



24-25
March 2022

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Bi-National Virtual Conference
On

**Healing Traditions among the
Indigenous Communities in India and
Canada: Challenges of Recognition
and Mainstreaming within the Global
Public Health System**



Dr. Nemthiנגai Guite,
Conference Director
CSMCH, SSS, JNU



Prof. Sanghmitra Acharya,
Conference Coordinator
CSMCH, SSS, JNU



Dr. Sunita Reddy,
Conference Coordinator
CSMCH, SSS, JNU

Organised by
**Centre of Social Medicine and
Community Health (CSMCH), School of
Social Sciences (SSS),
Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU),
New Delhi, India**

Funded by
Shastri Indo Canadian Institute (SICI)
www.shastriinstitute.org/



**Click Here to Join Zoom
Meeting**

Meeting ID: 856 3593 2099
Passcode: 148307



L'INSTITUT SHASTRI INDO-CANADIAN
INDO-CANADIEN



Programme Schedule

DAY ONE

Thursday 24th March 2022

7 PM - 10:40 PM IST
9:30 AM - 1:10 PM EST

INAUGURAL SESSION

7:00 - 7:10 pm IST 9:30 - 9:40 am EST	Introduction to the Conference Dr. Nemthianngai Guite Conference Director, Associate Professor, CSMCH, SSS, JNU, New Delhi, India.	
7:10 - 7:20 pm IST 9:40 - 9:50 am EST	Welcome Address Prof. Rajib Dasgupta Chairperson, CSMCH, SSS, JNU, New Delhi, India.	
7:20 - 7:35 pm IST 9:50 - 10:05 am EST	Opening Remarks from SICI Prof. B. Hariharan (Vice President/President Elect), Professor, Institute of English, University of Kerala	
7:35 - 7:50 pm IST 10:05-10:20 am EST	Keynote Address <i>Challenges of Recognition and Mainstreaming of Indigenous Healing Traditions within the Global Public Health System</i> Prof. Ritu Priya CSMCH, SSS, JNU, New Delhi, India.	
7:50 - 8:05 pm IST 10:20-10:35 am EST	Special Address <i>Community Practices and Indigenous Ecologies of East Himalayas</i> Dr. Mollica Dastider Associate Professor, Centre for Comparative Politics and Po- litical Theory, School of International Studies (SIS), JNU, New Delhi, India.	
8:05 - 8:10 pm IST 10:35-10:40 am EST	Vote of Thanks Dr. Sunita Reddy Conference Coordinator, Associate Professor, CSMCH, SSS, JNU, New Delhi, India	

Day 1: Scientific Session I
Indigenous Communities in India and Canada: Healing Traditions and Healers

	<p>Chair:</p> <p>Prof. Rama Baru CSMCH, SSS, JNU, New Delhi, India.</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <p>Dr. Meaghan Wilton Agro ecosystem and Food Security researcher, Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences, University of Toronto, Canada.</p>	 
<p>8:10 – 8:30 pm IST 10:40–11:00 am EST</p>	<p><i>Local Health Traditions in India - Resilience and Revitalization</i></p> <p>Prof. Unnikrishnan Payyappalli University of Trans Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology, Bengaluru, India</p>	
<p>8:30 – 8:50 pm IST 11:00 – 11:20 am EST</p>	<p><i>Traditional Indigenous Medicine in North America</i></p> <p>Dr. Nicole Redvers Assistant Professor, Department of Indigenous Health, Department of Family & Community Medicine, School of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of North Dakota</p>	
<p>8:50 – 9:10 pm IST 11:20 – 11:40 am EST</p>	<p><i>Vertical Aspects of Everyday Health and Healing Practices: Tribal Communities of West and Mid-West Bengal, India.</i></p> <p>Dr. Debjani Das Assistant Professor, Department of History, Vidyasagar University, West Bengal, India.</p>	
<p>9:10 - 9:30 pm IST 11:40–12:00 pm EST</p>	<p>Questions and Answers/Discussions/Deliberations</p>	

DAY 1: Scientific Session II

Data Sovereignty and Management in Recognition of Healing Traditions

Chair:

Prof. Ramila Bisht

CSMCH, SSS, JNU, New Delhi, India.



Discussant:

Dr. Eric Liberda

Associate Professor, School of Occupational and Public Health, Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada



9:30 – 9:50 pm IST
12 pm–12:20 pm EST

Community Health, Community Data: Linking Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Health

Prof. Naomi Adelson

Associate Vice President, Research & Innovation Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada.



9:50-10:10 pm IST
12:20-12:40 pm EST

Using Quality Management Principles for the Recognition and Acceptance of the Traditional Community Healthcare Providers

Prof. Debjani Roy

Clinical Development Services Agency (CDSA), Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India



10:10-10:30 pm IST
12:40-1:00 am EST

Role of Traditional Health Care Practitioners in Primary Health Care In Eastern Himalayan Region: With special reference to Sikkim.

Dr. Tshering Lepcha

Research and Development Officer, Anugyalaya Darjeeling Diocese Social Service Society, Loreto Convent Road, Darjeeling



10:30-10:40 pm IST
1:00-1:10 pm EST

Questions and Answers/Discussions/Deliberations

DAY TWO

Friday 25th March 2022

7 pm - 10:40 pm IST
9:30 am - 1:10 pm EST

Day 2: Scientific Session III

Cultural Assimilation, Indigenous Knowledge, Research and Well Being

	<p>Chair:</p> <p>Dr. Atanu Sarkar Associate Professor at the Division of Community Health and Humanities, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada.</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <p>Dr. Sunita Reddy Associate Professor, CSMCH, SSS, JNU, New Delhi, India</p>	 
7 - 7:20 pm IST 9:30 - 9:50 am EST	<p><i>Weaving climate-adaptive-gardening strategies with traditional activities to enhance food security and wellbeing in subarctic Ontario, Canada</i></p> <p>Dr. Meaghan Wilton Sutherland G, Kataquapit G, Solomon A, Karagatzides J, Zuk A, Liberda E, Tsuji LJS, Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada.</p>	
7:20 - 7:40 pm IST 9:50 - 10:10 am EST	<p><i>Herbal Healing System in Arunachal Pradesh: Prospects and Challenges</i></p> <p>Ms. Yanung Jamoh Lego Deputy Director, Agriculture Samiti, Arunachal Pradesh.</p>	
7:40 - 8:00 pm IST 10:10 - 10:30 am EST	<p><i>Indigenous Land-based Approaches to Wellbeing: The Amisk (Beaver) Harvesting Program in Subarctic, Canada.</i></p> <p>Dr. Fatima Ahmed Sutherland B, Davey R, Liberda E, Tsuji LJS, Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada.</p>	
8:00 - 8:30 pm IST 10:30 - 11:00 am EST	Questions and Answers/Discussions/Deliberations	

Day 2: Scientific Session IV

Harmonizing Traditional Healing Systems During Health Emergencies and Uncertainties: Prospects and Challenges

	<p>Chair:</p> <p>Prof. Sanghmitra Acharya CSMCH, SSS, JNU, New Delhi, India</p> <p>Discussant:</p> <p>Prof. Len Tsuji Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences, University of Toronto, Scarborough, Canada</p>	 
8:30 – 8:50 pm IST 11:00 – 11:20 am EST	<p><i>Is universal health coverage possible in India?</i></p> <p>Prof. G. Hariramamurthi Emeritus Professor and Head of the Centre for Local Health Traditions and Policy, University of Trans Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology, Bengaluru, Karnataka</p>	
8:50 – 9:10 pm IST 11:20 – 11:40 am EST	<p><i>Healing Huts: Time for Recognition, Revival and State Support</i></p> <p>Dr. Sunita Reddy Associate Professor, Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India</p>	
9:10 – 9:30 pm IST 11:40am-12 pm EST	<p><i>Promoting health and wellbeing during times of uncertainty: Miawpukek First Nation's (Newfoundland, Canada) response to COVID-19</i></p> <p>Lead Speaker: Timothy Drew Ada John, Wilton M, Joe M, Sarkar A, Karagatzides J, Liberda E, Tsuji LJS</p>	
9:30-10:00 pm IST 12:00-12:30 pm EST	Questions and Answers/Discussions/Deliberations	

Valedictory Session Friday 25th March 2022

10 - 10:20 pm IST 12:30 -12:50 pm EST	<i>Concluding Remarks</i> Prof. Sanghmitra Acharya Conference Coordinator, CSMCH, SSS, JNU, New Delhi, India.	
10:20-10:30 pm IST 12:50-1:00 pm EST	<i>Vote of thanks</i> Dr. Nemthiנגai Guite Conference Director, Associate Professor, CSMCH, SSS, JNU, New Delhi, India.	

CONTACT

Dr Nemthiנגai Guite, Conference Director
Email: nguite@jnu.ac.in | Phone: +91-9818804621



About Jawaharlal Nehru University

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

Jawaharlal Nehru University is the foremost university in India and a world-renowned centre for teaching and research. It was constituted under the Jawaharlal Nehru University Act 1966 (53 of 1966) in 1969. The approach of the University has been to evolve policies and programmes to make the University a distinct addition to the national resources in higher education rather than a mere quantitative expansion of facilities. The primary academic units of the University are not single discipline departments but multi-disciplinary Schools of Studies. Some Schools are made up of several Centres, which constitute the units operating within the broad framework of a School.

About CSMCH

A Centre has been defined as a community of scholars irrespective of their disciplines engaged in clearly identified inter-disciplinary research and teaching programmes. And the Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health (CSMCH), which was established in 1971, was one of the Centres located within the School of Social Sciences. The Preventive and Social Medicine discipline needed a paradigm shift outside the confines of a medical college. Therefore, the Centre was set up with a vision to shape and provide academic content to the discipline of public health, making it relevant to the social, economic and political situation in India. Since its inception, the Centre has acquired vast experience in evolving problem-oriented inter-disciplinary academic programmes in public health and building an active research base. At the same time, efforts have also been made at establishing institutional links with various academic, research, policy-making and non-governmental organizations both within and outside India.

About Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI)



The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) is a unique bi-national organization, mandated by governments of India and Canada to promote, facilitate and nurture academic linkages, collaborations & exchanges, research partnerships, and networks on bi-national corridors. With its physical presence in New Delhi, India and Calgary, Canada, and a strong base of 131 Indian and 37 Canadian member institutions, for past 53 years, SICI is the only organization in the Canada-India higher education corridor that is instrumental in building and strengthening intellectual and cultural relationship through research and dialogue. Funded by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, it supports diverse disciplines including Social Sciences, Humanities, Science & Technology, Biotechnology, Agriculture, Arts, Literature, Culture, Law, Business, Economic Reform, etc. and covers all levels of higher education from undergraduate to postdoc and from faculty to collaborative research.



Conference Director

Dr. Nemthiangai Guite is an Associate Professor in the Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She has taught in the Department of Social Work, Delhi University as an Assistant Professor from March 2005 to July 2016 (11 years). She was awarded Fulbright Nehru Post Doctoral Fellowship by USIEF in 2016 and Shastri Mobility Programme by SICI in 2018. She has attended national and international conferences, presented papers; and published in peer-reviewed journals on primary health care and indigenous medicine, Indigenous healing systems; Global Discourses on Biodiversity and Indigenous Medicinal knowledge, health care social work practice,

maternal and child health and health issues concerning indigenous communities of India's northeastern region. She authored the books "Indigenous Medicine and Health Care: A Study among Paite Tribe in Manipur" (2011) and "Global Discourse and Local Realities towards Indigenous Medicine" (2014). She undertook and completed various research projects funded by organisations like Oxfam India (2014), Save the Children (2015), IGSSS (Indo Global Social Service Society) (2015) and ICSSR (2021). Her research project on "Mapping and assessing the social networks of AYUSH practitioners in public health delivery system" funded by ICSSR (2022) is in progress



Conference Coordinator

Dr. Sanghmitra Acharya is a professor at the Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has taught at International Institute for Population Sciences during 1990 to 99. She was Director Indian Institute of Dalit Studies during 2015-18. She was a Visiting Fellow at CASS, Beijing; Ball State University, USA and UPPI, Manila; East-West Center, Honolulu and the University of Botswana. She was awarded the Asian Scholarship Foundation fellowship in 2005; and Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute Grant in 2019. She has travelled to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Germany, The Netherlands, UK, USA, Canada, Thailand, Belgium and Finland. She has attended national and international conferences, presented papers, and

published in peer-reviewed journals on issues of health and discrimination; youth; gender in urban spaces; women and children in Western India; and North East India. Her work includes 'Marginalization in Globalizing Delhi- Issues of Land, Labour and Health' (2017), Health, Safety and Well-Being of Workers in the Informal Sector in India- Lessons for Emerging Economies (2019), and Caste, COVID and Care (forthcoming) by Springer. Her work on social discrimination in health care access among cleaners is under publication.



Conference Coordinator

Dr. Sunita Reddy is an Associate Professor at the Center of Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has twenty years of teaching and research experience. She has a background in Medical Anthropology and research on disasters, mother-child health, gender violence, child rights, tribal health, indigenous medicine, migrant workers, medical tourism, and surrogacy. She has published widely, having three books and numerous articles/papers in peer-reviewed journals and newspapers. She is on the editorial boards and has reviewed manuscripts for Springer and Sage. She is the founder chair of a trust, 'Anthropos India Foundation (AIF)', which does visual and action research. AIF has signed a book

series with Springer 'People, Societies and Cultures: Exploring and Documenting Diversities'. She is also rooted in a community-based organization, 'Satat' to reach out to the rural and urban slums. She was a core member to set up the Special Center for Disaster Studies (SCDR) in JNU. She participated in national debates on surrogacy on many national TV channels. She has many sports and co-curricular activities awards and recently received the 'Women Empowerment Award- 2021' on International Women's day by DELSA and Bhagidari Jan Sahyog Samiti.



Opening Remarks from SICI

Prof. B. Hariharan,
(Vice President/President Elect) SICI

Dr. B. Hariharan is Professor and Head at the Institute of English, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram. Before joining the University of Kerala in 2008, he taught in the Post Graduate Centre of the University of Mysore, Hassan, Prajyoti Niketan College, Pudukad, and Christ College, Irinjalakuda. He is the Director of the UGC Area Study Centre for Canadian Studies in

University of Kerala. He was the coordinator of the UGC SAP DRS II project at the Institute of English during 2015-2020. He completed a Major Research Project on "A Study of the Cultural and Architectural Expression of Public Spaces in Kerala" and has published scholarly articles in journals of repute and in edited volumes. He has published a book titled The Carnival World of Robert Kroetsch, edited nine books and translated four books from Malayalam to English.



Key Note Address

Challenges of Recognition and Mainstreaming of Indigenous Healing Traditions within the Global Public Health System

Dr. Ritu Priya, a medical graduate with a doctorate in Community Health, is a Professor at the Centre of Social Medicine & Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She was Advisor of Public Health Planning with the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), a technical support institution under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), and has been a member of Task Forces of the Planning Commission, the Department/Ministry of AYUSH, and the National AIDS Control Organisation. She was founder Coordinator of the Trans-disciplinary Research Cluster on Plural Health Care and founder member of the Transdisciplinary Cluster on Sustainability Studies at JNU. Her work links epidemiology, popular culture and health systems research for decentralized planning, policy formulation and analysis of health care. It specifically focused on the health of marginalized groups, problems of nutrition and communicable diseases, health systems development, urban health,

health governance and the politics of health knowledge, including the relevance of traditional systems.

Abstract:

Modern Public Health was born in Europe in the 19th century amid the industrial revolution and colonial expansion. By the 20th century, it spread globally and became an important purpose of international collaboration. Starting with control of communicable diseases and their pandemics, it became the basis of health governance in general. It has been rooted in conventional biomedicine and its global application. Various other health traditions have been recognised and drawn upon by the colonial powers but soon absorbed and delegitimised as independent historical streams. For both knowledge and commercial purposes, indigenous healing traditions have been drawn upon by ethnobotany and anthropology, as well as pharmacology and the pharmaceutical industry. Globally, how has Public Health dealt with it historically, and how is Global Health dealing with it now? In this context, I will attempt to locate the approach of Global Health and current initiatives by the WHO and WIPO.



Special Address

Community Practices and Indigenous Ecologies of East Himalayas

About the Speaker:

Dr. Mollica Dastider teaches and researches on: Comparative Political Thought; Modernity and Marginality; and Tribal Citizens and Political Ecology in India. She has widely published on Minority Cultures, and on Political Ecology of Tribal Citizens in India. Two of her recent Peer Reviewed Journal publications are: "Marginalized as Minority: Tribal Citizens and Border Thinking in India", Special Article (peer reviewed),

Economic and Political Weekly of India, Vol. LI No. 25 June 18, 2016, pp. 48-54. Bombay: Sameeksha Trust. "Practices as Political: Tribal Citizens and Indigenous Knowledge Practices in East Himalayas", Special Article, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 55, Issue No. 46, 21 Nov 2020. Her book "Understanding Nepal" narrates the making of a Hindu nation in one of the most plural societies of the world.

Abstract:

In their preference for traditional-knowledge practices over modern knowledge subjectivity, many indigenous

communities of East Himalayas present excellent 'sites of indigenous-knowledge and ethical living', an important intervention indeed in the foundationalist theories that govern modern nations. The present paper is a part of my larger research, that examines how the Limbu-language subjects and the Lepcha traditional knowledge practices in East Himalayas are offering sites of 'different rationality'. My study

suggests that the Limbu-language philosophy and Lepcha traditional practices are making their new generations aware of the significance of the non-human world; most evident in lived-practices and in the transmission of knowledge on how the East Himalayan bio diversity is intrinsically linked with their own Healing and Livelihood processes.

Scientific Session I

Indigenous Communities in India and Canada: Healing Traditions and Healers



Chair

Dr Rama Baru is a professor at the Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has taught the Masters in Public Health, Mphil and PhD programmes in the Centre for 26 years. She is an honorary fellow with the Institute of Chinese Studies and an honorary professor at India Studies Centre, Central China Normal University, Wuhan, China. Her research focus is on social determinants of health, health policy, international health, privatisation of health services and inequalities in health. She is the author of *Private Health Care in India: Social Characteristics and Trends* Sage Publication. She has edited several volumes on *School Health Services in India: The Social and Economic Contexts* (Sage Publication); *Medical Insurance Schemes for the Poor: Who Benefits?* (Academic Publication); a co-edited volume with Anuj Kapilashrami titled 'Global

Health Governance and Commercialisation of Public Health in India: Actors, Institutions and the Dialectics of Global and Local' published by Routledge. Her latest is co-authored book (with Madhurima Nundy) 'Commercialisation of Medical Care in China: Changing Landscapes' (Routledge). She has supervised 20 doctoral theses and 40 Mphil dissertations (awarded). She is currently supervising 15 doctoral theses. She has published extensively in journals and contributed to several edited volumes. She was awarded the Balzan Fellowship by the University College, London and the Indo-Shastri Canadian Fellowship, Yusuf Hamied Fellowship at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York. She is currently on several research committees in the Indian Council for Medical Research, Department of Health Research and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.



Discussant

Dr. Meaghan Wilton is an Agro ecosystem and Food Security researcher at the University of Toronto in the Physical and Environmental Sciences department. She has worked in temperate, subarctic, subtropical,

and tropical regions. Since 2013, she has worked in partnerships with Indigenous communities worldwide on agroforestry based gardening projects in food security and climate change adaptation.



Speaker

1. Local Health Traditions in India - Resilience and Revitalization

About the Speaker:

Dr. Unnikrishnan Payyappalli is an Ayurveda physician and a development researcher. His research interests are AYUSH in health systems, public health, traditional knowledge epistemology, and sustainable development. He has an undergraduate degree in Ayurveda from Bharathiar University, Coimbatore and a master's degree in Medical Anthropology from the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands. He holds a doctoral degree in International Development Studies from the Yokohama National University, Japan. Since 2010, he has worked with the United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan, in various health systems and sustainability-related programs. He is currently a Professor at the University of Transdisciplinary Health Sciences and Technology, Bengaluru.

Abstract:

Indigenous healing traditions, also known as local

health traditions, remain an important dimension of health and healing in India. They are ecosystem and community-specific, and their health and well-being concepts and practices are highly embedded in local worldviews and value systems. A description of their understanding is significant when contextualized in a bio-cultural and an ecosystem perspective. This perspective is significant in locally relevant community health development. In India, the coexistence and deep interplay of the local healing traditions and the codified and formalized traditional medical systems (like Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Tibetan medicine in the subcontinent), have generated sophisticated healing practices that are highly relevant for public health in the country. Focused efforts over the past three decades by civil-society organizations and healers' networks have brought considerable attention to local health traditions, both in the national policy space and communities of practice. At the same time, there are also challenges of their rapid erosion, reducing social legitimacy, marginalization, etc. The presentation gives an overview of these efforts and their current status



Speaker

2. Traditional Indigenous Medicine in North America

About the Speaker:

Dr. Nicole Redvers, ND, MPH, is a member of the Deninu K'ue First Nation in Denendeh (NWT, Canada) and has worked with Indigenous patients, scholars, and communities around the globe in her entire career. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and the Department of Indigenous Health at the University of North Dakota. She helped develop and launch the first Indigenous health PhD program. Dr. Redvers is co-founder and current board chair of the Canadian charity the Arctic

Indigenous Wellness Foundation based in Yellowknife, NWT. The foundation provides traditional Indigenous-rooted Land-based wellness supports to northerners. She has been actively involved at regional, national, and international levels promoting the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in both human and planetary health research and practice. She is the author of the trade paperback book titled 'The Science of the Sacred: Bridging Global Indigenous Medicine Systems and Modern Scientific Principles'.

Abstract:

Despite the documented continued use of traditional healing methods, modalities and associated

practitioners by Indigenous groups across North America, widespread knowledge is elusive amongst most Western-trained health professionals and systems. Despite that, the over 11 million Indigenous peoples who currently reside in Canada and the United States (US) are most often served by Western systems of medicine. This presentation will showcase a scoping review that

was performed to catalogue the vast array of published research on traditional Indigenous medicine in North America. The peer-reviewed grey literature was done to provide accessible databases for medical practitioners, scholars, and communities to better inform practise, policymaking, and research in Indigenous communities, specifically through an Indigenous public health lens.



Speaker

3. Vertical Aspects of Everyday Health and Healing Practices: Tribal Communities of West and Mid-West Bengal, India

About the Speaker:

Dr. Debjani Das is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History, Vidyasagar University, West Bengal. Her area of specialization is the medical history of colonial and post-colonial India. She is the recipient of the Charles Wallace India Trust Award for Ph.D. research in the UK; and the Fulbright Nehru Award in Academic and Professional Excellence. While in the US, she was affiliated with the Institute of History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. She authored *Houses of Madness, New Delhi: OUP, 2015*. Her current research is on the psychiatric drugs and the pharmaceutical industries from 1947 to 2000.

Abstract:

This presentation is the outcome of the field survey among certain tribes of Medinipur and Puruliya, located in the south-west and mid-west districts of West Bengal. First, it focuses on some of the dominant tribal communities of Paschim Medinipur: santals, mundas, lodhas, and the bhumij. Subsequently, the geographical boundaries of the survey expand up to Puruliya, an adjacent district of Paschim Medinipur, including the birhors. Unlike the principal tribal communities of Paschim Medinipur, primarily sustaining as agricultural laborers either full time or as part-time laborers, the birhors are mainly hunters. The economic condition of the santals is relatively better than those of other tribes included in this study. An important reason for this stability is their wider involvement with the non-tribal world through employment and education; many have settled in semi-rural and urban settings. The santals have a script known as alchiki. Thus, the community's

history has been relatively well preserved by scholars in the field, occupying a significant place in Indian history. This historical context molded their outlook on life and, consequently, to health and healing practices, thus, different from other tribal communities.

Within the context of multiple medical practices, such as allopathy, homeopathy, unani, and ayurveda, existing in a society, this presentation researches the tribal health practitioners and the impact of their medical practices on the tribal community. In addition, it looks at the consequences of such practices among the urban dwellers who otherwise, by choice, are recipients of biomedicine. Unlike medical practitioners of other systems, tribal health practitioners, also known as folk healers, are not government-registered or licensed medical practitioners. Registration status is not relevant to the tribal community; thus, the naturally accepted non-registered status of the folk healers is of common practice by the community.

The acceptance of community healing practices differs from one community to another; specific differences are noticed even within the community. For instance, santhal medical therapies differ from lodhas, whereas the latter differ from birhor medical practices. In addition, the greater mobility of santhals made them more open to allopathic medical procedures, which is usually not much seen among other tribal communities. At this point, the establishment and medical functionaries of the primary health care systems, whose primary role is to reach out to the remote rural areas with their biomedical infrastructure, fall under scrutiny.

Scientific Session II

Data Sovereignty and Management in Recognition of Healing Traditions



Chair

Dr. Ramila Bisht is a professor at the Centre for Social Medicine and Community Health (CSMCH) at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. She holds an MA in Psychology, and MPhil and PhD in social sciences in health from JNU. Before joining CSMCH in 2008, she taught at the Centre for Health Policy, Planning and Management at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences,

Mumbai for 14 years. Working largely in India, most of her research has been in highland economies and in the states of Maharashtra and Delhi. Current research interests include: health policy and reforms in India; comparative health systems and policies; urbanisation, environment and health; and the gendered social and cultural determinants of women's health.



Discussant

Dr. Eric Liberda is an Associate Professor at the School of Occupational and Public Health, Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He earned both undergraduate and master's degree in environmental health from university of waterloo and completed a

second master's in Toxicology at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Australia. He was awarded with the doctorate of Environmental Medicine from the Department of Environmental Medicine at the New York University School of Medicine.



Speaker

4. Community Health, Community Data: Linking Indigenous data sovereignty and health

About the Speaker:

As a medical anthropologist, **Dr. Naomi Adelson's** overarching theoretical interest is founded in the critical study of the body and health in relation to the naturalization and medicalization of social and historical inequalities. She has been conducting health-related ethnographic research in collaboration with the northern James Bay Cree (Iiyiyu'ch) and association with the Cree Board of Health since the late 1980s. Her current focus is the area of Indigenous data sovereignty and, in particular, the transfer of her research data - including ownership, access, control, and management - to the First Nations community where her research was conducted. Professor Adelson's publications include *Being Alive Well: Health and the Politics of Cree Well-Being* (University of Toronto Press), "The Embodiment of Inequity: Health Disparities in Aboriginal Canada" (CJPH), "Discourses of Stress, Social Inequities, and the Everyday Worlds of First Nations Women in a

Remote Northern Canadian Community" (Ethos), and, as co-editor, *Troubling Natural Categories: Engaging the Medical Anthropology of Margaret Lock* (McGill-Queen's University Press).

Abstract:

Indigenous health is linked to Indigenous data sovereignty and governance (Lovett et al. 2019). Today in New Zealand, Australia, the US, and Canada, Indigenous and allied governments, practitioners and scholars are advancing Indigenous data sovereignty on various fronts as part of more comprehensive strategies to ensure control of health management, care and services. My research is on a smaller scale but a component of any push for data sovereignty. From the original work studying what health means for the Cree people living in northern Quebec, Canada, I am now in the process of transferring the original data to the community. At the community level and as a single researcher, my project is driven by the need to ensure that the data I originally collected resides with - and is governed by - the community and used as they see fit.



Speaker

5. Using Quality Management Principles for the Recognition and Acceptance of the Traditional Community Healthcare Providers

About the Speaker:

Prof. Debjani Roy is a professor currently with the CDSA, THSTI, DBT, and Government of India. Prior to joining DBT, Prof. Roy was an Advisor in the Quality Council of India, New Delhi, to develop and implement the Voluntary Certification Scheme for Traditional Community Healthcare Providers (VCSTCHP) for

the personnel certification of Folk Healers. Prof Roy is an Assessor and Technical Expert for various ISO standards. She is empanelled as Assessor and Technical expert with National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB), Yoga Certification Board of Ministry of AYUSH and United Accreditation Foundation, USA. Prof Roy has a PhD degree in Life Sciences with several years of postdoctoral research in Germany and The Netherlands. She has also been UGC, INSA, DAAD and Smithsonian Visiting Fellow for advanced research in Behavioural Biology. She has

been a full Professor at North Eastern Hill University, Shillong and Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi. She has published extensively in peer-reviewed national and international journals.

Abstract:

Traditional knowledge, though largely informal, is prevalent widely across various disciplines. This knowledge has survived, evolved and sustained through ages. Through a non-codified system of learning using oral tradition, the practitioners observe the knowledgeable elders or, through Guru Shishya Parampara, mainly acquire it. An immediate paradigm shift was felt to ensure learning in a people-oriented and people-centric manner. The shift was made possible through people's participation with a multidisciplinary

approach. The objectives are to maintain diversity and pluralism, be ecosystem specific, and follow democratic traditions with the conviction to recognize and integrate the traditional communities' innate or inherent prior learning and knowledge. In order to attain this goal and begin with - a uniform standardized and robust benchmarking system was developed and implemented to evaluate and assess the knowledge and skill of the Traditional Community Healthcare Providers (TCHP). The created ecosystem considers the nuances of the rich traditional knowledge of the TCHPs. It evaluates their competence by independent Third-Party Certification Bodies who follow international norms as per ISO 17024 for Personnel Certification. The Personnel Certification facilitates the recognition and acceptance of certified practitioners within the country and in overseas markets.



Speaker

6. Role of Traditional Health Care Practitioners in Primary Health Care In Eastern Himalayan Region: With special reference to Sikkim

About the Speaker:

Dr. Tshering Lepcha is a Research and Development Officer at Anugyalaya DDSSS, Loreto Convent Road Darjeeling. Before joining Anugyalaya, he worked as a Samvaad Consultant at the TATA STEEL FOUNDATION, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. He has two years of teaching experience. He has a background of Master in Social Work (Community Development), MPhil and PhD in Public Health. His areas of interest in Social Work practice with marginalized communities, Rural Community Development, Traditional Knowledge Systems, Traditional Healing Practices, Tribal Community Development and Tribal Healers Collective. He has published articles in edited books, journals and newspapers. He is a Program Advisory Council and Task Force Member under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India Going online as a Leader (GOAL) flagship program. He served five years as a Volunteer/Representative for North-Eastern people in Delhi under Special Police Unit for North East Region.

Abstract:

International borders surround Sikkim in China, Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh. It is known as one of the biodiversity hotspot zones in India. Before the arrival

of the biomedical system, the Traditional Health Care Practitioners (THCP) was the one who was the first referral point for the community to seek any ailment suffered. The traditional practitioners are providing their health services in primary health care in Sikkim's rural and urban areas. The healers/practitioners deal with the psychosocial problem of the patient, family, and community. In this contemporary period, nearly 80 per cent of the rural population depends upon the traditional healers/practitioners for various health problems such as bone fractures, arthritis, stomach problems, massage, jaundice, common flu, and fever. To achieve 'health for all', there is an urgency to strengthen the primary health care services for the rural population. They are the frontline health workers in the community. The traditional health care practitioners should provide space to practice their knowledge and skills in the village setting.

Moreover, these traditional healers can act as community resources within the community-based setup, promoting community well-being. This will help the traditional practitioners to provide continuous treatment to the patients in the community. They can follow-up with the patients regularly and see the prognosis of the patients on time, which further helps them refer the patients on time. The study has been attempted to unfold the traditional healing system and community cohesion with a different perspective.

Cultural Assimilation, Indigenous Knowledge, Research and Well Being



Chair

Dr. Atanu Sarkar is an Associate Professor at the Division of Community Health and Humanities, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada. He was trained in Medicine in India and did a PhD in public health from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, and studied environment at Queen's University, Canada. He worked with the Indigenous communities in India

and Ethiopia. In Canada, he has been actively engaged with the Indigenous communities in Newfoundland and Labrador. He has worked on drinking water issues, mining, and environmental contamination and currently working on climate change and food security.



Discussant

Dr. Sunita Reddy is an Associate Professor at the Center of Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has twenty years of teaching and research experience. She has a background in Medical Anthropology and research on disasters, mother-child health, gender violence, child rights, tribal health, indigenous medicine, migrant workers, medical tourism, and surrogacy. She has published widely, having three books and numerous articles/papers in peer-reviewed journals and newspapers. She is on the editorial boards and has reviewed manuscripts for Springer and Sage. She is the founder chair of a trust, 'Anthropos India Foundation (AIF)', which does

visual and action research. AIF has signed a book series with Springer 'People, Societies and Cultures: Exploring and Documenting Diversities'. She is also rooted in a community-based organization, 'Satat' to reach out to the rural and urban slums. She was a core member to set up the Special Center for Disaster Studies (SCDR) in JNU. She participated in national debates on surrogacy on many national TV channels. She has many sports and co-curricular activities awards and recently received the 'Women Empowerment Award- 2021' on International Women's day by DELSA and Bhagidari Jan Sahyog Samiti.



Speaker

7. Weaving climate-adaptive-gardening strategies with traditional activities to enhance food security and wellbeing in subarctic Ontario, Canada

About the Speaker:

Dr. Meaghan Wilton is an Agro ecosystem and Food Security researcher at the University of Toronto in the Physical and Environmental Sciences department. She has worked in temperate, subarctic, subtropical, and tropical regions. Since 2013, she has worked in partnerships with Indigenous communities worldwide on agroforestry based gardening projects in food security and climate change adaptation.

Abstract:

Subarctic communities are becoming more interested in cultivating crops under ambient conditions to adapt to global warming and enhance local food assets

reducing dependency on costly imported foods. Since 2013, the remote subarctic community of Fort Albany First Nation, Ontario, Canada, has assessed gardening practices that weave into traditional activities associated with their food-rich heritage. This presentation shares subarctic gardening strategies utilized by Fort Albany First Nation. The use of agroforestry (e.g., windbreaks and bush gardens) creates a favourable microclimate, protects crops from high winds, and improves soil phosphorus content. Nutrient deficiencies are common in northern Ontario soils, and importing nutrient amendments is not a sustainable strategy. Fort Albany First Nation has generated locally made compost comprised of organic materials that included by-products from Indigenous harvesting pursuits to resolve this challenge. Overall, the climate-adaptive garden strategies harmonized with Indigenous land-based activities and utilized Indigenous knowledge.



Speaker

8. Herbal Healing System in Arunachal Pradesh: Prospects and Challenges

About the Speaker:

By profession, **Mrs Yanung Jamoh Lego** is Deputy Director of Agriculture at East Siang district, Arunachal Pradesh, India. She is a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) under the Indian Institute of Alternative Medicine, affiliated with the Open International University for Complementary Medicines, established under THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, under the legal enactments of USSR in Alma Ata in 1962 and recognised by UN Peace University constituted under resolution no. 36/55/5/vii/80

Mrs Yanung Jamoh Lego has provided herbal medicine for diseases like cancer, kidney stone, gallbladder etc., for the last twenty-three (23) years. She used her twenty per cent salary for collecting and preparing herbal medicine. According to her, “every plant carries a significant value and upholds intangible knowledge. Healing power comes from nature, and I’m a true believer”. She shares her knowledge and enriches people about the wisdom of nature’s gift through her youtube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoHy8C668GE5kqRdrDHBfG>) on locally available medicinal plants used for various ailments. She has been serving people with her knowledge for the last 26 years. She is confident that through this platform/channel, many would be able to find natural remedies.



Speaker

9. Indigenous Land-based Approaches to Wellbeing: The Amisk (Beaver) Harvesting Program in Subarctic, Canada

About the Speaker

Dr. Fatima Ahmed is currently a PhD Candidate in Environmental Science with a collaborative specialization in Indigenous Health at the University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. She currently holds a Master's in Environmental Science and Management, and a Bachelor's in Public Health both from Ryerson University, Toronto. Her research interest includes land-based programs and how they impact health and wellbeing in Indigenous communities.

Abstract:

Indigenous knowledge systems have been an integral part of Cree culture and important to their health and well-being. Decolonizing these knowledge systems involves recovering and renewing traditional, non-commodified cultural patterns. Such as sustaining intergenerational relationships and traditional

practices. Beaver trapping was once an integral part of the Omushkego Cree culture. A decline stemming from colonisation has resulted in an overabundance of beavers. It negatively impacted Cree communities by flooding events caused by beaver dams. Therefore, this program aimed to reconnect youth with their Elders (and other knowledge holders) and concomitantly land and culture – protect the community from flooding – and contribute to well-being on several levels. An evaluation was done to determine whether the land-centred activities in subarctic Ontario contributed to Cree's well-being. A two-eyed seeing approach (Etuaptmumk), which stresses the importance of viewing issues through Western and Indigenous perspectives, was used. Salivary cortisol, a biomedical measure, was collected before-and-after participation in the on-the-land beaver activities to identify a change in stress levels. Photo- and video-voice and semi-directed interviews were employed to identify critical elements of land-centred interventions that contributed to well-being from participants' perspectives.

Scientific Session IV

Harmonizing Traditional Healing Systems During Health Emergencies and Uncertainties: Prospects and Challenges



Chair

Dr. Sanghmitra Acharya is a professor at the Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has taught at International Institute for Population Sciences during 1990 to 99. She was Director Indian Institute of Dalit Studies during 2015-18. She was a Visiting Fellow at CASS, Beijing; Ball State University, USA and UPPI, Manila; East-West Center, Honolulu and the University of Botswana. She was awarded the Asian Scholarship Foundation fellowship in 2005; and Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute Grant in 2019. She has travelled to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Germany, The Netherlands, UK, USA, Canada, Thailand,

Belgium and Finland. She has attended national and international conferences, presented papers, and published in peer-reviewed journals on issues of health and discrimination; youth; gender in urban spaces; women and children in Western India; and North East India. Her work includes 'Marginalization in Globalizing Delhi- Issues of Land, Labour and Health' (2017), Health, Safety and Well-Being of Workers in the Informal Sector in India- Lessons for Emerging Economies (2019), and Caste, COVID and Care (forthcoming) by Springer. Her work on social discrimination in health care access among cleaners is under publication.



Discussant

Prof. Leonard Tsuji has a Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree and a PhD in biology. He is Professor of Environment & Health in the Department of Health & Society, and the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.



Speaker

10. *Is Universal Health Coverage Possible In India?*

About the Speaker:

G. Hariramamurthi is an Emeritus Professor and heads the Centre for Local Health Traditions and Policy at the University of Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology, Bengaluru, Karnataka. He has done his B.A. (Hons) from the School of Languages, at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and Management Development Programs in the HMT Limited, Bengaluru, Indian Institute of Rural Management, Anand and a Blended Learning Program on IP and Biodiversity, UNCTAD-UNU, Chennai. After a decade and more of a corporate career in HMT (International) Limited, he has spent two decades in developmental areas of sustainable agriculture, health, livelihoods at the Prarambha, Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions. He is currently pursuing an academic stint at the TDU for a decade. For more on achievements and publications, his profile can be viewed from the web link - <https://tdu.edu.in/faculty/hariramamurthi-g/>

Abstract:

India has a doctor-population ratio of 1:1456, whereas WHO recommends 1:1000. We only have one doctor in rural areas for every four doctors who work in urban areas. Fortunately, traditional healers are to be found in villages. Just by recognizing the immense role of traditional community healthcare providers, it is possible to make universal healthcare coverage nearly possible. Our communities have preserved their traditional knowledge and skills to maintain their health and wellbeing for several centuries. A million Traditional Healers and several more million household women and men, especially in rural and tribal areas, use 6500 medicinal plants species. More importantly, they are ecosystem and ethnic community-specific. After decades of not being counted, folk or traditional medicine is reckoning in the country's health system and policy only for a change, since the last two decades. Therefore, it is hoped that these traditions will receive greater social legitimacy and policy recognition shortly. If this can happen, India too could aspire to achieve its goal of universal health coverage. Alternatively, else, it will be a civilizational loss!



Speaker

11. *Healing Huts: Time for Recognition, Revival and State Support*

Dr. Sunita Reddy is an Associate Professor at the Center of Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has twenty years of teaching and research experience. She has a background in Medical Anthropology and research on disasters, mother-child health, gender violence, child rights, tribal health, indigenous medicine, migrant workers, medical tourism, and surrogacy. She has published widely, having three books and numerous articles/

papers in peer-reviewed journals and newspapers. She is on the editorial boards and has reviewed manuscripts for Springer and Sage. She is the founder chair of a trust, 'Anthropos India Foundation (AIF)', which does visual and action research. AIF has signed a book series with Springer 'People, Societies and Cultures: Exploring and Documenting Diversities'. She is also rooted in a community-based organization, 'Satat' to reach out to the rural and urban slums. She was a core member to set up the Special Center for Disaster Studies (SCDR) in JNU. She participated in national debates on surrogacy on many national TV channels.

She has many sports and co-curricular activities awards and recently received the 'Women Empowerment Award- 2021' on International Women's day by DELSA and Bhagidari Jan Sahyog Samiti.

Abstract:

'Ethnomedicine' is one of the core concepts in anthropological training. Furthermore, researching on 'tribal healing' is a natural choice for students and researchers in Anthropology. However, many research and writings are meagre descriptions of the indigenous population's medicinal herbs, beliefs, and practices. Analyzing it from a critical medical anthropology perspective and public health practice in the Indian context, one can see the hierarchies of medical and healing systems. The state patronage of biomedicine followed by the recent AYUSH Ministry giving importance to the centuries-old codified indigenous and traditional systems like Ayurveda, Yoga,

Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy and down below is the lesser-known but widely prevalent non-codified folk traditions. The folk and tribal healing systems serve the most marginalized nationwide. They cannot afford private care or reach inaccessible public health services and non-functional primary level care in a few places. They depend solely or partially on the folk healers, who do not charge the patients much. Despite being poor, they serve the community at doorsteps for generations with utmost humility and generosity. The state now recognizes their wisdom and abundant knowledge of flora/ fauna. AYUSH is documenting the folk practices, but anxiety and mistrust are building among the healers, not benefiting. This talk will address the limited efforts to certify, mainstream and integrate the healers. The political will and proactive steps to build 'healing huts' can be taken to support and encourage the healers. Otherwise, the vast knowledge will vanish with the knowledge holders, the healers themselves.



Speaker

12. Promoting health and wellbeing during times of uncertainty: Miawpukek First Nation's (Newfoundland, Canada) response to COVID-19

About the Speakers:

Timothy Drew is a member of Miawpukek First Nation of Conne River, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. He has a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education. He has worked as a teacher at the Setanewey Kindergarten to grade 12 schools. He is the coordinator for the Miawpukek Community Garden, operated through Conne River Health and Social Services. As a garden coordinator, he has engaged with Miawpukek First Nation departments and residents to create, develop and maintain the garden.

Ada John is a member and elected councillor of the Miawpukek First Nation Band, located on the South Coast of Conne River, Newfoundland, Canada. She has over 40 years of experience with nursing and community health. She is the Director of Conne River Health and Social Services and a licenced Nurse Practitioner that supports the Provincial Central Regional Health Authority. Ada graduated from Dalhousie University in 2001 as the first Indigenous Nurse Practitioner in Atlantic Canada. In 2005, she received the Nursing

Excellence Award by the First Nation and Inuit Health Branch of Canada. Moreover, Ada sits on many committees, including the Newfoundland and Labrador Health Accord, College of Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador Disciplinary Committee, Social Work College Tribunal committee, etc.

Abstract:

The COVID-19 pandemic has accentuated existing food insecurities in Canadian Indigenous communities and negatively impacted the wellbeing of Indigenous peoples, for example, the intergenerational transfer of Indigenous knowledge and other on-the land cultural activities. This presentation will share the efforts made by the remote Indigenous community of Miawpukek First Nation, Newfoundland, Canada. The efforts to build up local food assets in places where people can grow, prepare, share, or learn about food harness traditional and westernized knowledge systems. Harmonizing these knowledge systems while strengthening food assets is a strategy for a more sustainable import-substitution food system. Thereby reducing food insecurities stemming from gaps in the provincial or local food system, adapting to climate change, and, more pertinent, managing and mitigating the pandemic's short- and long-term impacts.