



## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR SYMPOSIUM



### **STATE AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS: VIOLENCE, HEALTH, AND FOOD SECURITY**

**March 13-14, 2013**

**At Indian Institute of Technology, Madras**

**Co-sponsored by Department of Sociology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN (USA) & Humanities and Social Sciences Department, IIT, Madras (India)**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS: JANUARY 5, 2013**

India, the world's largest democracy, has a history of social movements and movement organizations that have constantly targeted the state for a variety of issues ranging from allocation of resources to the formulation/approval of legislation and enforcement of laws. At the national level, India's embarkation on economic liberalization, opening the economy and increasing focus on information technology has opened channels for communication with the world outside, particularly after the 1990s. The first two liberalization episodes (1966-68 and 1985-87) were limited in terms of implementation of macro-economic policy instruments related to borrowings and exchange rate policy. After 1987, however, all four consecutive governments followed a more stimulating macroeconomic policy. Thus, the scale and scope of liberalization from 1991 to 1994 were greater than in the first two episodes.

As a democracy, India has seen political 'restructuring' over the past few years. The increasing number of political parties at the national and regional level is also an effort to provide a space for marginalized groups (caste, class, religion, location) to engage in formal politics. In addition, decentralized governance and specifically women's representation has been at the center for change in the state apparatus. The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment of India established gender quotas in the *Gram Panchayat* whereby 33% of the local government seats are reserved for women. While the state is viewed as a resource provider, such as support for programs to address poverty, civil society particularly in the form of citizens groups and NGOs have actively sought to mobilize people and make demands of state institutions.

Social movements have continued to gain ground in India. They range from the local-national movement action challenging the patenting of seeds and the shift to import of food grains; protesting the privatization of water; caste based groups protesting the violence against *dalits*; women's groups demanding laws against violence and sexual harassment (and rights in general), the organizing of HIV positive networks to protest the stigma they experience, organizing health care movements, and poor people seeking access to services as the state has increasingly withdrawn from the social sphere.

The symposium is an initiative to promote research in partnership between Purdue University in the US and institutions of higher education in India. Selected papers from this symposium are expected to appear as publications. Papers for the symposium will be selected based on the strength of the research and its connections to the main topic of interest.

<sup>1</sup> Made possible by a Purdue University 'Engaging India' grant to Mangala Subramaniam and the support of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences of IIT, Madras

## **SUBMISSION DETAILS**

Scholars, activists, and students are invited to submit paper proposals before January 5, 2013 via email to Professor Mangala Subramaniam at [Mangala@purdue.edu](mailto:Mangala@purdue.edu) and/or to Christopher Bunka at [cbunka@purdue.edu](mailto:cbunka@purdue.edu). Proposals should include all of the following information:

- Title of the paper
- Abstract of no more than 500 words
- Information about the author(s), including current position, institutional affiliation, and email contact information should be on the top of the abstract

Topics may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Theoretical discussions of the Indian state
- Policy analyses on State
- Social Movements; Protests related to
  - Anti-reform/Anti-liberalization
  - Gender Rights, Caste Rights, Rights of religious based groups (Christians, Muslims)
  - Health and Health Care Movements
  - Violence
  - Poverty (seeking anti-poverty programs)
  - Food Security
  - Environment: resources such as water and forests, climate and sustainability
  - Land Rights
  - Farmers rights
- NGOs
  - Structure, Resources, Activities
  - Grassroots Organizing
  - NGOization of movements
  - Self-help groups
- Political Representation
  - Political Parties
  - Regional Parties
  - Local Governance (including gender representation)

## **DEADLINES**

January 5, 2013: Abstract of 500 words due

February 1, 2013: Notification of acceptance

February 22, 2013: Confirmation of attendance and registration

March 1, 2013: Submission of draft paper

## **FOR INQUIRIES AND INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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