



## Anthropos India Foundation

# Newsletter

ISSUE 01 - JUNE 2021

### 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 engage 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.

### PREVIOUS WORKS

#### Anthropos India Foundation Guest lecture series:

- ✓ Celebrating Women's Day
- ✓ Beyond the Visible
- ✓ Anthropology as a Way of Life
- ✓ Anthropology and Management: Few Parallels and Learnings
- ✓ Past, Present, And Future: Anthropological Perspectives of the World in the Times of COVID-19

#### Anthropos India Foundation Research reports on:

- ✓ Study on Tribal Healing Practices in the three North-Eastern States of India.
- ✓ Study on Child Sexual Abuse' in the Selected Sites of Four Northern States in India.

For more details visit our website:

<https://anthroposindiafoundation.com>

*\*\* Header pic by Prof. A.B.Ota, Director SCSTRTI (TRI Odisha)*

### *UPCOMING EVENTS*

#### BEFORE YOU GO SERIES:

AIF is organizing an Ethnographic Filmmaking Workshop for five days (14, 21, 28 June and 2, 5 July 2021) and 25 hours. It is produced and presented by Dr. ALISON L. KAHN from Oxford Documentary Film Institute, UK.

Topics covered in the workshop will be visual data, visual anthropology and filmmaking, digital anthropology, storytelling and archives, social media, and co-creation.

Participants have the opportunity to pitch their film ideas to the panel of experts.

For More Details and Registration [click here](#).

### CONTACT US

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# WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS 2023

The year 2020 brought numerous challenges and learning for each one of us. As the pandemic made us strong, resilient and taught us new survival dimensions, it brought forward the existing hierarchies of caste, gender, race, and ethnicity. The question of global peace and global development has been put forward along with the healing and sustenance of humankind.

The Congress intends to deliberate on the existing hierarchies and marginalities, fight the current crisis; manage its after effects, and build a path for a more sustainable, peaceful, and inclusive society. Applying our knowledge of anthropology and building a peaceful society is the vision of this World Anthropological Congress 2023. The anthropologists world over, Anthropological Associations and Organizations in India joined together to raise their voices to come out of this crisis.

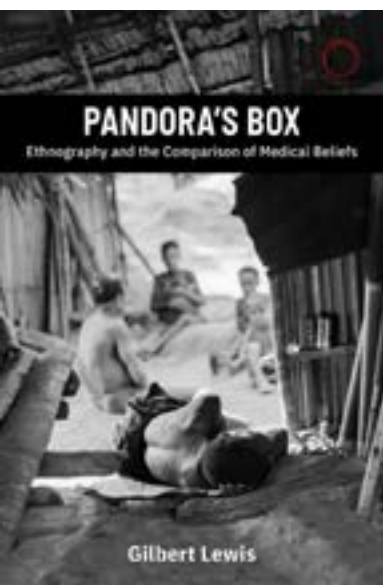
The topic of the Congress is “**Anthropology in Public Sphere: Global Peace and Development**” as approved by the General Assembly of the 18th ICAES held in Florianopolis, Brazil. Dates for the same are decided as **15th - 19th January 2023** at **Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India**, in partnership with **United Indian Anthropological Forum( UIAF)**, Anthropology departments of **Utkal University, Sambalpur University and Delhi University, Government of Odisha**.

Anthropos India Foundation is also collaborating with the World Anthropology Congress for the event.

For more details [click here](#)

## *LATEST BOOK UPDATE*

**Pandora's Box: Ethnography and the Comparison of Medical Beliefs** by Lewis, Gilbert.



June 2021.

**Price:** \$36.00

**Publisher:** HAU

The book, a culmination of lifetime exploration in the field medical anthropology written between 1979 and 2020, raises critical questions regarding how medical practice have been influenced and shaped through cultural beliefs.

Conceptualizing the practices in contemporary context, Gilbert Lewis analyses how western culture can learn from non-Western societies that

consider sickness and curing to be as much a matter of social relationships as biological states and what problems arise when one set of therapeutic practices displaces another.

Book Category: Anthropology - Cultural & Social

**Source:** University of Chicago Press ([click here](#))



## *NEWS FROM RESEARCH*

**Culture drives human evolution more than genetics**

Tim Waring and Zach Wood found that culture helps humans to adapt to their environment and overcome challenges better and faster than genetics in their extensive literature review. They concluded that humans are experiencing a “special evolutionary transition” in which cultural attributes like learned knowledge, practices, and skills surpass the value of genes in the process of evolution. They further state “Take the coronavirus pandemic, for example. An effective national epidemic response program is truly a national immune system, and we can therefore learn directly from how immune systems work to improve our COVID response.”

**Source:** Science Daily ([to read more click here](#))

## **JOB ALERT**



### **1. Fellow (TF)**

**Department:** Sociology and Anthropology

**Location:** Ashoka University Campus,

Sonapat, Haryana

[click here for more information](#)

### **2. Designation: Assistant Professor**

**Department:** The Department of Anthropology

**Location:** University of Hyderabad

**Key Skills:** Research Fellowship

[click here for more information](#)

## From Impurity to Purity

Carrying the historical significance, Kamakhya temple is situated in the land of Guwahati (Assam). The temple is famous as one of the Shakti peetha of goddess Shakti and her genitals are the object of worship here.

There are several temples in India where women entry is restricted, considering menstruation as impure to women (Sabrimala temple in Kerala). While every June, the Kamakhya temple hosts the Ambubachi Mela (fair). The temple remains close for three days as it is believed that the Goddess menstruates during this time.

Women pray for their fertility and celebrate their childbearing capabilities. Tantrics and sadhus, who usually avoid public appearances, visit this temple during this event. On the fourth day of Ambubachi Mela, temple doors open for the public, and everyone looks forward to receiving a piece of cloth soaked in the Goddess's menstrual fluid.

This faith and cultural practices make this fair unique and bring the idea of purity from impurity.

**Location:** Kamakhya, Guwahati, Assam - 781010

**Annual Visitors:** 35 lakh (15 lakh during Ambubachi Fair)

**Festival Duration:** Month of June (22 - 26 June 2021)

**Source:** Maakamakhya ([click here](#))



## Anthropological Facts

- Sub-saharan Africa contains most of the genetic diversity in the human race. Outside of Africa, we are all pretty much inbred. This is one of the big problems with the traditional division of the human species into races.
- Roughly six million years ago, the ancestors of humans and the ancestors of chimpanzees regularly interbred (they were the same species, of course).
- Humans survived for hundreds of thousands of years without any government or written records and only minimal economic specialization. As a result, we live in societies that are too complicated for us to understand, and it is counter-intuitive in many ways.

**Source:** Huffpost ([click here](#))

## 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

Visit our website to register or get latest updates:

[www.anthroposindiafoundation.com](http://www.anthroposindiafoundation.com)