



*Call for Paper*

**Institute of Tribal Studies and Research**

**University of Calicut**

**Chethalayam, Wayanad**

Papers are invited for the upcoming three-day national seminar on:

**Politics of Representation:  
Dalits, Adivasis and Minorities**

2019 January 28, 29, 30

## **Introduction:**

The term ‘Representation’ is a heavily loaded one; for it suggests a ‘given’ which the act of rendition duplicates in one way or the other. Representation embodies the notion that the sphere of literature, film, media, and even the academic assists in the construction of meanings in the world: the ways in which we look at the world. As used in discourse analysis, representation refers to the language used in a text or talk to assign meaning to groups and their social practices, to events, and to social and ecological conditions and objects. Implicit in this view of the role of literature, film, media, and the academia in social life is that meaning is not embedded in the reality that is perceived but rather that it is construed by representation. Of course, modes of representation will vary depending on the perspective from which they are constructed, whether biographical, historical, socio-cultural. Moreover, inasmuch as the sphere of literature, film, media, and the academic representations determine the way in which we think about particular objects, events, and situations and, as such, function as a principle of action influencing actual social practice, there will be competition among groups over what is to be taken as the correct, appropriate, or preferred representation. This competition over meaning among groups is referred to as the “politics of representation”.

Against such a background, the Institute of Tribal Studies and Research, University of Calicut, Chethalyam, is going to organize a three-day national Seminar, inviting eminent academicians, activists, scholars and students, from all over the country to mull over this politics of representation. The seminar aims to bring together diverse perspectives and critical scholarship on the politics of cultural representation of Dalits, Adivasis and Minorities in the sphere of literature, film, and media. The cultural domain has long been a heavily contested terrain in terms of its representational practices and the changing discourses in the recent past has brought the complex mechanisms through which the dominant narrative has maintained its scripts of exclusion and inclusion, or the politics of presence and absence. With the political climate of the country undergoing tremendous transformation and the democratic institutions under unprecedented stress, the cultural realm, especially in the spheres of literature and films and media – so far under “sociological blindness” in their relationship to the marginalised communities like Dalits, Minorities and Adivasis – have evolved an ambivalent response that is fraught with anxieties leaving the cultural domain even more contested. Literature, film and media, in their representation of the marginalised including women, have increasingly come to represent voices previously not heard, but the question remains as to how far that has positively altered the nature of the politics of representation and in what ways.

## **About ITSR**

Institute of Tribal Studies and Research (ITSR) started its functioning in 2015, situated at Chethalayam, Wayanad, as a unique venture of University of Calicut. The institute is devoted to serve the specific aspirations of the tribal community of the state of Kerala, intended to be innovative and responsive to the educational needs of the tribal communities and individuals.

ITSR is aimed at ensuring the learning opportunities and experiences which promote leadership, development, professional preparation, civic responsibility, and cultural stewardship among the tribal groups. The mission of the Institute of Tribal Studies and Research (ITSR) set up in Wayanad district of the state of Kerala is to attain excellence in academic quality, scholarly engagement, leadership, cultural enrichment and service of the tribal population of Kerala. The Institute also aims to act as a worthy research centre exploring the rich history of the region, the legacy of the tribes in various fields of human endeavor, their indigeneous knowledge systems and specific art forms and culture.

**Focal Theme of Seminar:**

- Politics of Representation: Dalits, Adivasis and Minorities

**Sub Themes:**

The seminar will discuss the different aspects of the politics of representation involving the three marginalised sections of the Indian society, that of Dalits, Adivasis and Minorities. The main theme will be divided into several sub-themes as detailed below, but not necessarily limited to:

- ‘Tribe’ as Anthropological Category
- Cinema and Popular Culture
- Politics of Inclusion
- Art forms, Literature
- Representation in Civic life
- Depiction in Mass media
- New Social Movements
- Interrogating ‘Gender’ Category
- Autobiographies, Translations
- Culture, Rituals, Knowledge Systems

**Who should participate?**

The Seminar is open for all who concerned towards the aforesaid themes. We expect academic faculty, research scholars and PG students to participate in more numbers.

### **Abstract Submission:**

Interested researchers are invited to submit abstracts for presentation in MS Word format, not exceeding 300 words including Title, Author(s), Affiliation and Email address (Font size 12, Times New Roman) on any of the aforesaid themes. Abstracts should be sent to the e-mail [itsrseminar@gmail.com](mailto:itsrseminar@gmail.com) on or before 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Acceptance of abstract will be intimated by 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

### **Submission of Full Length Paper**

Full length research paper, maximum of 10 pages in MS Word format (Font size 12, Times New Roman) should be submitted on or before 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019 through e-mail at [itsrseminar@gmail.com](mailto:itsrseminar@gmail.com)

### **Registration Fee**

Registration fee for the seminar will be as follows:

<b><u>Category</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Students	Rs. 500
Research Scholars	Rs. 750
Faculty	Rs. 1000

The registration fee covers conference kit, lunches, conference dinner, and tea. The Registration Form is attached with this brochure.

### **Accommodation**

Accommodation can be arranged for the participants with usual amenities at their own cost on first come first serve basis.

### **Important Dates:**

Abstract Submission	:	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
Full Paper Submission	:	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
Seminar Dates	:	28, 29 and 30 January 2019

### Conference Committee

Chief Patron : **Dr K. Mohammed Basheer**  
(Honorable Vice-Chancellor, University of Calicut)

Patrons : **Dr. P. Mohan**  
(Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Calicut)

: **Dr. Abdul Majeed T.A**  
(Registrar, University of Calicut)

### Program Organizing Committee

Chairperson : **Dr. E Pushpalatha**  
(Director, ITSr)

Convener : **Mr. Mujeebu Rahman Vazhakkunnam**

Organizing Secretary : **Mr. Ahammadu Zirajuddeen**

Convener (Cultural Fest) : **Mr. Sabheesh**

Co-ordinators : **Mrs. Chitra A.P**  
**Dr. Ubaid V.P.C**  
**Mr. Sanil Kumar M.S**  
**Mr. Sumesh. K**  
**Ms. Lisy P.K**

### **Contact Details:**

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