



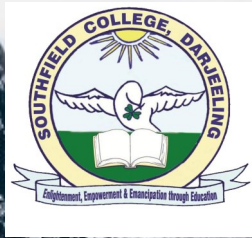
ICHR Sponsored National Seminar on

**Darjeeling: In Search of People's History of the Hills**

September 5-7, 2019

*Organized by*

Southfield College, Darjeeling





## Concept Note

History has always dealt with people, yet often gazing at the people from the perspectives of the nonpeople — rulers, colonizers, intruders, outsiders and the privileged elite insiders who seem to have internalized the ‘mainstream’ perspective framed by the outsiders. This seminar towards construction of an inclusive people’s history attempts to deviate from the Bourgeois history, Marxist history or Labour history by focusing on the people’s struggle to resist the oppression, capital or a revolution benefiting mostly the upper class/caste. Along with the religion and folklores, the neo-traditional references like the transitions in the realm of economy and socio-cultures are important areas on the basis of which documentation of the syncretic civilizational aspect of the Darjeeling hills can be made by bringing together the civilizational aspects of around 19 multi-ethnic communities seen from ‘below’. Moreover, in order to encounter the ‘mainstream’ typification of the hill people as mere ‘martial’, alternative history of harmony, intimacy, belongingness and environmental care as revealed through the folklores of the ethnic groups need to be readdressed.

The task of filling the gaps of the missing voices of the people and their cultures through re-writing inclusive history of society and culture from the ‘below’, cannot be done only by decoding the elements that are treated as tradition, but also the transformations in the realms of arts, architecture and ecology need to be included. For, the tribal-scape of the Darjeeling Hills is not a static/frozen zone and the people (hence, the geo-space) are in continuous transition from traditional beings towards becoming neo-traditional. Accepting history as constantly ‘extra mural’ the objectives of the proposed seminar are to focus on undocumented histories related to harmony, intimacy, belongingness and environmental care and thereby, interact the living with what is often projected as ‘dead’, by rejecting to abide by any given set of references as the final/ ‘scientific’/authentic and, thereby, opening up with other kinds of historical dialogue with the understated historical items that are accessible in Darjeeling.

*Papers are invited for presentation related to any of the following suggested themes:*

- \* Exploring the Early History of Darjeeling Hills;
- \* Oral History of Cultural Inclusiveness;
- \* People’s History of Tea Gardens;
- \* Narrativizing Trauma of Non-inclusiveness;
- \* Alternative Histories of *Janajati* Societies through Various Forms of Arts;
- \* Indigeneity and the History of Ideas/Intellectual History;
- \* People’s History of the Ecology.

# Call for Papers

Scholars and faculties who are interested in presenting papers should send an abstract of the proposed paper (within 500 words) along with a short bio-note (around 200 words) to [sfcichr2019@gmail.com](mailto:sfcichr2019@gmail.com).

The last date for submission of abstracts is August 15, 2019. Only those whose abstracts are selected by an expert committee will be intimated for a traditional paper reading session by August 20, 2019. The full paper should be mailed by September 1, 2019. Details regarding registration will be intimated through e-mails to the selected candidates.



# *Organizing Committee*

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