



Anthropos
India Foundation

Newsletter

ISSUE 10 - APRIL 2022

ABOUT US

Anthropos India Foundation (AIF) is a trust registered in Delhi in October 2011. The aim is to promote the discipline of Anthropology, its philosophy and methods and engagement in applied and Action Research. AIF, through its work, seeks to address issues in the local/ regional context, based on the 'emic' perspectives and bottom-up approach to solve the problems faced by the communities and its people. Taking due consideration of the local knowledge and respecting the local culture and ecology, AIF has been conducting community-based research and, in its effort, has tried to inform the Policy initiatives too.

AIF website:
<https://anthroposindiafoundation.com>

EDITOR

Dr. Sunita Reddy,
Founder Chairperson, AIF

CORE TEAM

Dr. Gunjan Arora
Mr. Mumuksha Porwal

CONTACT US

Address:

Flat No. B-2, Second Floor,
111/9 Kishangarh, VasantKunj,
New Delhi - 110070

Phone Numbers:

+91 9315035040
+91 9999446350

Email Address:

anthroposif@gmail.com

EVENTS OF THE MONTH

Adivasi Mela 2022 and Future Collaborations with KISS and SCSTRTI

A brief visit to Bhubaneswar helped me gather so many fond memories and experiences. I had a chance to interact with children, and young scholars from Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) and BJB College, Odisha. It was heartening to see young children and youth returning to their schools, colleges, and universities after two years of online classes. Sharing some of my research work with them and conducting workshops on mental health issues was very productive and was a mutual learning. Future collaboration with KIIT and KISS on Research Methods workshops and mentoring of research scholars was discussed with Prof. Deepak Behera, Vice-Chancellor of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences and his colleagues. Anthropos India Foundation (AIF) will contribute to the education of tribal children in its limited capacity by holding training and capacity-building programs. Taking forward from the previous AIF's Capacity Building workshop on Digital Ethnography for TRI officials conducted in November- December 2021, I discussed some more collaborations with Prof. A B Ota at his office at Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute, Government of Odisha (SCSTRTI). I was amazed to see the state-of-the-art, Odisha State Tribal Museum with the latest digital technology. The Adivasi Mela that I visited was very well organized by the SCSTRTI team, which showcased tribal craft forms from 28 states along with cultural performances.



With Vice Chancellor Prof. Deepak Behera and faculty Dr Iswar Naik KISS



With Faculty of Centre for American Studies in KISS



With Director SCSTRTI Prof. AB Ota in his office



**All photos by Sunita Reddy*



ANTHROPOLOGIST OF THE MONTH

Prof Leela Dube (1923-2012)

Prof Leela Dube, lovingly known as Leeladee by many, was born on 27th March 1923 in a traditional, middle-class Brahmin family. Her father worked in the state judiciary of the Central Provinces. She had three sisters and a brother. Prof Leela Dube grew up when the nationalist movement was at its peak. Reading Hindu texts and other Marathi and Bengali literature at home, she questioned the depiction of women at a very young age and developed an interest in women-related issues. While pursuing her masters in Political science at Nagpur University, she met Shyama Charan Dube and they got married in a simple civil ceremony. Her first engagement with anthropology began when she assisted her husband in his work among the Kamar women to gather some information from the Kamar women on feminine matters.

S C Dube suggested that she study the Gond community in Central India. Her Ph.D. dissertation (1953) was on the three tribal groups, emphasizing women in the community. Her work among the Gond community led her to have deeper insights into the prevalent gender issues and shaped her as an anthropologist. Her observations on women's role, power relations, sexualities and negotiation with patriarchy led her to pursue gender studies when the discipline of anthropology had not yet acknowledged the significance of women as subjects. By the 1960's Dube was teaching at Sagar University, and in 1969, she went on to study the matrilineal communities of Lakshadweep resulting in her work *Matriliney and Islam: Religion and society in the*

Laccadives (1969). She was also a member of the National Committee on the Status of Women, Government of India, which produced a landmark report *Towards Equality*.

In 2005, she was awarded the UGC National Swami Pranavanda Saraswati Award and in 2007, she was given the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Indian Sociological Society. As chairperson of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) Commission on women (1976-1993), Prof Leela Dube, conducted numerous researches on women's issues. Her study, which began as a UN Project on Women's Work and Family Strategies in South and South-East Asia, resulted in her famous book *Women and Kinship* (1997). Her book, *Anthropological Explorations in Gender: Intersecting fields*, was published by Sage in 2001. Her famous article 'On the Construction of Gender: Hindu Girls in patrilineal India' in the *Economic and Political Weekly* (1988) is read by gender studies students and taught in various courses in social sciences. Prof Leela Dube was academically active till her death in 2012.



References:

1. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/a-feminist-anthropologist-who-pioneered-studies-on-matriliney-kinship/article3439403.ece>
2. <https://feminisminindia.com/2019/06/25/leela-dube-indian-anthropologist/>

Negotiating the Pandemic: Cultural, National and Individual Constructions of COVID-19

Edited by: Inayat Ali, Robbie Davis-Floyd

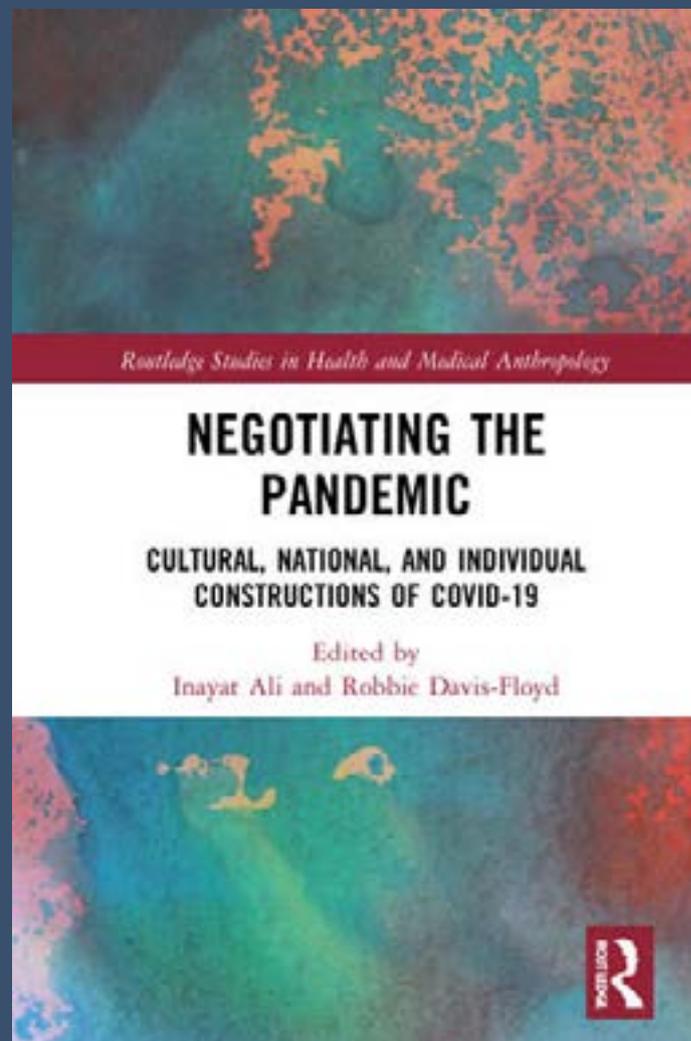
Edition: 1st Edition

First Published: 2022

Pages: 350

This book centers on negotiations around cultural, governmental, and individual constructions of COVID-19. It considers how the coronavirus pandemic has been negotiated in different cultures and countries, with the final part of the volume focusing on South Asia and Pakistan in particular. The chapters include auto-ethnographic accounts and ethnographic explorations that reflect upon experiences of living with the pandemic and its implications for all areas of life. The book explains people's dealings with COVID-19, situates the spread of rumors, conspiracy theories, and new social rituals within micro-and/or macro-contexts, and describes the interplay between the virus and various institutionalized forms of inequalities and structural vulnerabilities. Bringing together a variety of perspectives, the volume relates to the past, describes the Covidian present, and offers futuristic implications. It enlists distinct imaginaries based on current understandings of an extraordinary challenge that holds significant importance for our human future.

Inayat Ali has recently completed his Ph.D. in the



Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Vienna, Austria. Robbie Davis-Floyd is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Rice University, USA, and specializes in the anthropology of reproduction.

JOB ALERTS

1. Position: Assistant Director

Organization: National Commission for Scheduled Castes

Location: National Commission for Scheduled Castes, 5 Floor, Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi, 110003 Delhi

Last Date: 17th May 2022

For more details, [click here](#).

2. Position: Joint Director

Organization: Anthropological Survey of India

Location: Nagpur, Maharashtra

Last Date: 31st May 2022

For more details, [click here](#).



UNFOLD DELHI

Every city in India is culturally and historically vibrant and rich. Our past helps us understand our country better and connect with it better. What are we without our heritage? We as citizens must learn to value, respect, and appreciate our heritage and unique culture. As a Heritage walk leader, my focus while curating and conducting the walks is to help people appreciate our heritage a little more. These ruins of our glorious past are there at every corner of the city, and we need to put on our walking shoes and imaginative hat, explore, learn, and stay curious to explore more. As rightly said by my favourite Medieval poet, Rumi, 'Where there is ruin, there is hope for a treasure'.

I thoroughly enjoy conducting walks around lesser-known and not-so-famous areas as you have no idea what mystery they are hiding in them. When we visit these less visited areas, it will also encourage the locals to respect and develop a sense of belonging about these important spaces in their neighbourhood and maintain their upkeep. It is a great feeling when the walk participants say they lived in the city for so long but had no idea a monument or complex like this existed. These walks, to a great extent, help the synthesis of different communities and cultures, heritage trails help you to develop mutual respect for other sacred and cultural spaces. As you explore more of the heritage of India, with each visit, a layer of history gets

unfolded. Each structure has a different story and purpose. Rajasthan is famous for hill forts, whereas Maharashtra is known for its island forts; Kerala and Goa showcase unique European architecture while Tamil Nadu boasts stunning Hindu temples. The diversity and variety in terms of history, art, and architecture of our country are unmatched.

I have constantly heard my walk participants mention how history as a subject taught in our schools made them dread studying it. With each walk, I conduct, I want that perception to change about history, which could be equally interesting and fascinating. It doesn't have to be boring. It is high time that we as city dwellers and locals start appreciating our past and these mesmerizing ruins that a tourist sees in them. I see a pleasant change when I see natives attend my walks with the same enthusiasm as travellers or tourists, but we have a long way to go. As students and working professionals, you can do your bit in preserving, conserving, and respecting our heritage. You can spread awareness, adopt a monument/tree/complex, join or initiate a cleanup campaign with your co-workers and fellow students and go for heritage walks and runs. There is so much one can do-Start now before it's too late.

— Moby Sara Zachariah, Founder and Walk leader at Unfold Delhi

https://www.instagram.com/unfold_delhi/

SHAHEED VEER NARAYAN SINGH

Veer Narayan Singh, born in 1795 and known as the first Chhattisgarhi freedom fighter, was a landlord from Sonakhan, Chhattisgarh. After his father died in 1830, he became the landowner and was a benevolent and fair ruler. He spearheaded the Indian independence in Chhattisgarh. His ancestors were from the Gond Tribe in Sarangarh, they changed their affiliation from the Gond tribe to the Binjhar tribe and moved to Sonakhan in the Raipur district. During a severe famine in 1856, Veer Narayan Singh looted a trader's grain stock and distributed it amongst the poor, for which the British government arrested him. In 1857 he escaped from the prison with the help of British army soldiers and reached Sonakhan, where he formed an army of 500 men. This army gave a tough fight to the British.

The British army later crushed the Sonakhan

army. Veer Narayan Singh was executed on 10th December 1857 in Jaistambh Chowk of Raipur. He became the first martyr from Chhattisgarh in the war of Independence. The Government of Chhattisgarh named the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium to honour him. On World Tribal Day in August 2020, the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh laid the foundation stone of the Revolutionary Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Memorial and Museum.



REFERENCES:

1. <https://amritmahotsav.nic.in/unsung-heroes-detail.htm?298>
2. http://www.cgculture.in/samman_front_list.aspx?id=z6qd9TlaEmSMw4SyhaOHhA==

Reference of photo – <https://amritmahotsav.nic.in/unsung-heroes-detail.htm?298>

Get involved & Support Us

- **Promote Anthropological work**
share your work- blogs, documentaries, videos, podcasts, photographs
- **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

[Click Here](#) to Register

Bank details for Online Banking:

Name: Anthropos India Foundation
A/C No.: 912010012235653
Bank: AXIS BANK, Vasant Kunj Branch, New Delhi
IFSC Code: UTIB0000119

Anthropos India Foundation

