aside in academic discourse where methodologies most often have focused on written, printed, and codified texts tied to colonial frameworks that defined legitimacy through archives and documentation. In contrast, Indigenous traditions have thrived in oral forms, in performance, in relational practice, forms rarely considered as “primary” in conventional research.

This conference invites reflection on what it might mean to reframe research itself to take seriously the epistemologies preserved in Indigenous Knowledge Systems. What if history, memory, and tradition were not supplementary to Indigenous scholarship, but central to it? What if the values embedded in Indian traditions, sustained knowledge across generations, were recognised as carrying their own insightful and time-tested methods?

At a time when the idea of knowledge is being revisited across disciplines, and with the University Grants Commission’s renewed emphasis on the Indigenous Knowledge Systems, this is a timely moment to ask:

- How can academic spaces create room for different ways of knowing?
- What does it mean to learn with Indigenous knowledge keepers in respectful and meaningful ways?
- And how, evidence, and research itself through other epistemic lenses?

This conference seeks to bring together Indigenous scholars, community practitioners, and allies for a shared space of listening, exchange, and co-learning. We welcome papers, performances, stories, conversations, and creative works that open up new ways of thinking about knowledge and research. Let us come together in the spirit of inquisitiveness, to ask what it means to build knowledge not only with the mind, but also with the body, the land, and the community.

Themes

Indigenous Knowledge System. Perspectives on beliefs, traditions, ecological knowledge and resources of languages. Research methods to engage with indigenous and tribal societies; decolonial processes, auto-ethnology, and testimony of participatory action research from the perspective of marginality and marginalisation. Texts as knowledge creations, ceremonies, etc.

Important Dates

Abstract Submission Deadline	: 07 June 2025
Acceptance of Abstracts	: 25 June 2025
Registration Deadline	: 10 July 2025
Full Paper Submission	: 25 July 2025

Registration Fee

Students (without accommodation)	: ₹1000
Students (with accommodation)	: ₹2000
Faculty (without accommodation)	: ₹4000
Faculty (with accommodation)	: ₹4500
International Scholars/Students	: \$75



We invite original, unpublished and well-researched papers on the aforementioned themes from faculty members, independent researchers and research scholars enrolled in universities or research institutions. Each presenter will be allocated fifteen minutes for presentation and five minutes for discussion.

Provide your details and upload your abstracts (150 words) here:

<https://forms.gle/UhfboogZrpG5dWZ87>

NOTES

- The conference will be held exclusively in-person, with no online participation options available.
- For out-station paper presenters, accommodation will be arranged in the University Hostels or Guest House, subject to availability.
- Lunch and refreshments will be provided for all presenters during the conference days.
- No additional TA/DA will be provided.
- All presenters will be awarded certificates for their paper presentations
- Selected papers will be published.
- For any queries, please contact efluitprmconference@gmail.com



LIFE
LAND
LITERATURE
2025

INDIGENOUS/TRIBAL PEOPLES'
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
& LITERATURE

CHIEF PATRON

Prof. N. Nagaraju

Honourable Vice Chancellor

The English & Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad

CONFERENCE CONVENER

Dr. V. Rajunayak

Associate Professor

Head, Department of Indian & World Literatures

CONFERENCE CO-CONVENER

Dr. Rahul Narayan Kamble

Associate Professor

Department of Indian and World Literatures

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Department of Indian and World Literatures

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Research Scholars & Students

School of Literary Studies

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Prof. Amareswar Galla

Emeritus Faculty, Australian National University, Canberra
UNESCO Chair on Inclusive Museums and Sustainable Development

EMINENT SPEAKERS

Prof. Amitabh Pande

Director, National Museum of Humankind, Indira Gandhi
Rashtriya Manav Sanghralaya, Bhopal



Prof. Kishor Kumar Basa

Chairman, National Monuments Authority



Prof. Deepak Kumar Behera

Professor of Anthropology & Vice-Chancellor,
KISS, Bhubaneswar



Prof. Virginus Xaxa

Visiting Professor, Institute for Human Development, New Delhi



Prof. B. Vijaya

Professor, Osmania University



Dr. Bodhi S R

Associate Professor, TISS, Mumbai.



Dr. Sushree Sangita Mohanty

Assistant Professor, KISS Bhubaneswar



Prof. Bhangya Bhukya

Professor, University of Hyderabad



Dr. Zehlia Babaci Wilhite

Adjunct Professor, University of San Francisco



Dr. Rimi Tadu

Project Fellow, Rajiv Gandhi University

