

Newsletter

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ABOUT US

Founded in 2011, Anthropos India Foundation (AIF) promotes the discipline of Anthropology, its philosophy and its methods to engage in applied and action research. Our work seeks to address issues of local communities through a bottom-up approach unique to communities and their people. We conduct community-based research rooted in local knowledge systems, local culture and ecology to inform policy initiatives and drive transformational impact. AIF also promotes Visual Anthropology through vibrant, authentic, meaningful ethnographic films and photo documentation.

Anthropology, is a holistic study of human beings, a vibrant and dynamic subject. Anthropology is everywhere, let's practice it!

Areas of Work:

- ✓ Women and Children Issues
- ✓ Anthropological applied, action and visual research
- ✓ Capacity building and workshops
- ✓ Advocacy and policy interventions on the issues of health, education and child rights
- ✓ Organizing guest lectures, seminar, conferences, and round table discussions
- ✓ Promoting visual anthropology through vibrant, authentic, meaningful ethnographic films and photo documentation
- ✓ Publishing digital magazine and books

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EVENTS OF THE MONTH

DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURE

Anthropos India Foundation organized a guest lecture on, **The Complex Association Between Migration and Nutrition**. Dr. Aravinda Meera Guntupalli, senior lecturer in Global Health, Institute of Applied Health Sciences, School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, United Kingdom, delivered the lecture on 11th March 2023. The lecture was attended by students, researchers and faculty members. Post-lecture, a Q&A session was conducted and the speaker answered the queries of the participants.



JOB ALERT

1. Research Officer

Organization: Ministry of Home Affairs - New Delhi, Delhi

Last Date: Apr 15, 2023

https://www.mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/ROCHCell_16022023.pdf

2. Block Field Monitor

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhopal - Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Last Date: Apr 10, 2023

https://aiimsbhopal.edu.in/AIIMSFiles/career/ionUnderProject/Download/Final_Advertisement_for_the_post_of_block_coordinator_10.03.2023.pdf

Contesting Masculinities and Women's Agency in Kashmir

Amya Agarwal

Publisher: Rowman & Littlefield International

Through an ethnographic study conducted between 2013 and 2016, this book explores the politics of competing and sometimes overlapping masculinities represented by the state armed forces and the non-state actors in the Kashmir valley. In addition, the book broadens the understanding of women's agency through its engagement with the construction, performance, and interplay of masculinities in the conflict situation. Combining existing elements of both feminist research and critical scholarship on men and masculinities, the book highlights the significance of foregrounding the interplay of men's identities in conflicts to understand agency in a meaningful way. Though the focus is on the simultaneous play of multiple masculinities, the book also questions the oversimplified and monolithic usage of masculinity being associated only with violence in conflicts. The empirical data in the book includes interviews and narratives of multiple stakeholders belonging to diverse vantage points in the Kashmir conflict. Some of these include activists, widows, wives of the disappeared, ex-militants, surrendered militants, participants of the stone-pelting movement, mothers of sons killed in the conflict, women representatives of the village Halqa Panchayats, and army personnel. The book also draws from alternative material in the form of graffiti, folk songs, poetry on graves, and slogans. Through anecdotal reminiscence, the author reflects on the challenges of field research in Kashmir that served as an opportunity for self-contemplation.



**Amya
Agarwal**

MEN AND MASCULINITIES IN A TRANSNATIONAL WORLD

Amya Agarwal is a senior researcher at the Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institute at the University of Freiburg and a teaching fellow at University College Freiburg.

DR KRIPA SHANKAR MATHUR (1929-1977)



Dr. Kripa Shankar Mathur was born on 9th April 1929 in Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh. He had his schooling in his hometown and later had his education in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh. Later he joined Lucknow University for his graduate and post graduate studies. He came to anthropology from the commerce and economics stream. At that time, sociology and anthropology were taught in the Economics department. Prof. D N Majumdar was the only anthropology teacher who taught 'primitive' economic systems in 1928. Dr Mathur obtained his master's in anthropology in 1950 and later his doctorate in anthropology. At this time, in 1951, a separate department of anthropology was created at Lucknow with Prof. Majumdar as its Founder head. Dr K S Mathur was appointed as a lecturer in the department. In 1953, Dr Mathur got a research fellowship from Australian National University, Canberra. He worked with S F Nadel for his Ph.D. work on the religious aspects of caste in the Malwa region of Central India. S F Nadel passed away and Dr Mathur completed his Ph.D. under another prominent anthropologist J D Freeman in 1960. This Ph.D. work was later published as *Caste and Ritual in a Malwa Village* in 1964. This work attempted to interpret local beliefs and practices regarding universal Hindu values and thus gained international attention. Dr Mathur returned to India in 1957 and joined the Department of Anthropology at Lucknow University. He conducted a comprehensive survey of the tribes

of Madhya Pradesh, and this study was sponsored by the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi. He became the Head of the Department of Anthropology in 1962 and continued till 1977 till his sudden death. He was the editor of the *Eastern Anthropologist* and worked tirelessly for the department and anthropology. During his tenure, two more journals - *Indian Journal of Physical Anthropology, Human Genetics and Manav*, were published in Hindi. In 1972, Mathur initiated a biennial lecture series in memory of Prof Majumdar and many eminent anthropologists delivered lectures. Dr Mathur wrote articles for newspapers and magazines, gave talks on All India Radio, and hosted a few shows on Doordarshan in 1975. Dr Mathur was a permanent council member of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences and Vice President of the Indian Anthropologist Association. He passed away after a brief illness on 21st September 1977 in Lucknow. He was only 48 years at the time of his death and was survived by his wife, two sons and daughter.

References:

1. Hasnain, Nadeem. (2023). K S Mathur in Joshi & Nayak (ed) *Biographical Account of Indian Anthropologists*. New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company Pvt Ltd. Pp-96-100.

THE HIDDEN MEANINGS OF PLANTS



With the advancement of technology and changing lifestyles, there is a shift away from good nutrition and traditional treatments and more toward vitamin-supplemented artificial diets. The consumption of vitamin pills instead of regular meals has become the latest craze in urban cities. But still the value and importance of plants are not disappearing, yet blooming at a great pace. Regardless of shifting trends, it is significant to discover and learn from the intriguing lives of the indigenous people. These forest lovers rely on the forest for everything, including food, shelter, and medicine. We are not unlike them, though, in that, despite living in cities, we still have hundreds of folk medicines in our kitchens. The use of turmeric milk to strengthen the immune system, cloves to lower the risk of developing heart disease, Aloe Vera for skin, honey, and other medicinal wonders are consumed regularly in an Indian household. Thus, the traditional practice of using plants as folk medicine to heal patients is still prevalent worldwide. However, these well-known yet little-noticed folk medicines need to be recognized. A book 'Kitchen Medicine: Household remedies for common ailments' by Julie Bruton-Seal and Matthew Seal is an interesting read.

It is no surprise that plants are valuable, as everything

from roots to leaves stems to barks is of great importance. Moreover, the significant importance of plants in cultural traditions and rituals shows how cherished plants are to humans and that even some trees are considered as prominent symbols. For example, the sacred Banyan tree is the national symbol of India, and the Bodhi Tree in Buddhism has great significance as Buddha is said to have meditated under it. Also, in Hindu culture, the Tulsi plant (Holy Basil) is regarded as Goddess and is worshiped by all Hindus. It is also used to treat mild infections and is considered a symbol of purity. Moreover, some trees also have festival importance. In some of the tribes of Jharkhand, Assam, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh, the Karam festival was celebrated, named after the tree called 'Karam' scientifically known as *Nauclea parvifolia*. The tree is known to be the symbol of Karma Devta who is worshiped on the day of the auspicious festival. In addition, in many countries, medicinal plants/ herbs are used to keep ants, flies, and mice and flee away from homes and offices. Medicinal herbs are important sources for medicine manufacturing, and the recent trend is shifting towards plant-based products.


In many tribal societies, various plants and leaves are used to get rid of diseases and wounds, etc., and those who specialize in this treatment are accorded




high status in the societies. The tribal people practice indigenous medicine manufactured from plants because knowledge of indigenous medicinal plants impacts the tribal society's socio-religious existence. The forest in India is a repository of many herbal and aromatic herbs which are widely used for medicinal and cooking purposes. For instance, among the tribes of Chotanagpur, various types of roots and leaves of plants are used to cure different types of diseases. For fever they use the bark of the Karam tree after crushing and soaking it in water. When they have a toothache, the roots of Ranjaina creeper are powdered and applied to the tooth. For headaches, they use well-grounded turmeric and garlic. Besides these treatments, there are many other types of illness and various indigenous treatments are found among different types of India.

Furthermore, during the COVID times, it is very well witnessed how urban people rely on great traditional medicines viz., Ayurveda, Unani, Yoga, Allopathy, and others, which have been used in India as an indigenous mode of treatment since ancient times. The main reason behind the treatment of folk medicine is usually considered safe and can be used independently among different sexes and ages. Hence, plants are an important source of livelihood and an essential part of socio-cultural life.

Reference

 <https://globaltrees.org/threatened-trees/tree-values/cultural/>

 Chhetri, Geetamani & Bhujel, Dinesh & Rai, Yatindra. (2020). Socio-cultural and religious use of plants by ethnic communities of Darjeeling and Sikkim Himalayas. *Journal of Traditional and Folk Practices*. 07 (1&2) and 08 (1). 64 - 79. 10.25173/jtftp.2020.8.1.117.

– Habiba (AIF Intern)



E-Resource Center Invitation

We realize that there is no centralized resource center for the Anthropological works of Indian Anthropologists, where a scholar can look for publications- articles, papers and books. Thus, AIF is developing an anthropological e-resource center hosted at the AIF website - www.anthroposindiafoundation.com

Given your valuable contribution to anthropological discourse in India, we would be glad if you can share your publication to be uploaded in the AIF E-resource center, which will benefit all the researchers from India and abroad interested in various fields of the discipline. This will be one of its kind E-resource repositories. Hope you will share your publications with us. Do let us know if you have any questions or queries.

“Childhood Matters’- A Participatory, Bilingual, Quarterly Digital Magazine

AIF brings out a digital magazine for increasing awareness about child rights issues and sensitize about various aspects of children and childhood. Despite stringent laws, like POCSO, the crimes against children are increasing, this magazine is a humble effort to bring awareness and create a safe environment for the wellbeing and overall development of children. Its a participatory magazine, any one of you can write an article and send it to aif.digitalmagazine@gmail.com The editorial team will have the final say in selection of the articles. You can access the previous issues with the following link.

<https://www.anthroposindiafoundation.com/publications/digital-magazines.html>

Get involved & Support Us

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- ✓ **Can intern with us**
- ✓ **Collaborate with us**
Can collaborate with us in research, workshops, digital magazine
- ✓ **Volunteer**
- ✓ **Fund the activities**

AIF Life Membership

You can now register with us to become a Life member of Anthropos India Foundation for a nominal fee of Rs 1000 and by filling the google form. The life members will be receiving our Newsletter, quarterly digital magazine, “Childhood Matters”, research study summaries conducted by AIF, alerts for Upcoming Courses, Workshops & seminars and job alerts. You can access our newly created E-resource Center, a one-stop destination where you can find research articles by eminent anthropologists in one place

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