

**Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram.**

**Department of Humanities**

**Name of the Course : Sociological Theories(Core Course, 3 credits)**

**Course Code : HS 821**

**Instructor : Dr. Lekshmi V Nair**

### **Objectives**

- To introduce the students to the substantive, theoretical issues.
- To enable the students to understand the influence of sociological thinking and the concern of the practitioners of sociology.
- To understand the different approaches and its decline from functionalism to conflict theories.
- This course gives a detailed description of the theoretical and methodological issues which are shaped the sociological thinking in the latter half of the 20th centuries. It helps the students to understand the structural, functional and conflict theories its methodologies, theoretical relevance and analytical utility of the premises

### **Outcome**

The student is able to understand the historical, socio economic background of the emergence of Sociological theories and its evolution in different stages. The student gets a comprehensive understanding of the various contributions made by the Sociological thinkers to the discipline of Sociology.

### **Content**

#### **Module 1**

Introduction • Social thought and Social theory • Levels of theorization in sociology • Central problems of Sociological theory • Sociological theory and Sociological research

#### **Module 2**

Functionalism • Postulates of functionalism • Functional theory of Talcott • Functional theory of R. K. Criticism of functional theory

#### **Module 3**

Structuralism • Postulates of Structuralism • Radcliff Brown-Structure and function • Claude Levi-Strauss- Linguistic Origin-Totemism-Myth-Kinship

#### **Module 4**

Marxism and Conflict tradition.

Critical theory Neo-Marxism • Frankfurt School • Habermas- • L.Althusser

#### **Module 5**

Exchange Theory • Peter.M.Blau • George.C.Homans Interactionist perspective • Symbolic Interactionism- G.H Mead, Blumer • Phenomenological Sociology A Schutz • Social construction of reality –P. Berger and Luckman

#### **Module 6**

Ethno-Methodology • H.Garfinkel, Structuration –Anthony Giddens • Post structuralism and Post Modernism- Derrida- M. Foucault

#### **Reading list**

1. Alexander, Jeffrey, C, (1987), Twenty Lectures: Sociological Theory Since World War II, Columbia University Press, New Delhi
2. Bottomore, Tom, 1984, The Frankfurt School, Chester, Sussex: Ellis Horwood, Tavistock Publications, London
3. Craib, Ian, 1992, Modern Social Theory: From Parsons to Habermas (2nd Edition), Harvester Press, London.
4. Collins, Randall, 1997, (Indian Edition), Sociological Theory: Action, Structure and Contradiction in Social Analysis, Rawat, Jaipur, India ,
5. Giddens, Anthony, 1983, Central Problems in Social Theory, Macmillan, London.
6. Kuper, Adan, 1975, Anthropologists and Anthropology: The British School, 1922- 72, Barmondsworth, Middlesex, Penguin Books
7. Kuper, Adan, and Jessica Kuper (eds), 1996, (2nd Edition), The Social Science Encyclopaedia , Routledge, London and New Delhi
8. Ritzer, George, 1992, (3rd Edition), Sociological Theory, New Delhi, McGraw-Hill
9. Sturrock, John (ed), 1979, Structuralism and Since : From Levi Strauss to Derida, Oxford University Press, Oxford
10. Turner, Jonathan, H, 1995, (4th Edition), The Structure of Sociological Theory, Rawat, Jaipur, New Delhi.
11. Zeitlin, Irving ,M, 1998, (Indian Edition), Rethinking Sociology: A Critique of Contemporary Theory, Rawat, New Delhi

**Name of the Course : Foundation of Social Research Methodology (Core Course, 3 credits)**

**Course Code : HS 822**

**Instructor : Dr. Lekshmi V Nair**

**Objectives:**

This is a practice oriented sociological research methods course aimed at enabling students to frame ethnographical research question, fashion appropriate methods to address it, and derive relevant conclusions.

**Outcome:**

Students will understand the diversity of practice and critical thinking behind every qualitative method through an exposure to different readings of the archive, ethnography, and visual anthropology etc. They are acquainted with different data sources on Indian society, and taught how to use them to research a particular question or geographical area.

**Content**

1. Qualitative Methods

- Ethnography
- Archival Methods
- Oral History
- Interviews/ Case Studies
- Content analysis
- Survey Research
- Statistical Methods
- Social Experiments
- PRA (Participatory Rural Appraisal)
- Visual ethnography

2. Major Data Sources on Indian Society:

- Archives
- Census
- National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO)
- National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and other large data sets
- Gazetteers, District handbooks, People of India Project
- Film and Visual artifacts

### **Suggested Readings:**

1. Sayer, Andrew. 1992. Method in Social Science (revised 2nd edition), Routledge.
2. Agresti, A. and B. Finley. 1997. Statistical Methods for the Social Sciences, Prentice Hall and Pearson Publishing, (Several editions available, under more than one imprint).
3. Ehrenberg, A.S.C. 1975. Data Reduction, Wiley Interscience, (later editions available).
4. H. Russell Bernard. 1998. ed. Handbook of Methods in Cultural Anthropology, Sage.
5. E.H. Carr. 1961. What is History? Penguin Books.
6. Perks, Robert and Alistair Thomson eds. 1998. The Oral History Reader, Routledge, (selections).
7. Morphy, Howard and Morgan Perkins 2006 eds. The Anthropology of Art. A Reader. Oxford: Blackwell, (selections).
8. M.N. Srinivas & M.N. Panini. 2002. Collected Essays, Oxford University Press, (two chapters on sociology and social anthropology).
9. AL Epstein & M.N. Srinivas. 1978. The Craft of Social Anthropology, Transaction Publishers.
10. N.G. Barrier ed. 1981. The Census in British India, Manohar.

### **Evaluation**

50 marks for End Sem Examination

30 marks for Q1 and Q2

20 marks for the Seminar Presentation (4 Seminars Will Be Given)

**Name of the Course : Tribes of India (Core Course, 3credits)**

**Course Code : HS 823**

**Instructor : Dr. Lekshmi V Nair**

### **Course Objective:**

Course Objective The aim of this course is to provide a comprehensive understanding of tribal tradition and tribal situations in India. Comprising about eleven percent of India 's population the tribes are attracting considerable attention from scholars, administrators, politicians and NGOs. Anthropological interest on tribes is not only academic but also engaged and development oriented. Considering the ongoing fast changes within and globalisation process invading India, it is pertinent to examine these traditional and comparatively simple societies for a comparative and diachronic assessment of socio-cultural changes.

### **Outcome:**

It will help the students to know the challenges and opportunities in effective implementation of tribal livelihood related Acts/policies and draw out possible strategies for implementation. It could help in understanding policies and programmes about the tribal population of India

## **Content**

### **Studies on Indian Tribes**

#### Module 1

Introduction The concept and the characteristic features of Tribe, Adivasis, Indegenous Communities

#### Module 2

Distribution of Tribes in India- - Geographical, Linguistic and Racial classification; their distribution. Social Structure, Political Organisation ,Economic Organisation Tribes

#### Module 3

Theories and approaches of Tribal Transformation - Theories and approaches of Tribal Transformation Economic and Socio-cultural Transformation Programmes and Protective Policies

#### Module 4

Developmental Policies -Role of ICT, Sustainable Tribal Development, National Tribal Policy Guiding Principles, Objectives, Strategies and Approaches PESA Act (Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Area) Forest Rights Act and Forest Policies

#### Module 5

Problems of the tribal population in India- Land alienation and indebtedness, illiteracy, problems of employment, malnutrition Problems of Denotified/Criminal Tribes Impact of Industrilization and Urbanization Role of anthropology in tribal development

### **Recommended Readings**

- Aggarwal, P.K. 2007. Tribal Development Planning in India. New Delhi: Mahaveer and Sons.
- Alexander, K.C, R.R Prasad and M.P.Jahagirdar.1991. Tribals, Rehabilitation and Development. Jaipur: Rawat Publications.
- Baviskar, A. 1995. In the belly of the river. Tribal conflicts over Development in the Narmada Valley. Delhi: Oxford University Press.

- Bhanu, B. Ananda. 1989. The Cholanaikkan of Kerala. Calcutta: Anthropological Survey of India.
- Dube, S.C (Ed.). 1998. Antiquity to Modernity in Tribal India (Vol.1) Continuity and change among Indian Tribes. New Delhi: Inter India Publications.
- Elwin, V. 1960. A Philosophy for NEFA. Shillong: Governor of Assam.
- Fuchs, Stephen. 1968. The Gond and Bhumia of Eastern Mandla. Gupta, S.K, V.P.Sharma and N.K.Sharda (Ed.).1998. Tribal Development- Appraisal and Alternatives. New Delhi: Indus Publishing Company.
- Gupta, Ramnika.2007. Tribal Contemporary Issues- Appraisal and Interventions. New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company.
- Haimendorf.1979. Gonds of Andhrapradesh. New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House.
- Halbar, B.G and Hussain Khan.1991. Relevance of Anthropology: The Indian Scenario. Jaipur: Rawat Publications.
- Kalla, A.K. and K.S Singh. 1987. Anthropology, Development and Nation Building. New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company. Lal Manohar. Munda Elites. Delhi: Amar Prakashan.
- Mathur, N.N.G. 1994. Problems of Tribal Education- Past, Present, Future. Udaipur: Shiva Publishers.
- Murickan Jose, M.K.George, K.A. Emmanuel and Prakash Pillai. 2003. Development Induced Displacement. Case of Kerala. New Delhi: Rawat Publications.
- Padhy, Kishore. 2000. The Challenges of Tribal Development. New Delhi: Sarup and Sons.
- Pani, Niranjana and Jitendra Sahoo. 2008. Tribal Development. New Delhi: Maha Maya Publishing House.
- Pfeffer George and D.K. Behera. 1997. Contemporary Society: Tribal Studies (Vol.2). New Delhi: Concept Publishing Company.
- Sudarsen, V and M.A.Kalam. 1990. The Uprooted: Displacement, Resettlement, Development. New Delhi: Gian Publishing House.
- Sah, D.C and Yatindra Singh Sisodia.2004. Tribal Issues in India. New Delhi: Rawat Publications.
- Umadevi.K and Neera Bharihoke. 2006. Tribal Rights in India. New Delhi: Serial Publications

### **Evaluation**

50 marks for End Sem Examination

30 marks for Q1 and Q2

20 marks for the Seminar Presentation (4 Seminars Will Be Given)

**Name of the Course : Technology, Culture and Society (Core Course, 3 credits)**

**Course Code** : HS824

**Instructor** : Dr. Lekshmi V Nair

**Course Objective:**

The course aims to introduce the sociological perspectives on technology society interface. It focuses on the dialectics of social conditions that shape technology and technological conditions that influence social formations and cultures in a comparative analytical framework.

**Outcome:**

Students are exposed to varied theoretical understandings of the relationship between technology and society; and science, technology and society. Situating technology in the contemporary social realm the course critically engages with the evolving nature of technology that has political, economic and ethical connotations.

**Content**

**Module 1**

**Perspectives on the relations between science and technology**

Agassi, Joseph. 1985 *Technology: Philosophical and Social Aspects*, Dordrecht: D. Reidel

Bassala, George. 1988. *The Evolution of Technology*, Cambridge University Press.

Bauchspies K Wenda, Jennifer Croissant, and Sal Restivo, 2006. *Science, Technology, and Society: A Sociological Approach*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishing

Chalmers, A.F. 1980. *What is this thing called Science?* Milton Keynes: Open University Press.

Feenberg Andrew. 1990. 'The Ambivalence of Technology', *Sociological Perspectives*, Vol. 33, No. 1, pp. 35-50.

Feenberg Andrew. 2001. 'Democratizing Technology: Interests, Codes, Rights', *The Journal of Ethics*, Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 177-195.

Heidegger, M. 1997. *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*. London: Garland

Layton T. Edwin. (1974). 'Technology as Knowledge', *Technology and Culture*, Vol. 15, No. 1, pp. 31-41.

Lian Au Yong Geok. 2007. 'Sociological Viewpoints on Technology: General Assumptions and Framework', *Akademika*, 71, pp.61-73.

[www.ukm.my/penerbit/akademika/.../akademika71\[03\].pdf](http://www.ukm.my/penerbit/akademika/.../akademika71[03].pdf)

McGinn, R.1991. *Science, Technology and Society*, Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J.

Mitcham, Carl. 1983 'The Religious and Political Origins of Modern Technology', in P. Durbin and F.Rapp (eds) 1983 *Philosophy and Technology*

Rammert Werner. 1997. 'New Rules of Sociological Method: Rethinking Technology Studies', *The British Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 48, No. 2, pp. 171-191.

Wajcman Judy. 2002. 'Addressing Technological Change: The Challenge to Social Theory', *Current Sociology*, 50 (3), pp.347-363

Woolgar Steve. 1991. 'The Turn to Technology in Social Studies of Science', *Science, Technology, & Human Values*, Vol. 16, No. 1, pp. 20-50.

Winner Langdon. 1980. 'Do Artifacts Have Politics?', *Daedalus*, Vol. 109, No. 1, 121-36

## **Module 2**

### **Technological determinism**

Bruun Henrik and Janne Hukkinen. 2003. 'Crossing Boundaries: An Integrative Framework for Studying Technological Change', *Social Studies of Science*, Vol. 33, No. 1, pp. 95-116.

Hakken D. 1993. 'Computing and Social Change: New Technology and Workplace Transformation 1980-1990', *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol. 22, pp. 107-132.

Shiva, V. 1991. *The Violence of the Green Revolution*. London: Zed Books

Simpson, I. H. 1999. 'Historical Patterns of Work Place Organization: From Mechanical to Electronic control and Beyond', *Current Sociology*, 47(2):47-75

Lakshman Yapa. 1993. 'What are Improved Seeds? An Epistemology of the Green Revolution', *Economic Geography*, Vol. 69, No. 3, pp. 254-273.

## **Module 3**



## **Social shaping of technology**

Mackay Hughie and Gareth Gillespie. 1992. 'Extending the Social Shaping of Technology Approach: Ideology and Appropriation', *Social Studies of Science*, Vol. 22, No. 4. pp. 685-716.

MacKenzie, Donald and Wajcman, Judy (eds.) 1999 *The Social Shaping of Technology*, Buckingham: Open University Press (2<sup>nd</sup> revised edition).

Mark B. Brown. 2001. 'The Civic Shaping of Technology: California's Electric Vehicle Program', *Science, Technology, & Human Values*, Vol. 26, No. 1, pp. 56-81

Williams Robin and David Edge. 1996. 'The social shaping of technology', *Research Policy*, 25, pp. 865-899.

## **Module 4**

### **Social construction of technology**

Hacking, I. 2001 *The Social construction of what?* Cambridge, Mass and Londo: Harvard Univ. Press.

Kleinman, D.L. and H. K. Klein. 2002. 'The Social Construction of Technology: Structural Considerations', *Science, Technology, & Human Values*, 27 (1), pp. 28-52.

Pinch, T. and W. Bijker. 1987. 'The Social Construction of Facts and Artifacts: Or How the Sociology of Science and the Sociology of Technology might benefit Each other'. In W. Bijker, T. Pinch and T. Huges (eds.): *The Sociological Construction of Technological Systems: New Directions in the Sociology and History of Technology* (P 17-50). Cambridge, Mass: MIT press

## **Module 5**

### **Sociological analysis of technological advances and information and communication technology**

DiMaggio Paul, Eszter Hargittai, W. Russell Neuman, John P. Robinson. 2001. 'Social Implications of the Internet', *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 27, pp. 307-336

Fulk Janet. 1993. 'Social Construction of Communication Technology', *The Academy of Management Journal*, Vol. 36, No. 5, October, pp. 921-950

Lyon, David. 1988 *Information Society: Issues and Illusions*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

McMillin C Divya. 2006. 'Outsourcing Identities Call Centres and Cultural Transformation in India', *Economic and Political Weekly*, January 21, pp. 235-241.

Radhika Gajjala, Anca Birzescu. 2011. 'Digital Imperialism through Online Social/Financial Networks', *Economic & Political Weekly*, March 26, Vol. xlvi no 13, pp 95- 102.

Saith, A.; and M. Vijayabaskar. 2008. 'Introduction: ICTs and Indian Social Change -- An Agenda of Concerns'. In A. Saith, M. Vijayabaskar and V. Gayathri (eds.): *ICTs and Indian Social Change* (p 13-33). New Delhi: Sage Publications.

Sassen Saskia. 2002. 'Towards a Sociology of Information Technology', *Current Sociology*, Vol. 50(3): 365–388

Sein K. Maung and G. Harindranath. 2004. 'Conceptualizing the ICT Artifact: Toward Understanding the Role of ICT in National Development', *The Information Society: An International Journal*, 20:1, pp. 15-24

Shah Esha, 2011. 'Science' in the Risk Politics of Bt Brinjal, *Economic and Political Weekly*, July 30, Vol. xlvi no 31, pp. 31- 38

## **Module 6**

### **Technology and structural considerations**

Anette Lagesen Vivian. 2012. 'Reassembling gender: Actor-network theory (ANT) and the making of the technology in gender', *Social Studies of Science*, 42(3), pp. 442-448.

Haraway, Jeanne Donna.1991. *Simians, cyborgs, and women: the reinvention of nature*, New York: Routledge.

Venkatesh Viswanath and Michael G. Morris. 2000. 'Why Don't Men Ever Stop to Ask for Directions? Gender, Social Influence, and Their Role in Technology Acceptance and Usage Behavior', *MIS Quarterly*, Vol. 24, No. , pp. 115-139.

### **Evaluation**

50 marks for End Sem Examination

30 marks for Q1 and Q2

20 marks for the Seminar Presentation (4 Seminars Will Be Given)

