

Chandigarh Social Science Congress (CHASSCONG) 2018 Panjab University, Chandigarh

Discourse of Citizenship in Contemporary India (15-16 March, 2018)

Call for Papers

Concept Note

Citizenship has been an issue of endless debate. In recent times, the debate has become rather too intense. In legalistic terms, citizenship is a matter of constitutional rights and obligations. In moral and ethical terms, it stands for fellow feeling and responsibility towards others. In affective terms, it becomes a function of emotional belonging and visceral responses. In plain nationalistic context, it boils down to exclusive patriotism. In the context of global flows, it becomes expansive enough to claim cosmopolitanism. Neoliberal economics gives rise to corporate citizenship that partly redeems its profiteering through what is often bandied as corporate social responsibility (CSR). The subalterns grudge their exclusion from the loop of citizenship; some even allege that they are treated by the state as 'second rate citizens'. The displaced migrants as refugees undergo real existential dilemmas. The rich diaspora however clamours for the status of dual citizenship. The citizenship rights of the disabled are hardly passed on to them. The question of citizenship of the children and the teenagers still looms large. The extant frames of citizenship are utterly clueless about the possible claims of aliens, cyborgs and robots to formal citizenship. Should animals be treated as citizens? – this too is an overwhelming question. The LGBT groups can be seen marching on the roads for their right to sexual citizenship.

Chandigarh Social Science Congress (CHASSCONG 2018) seeks to map out various dimensions of the discourse of citizenship as it unfolds in India today. In this flagship academic event of the University, we invite scholarly papers and presentations from academics and research scholars of the region on any aspect of citizenship. The scholars from the domain of languages and communication studies can dwell upon the politics of representation of diverse sections of society in literature, films and media. The rise of autobiographies of dalits, transgender, women activists, sportspersons and film stars does point towards the unprecedented opening of the canon of citizenship. The social science experts can provide us critical insights on the issues of caste, gender and race in terms of their intersection with the constitutional identity of citizenship. The legal experts can spell out inherent tensions in the discourse of Indian citizenship as it confronts issues right to privacy, uniform civil code, same-sex marriage, surrogacy rights etc.

We intend to invite a host of national and international scholars as plenary speakers. Besides panel discussions and plenary presentations, there would be sessions on

paper-presentations. Some of the sub-themes have been enlisted below, but clearly it is not an exhaustive list and the scholars have the freedom to dwell upon other liminal aspects of citizenship. The possible sub-themes of the Congress are:

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| 1. Colonialism and the Making of Third World Citizenship | 21. Sacred versus Secular Citizenship |
| 2. Posthumans/ Cyborgs/Aliens as Citizens | 22. Patriotic Citizenship |
| 3. Migrants and Refugees as Non-Citizen Residents | 23. Corporate Citizenship and CSR |
| 4. Multiple Citizenships / Multiple Belongings | 24. Ecological Citizenship as Obligation-based Citizenship |
| 5. Representation of Dalits and other Subalterns in Literature/ Films | 25. Sustainable Citizenship |
| 6. Citizenship of the Displaced | 26. Mental Illnesses/ Madness and Normative Citizenship |
| 7. Literature of the Diaspora | 27. Tolerance as a Virtue of Citizenship |
| 8. The Exclusionary Space of Asylums | 28. Insiders & Outsiders of a Culture |
| 9. The Rhetoric and Reality of 'Second Rate Citizenship' | 29. Citizenship as Emotional Experience of Belongingness |
| 10. Educating Responsible Citizenship | 30. Affective Citizenship |
| 11. Ethics of Citizenship | 31. Performative Citizenship |
| 12. Aadhaar as a Platform of Citizenship | 32. Psychology of a Citizen |
| 13. Citizenship Rights of the Children | 33. The Paradigmatic Citizen |
| 14. Gender Critique of Citizenship | 34. Digital/Virtual Citizenship |
| 15. The (Un)Reality of Global/Cosmopolitan Citizenship | 35. Smart City, Smart Citizens |
| 16. Identity Politics and Its Challenges to Democratic Citizenship | 36. Citizen Journalism |
| 17. LGBTs as Citizens | 37. Welfare State and Rights-based Citizenship |
| 18. Sex Trafficking | 38. Citizen as Activist |
| 19. Representations of Prisoners | 39. Sociology of <i>Bhadrakalok</i> |
| 20. Citizenship Rights of the Disable | 40. Ceremonies of Citizenship |
| | 41. Idea of Foreignness |
| | 42. Regional Disparities and Citizenship |
| | 43. Citizenship Rights of the Farmers |
| | 44. Citizen-centric Administration |
| | 45. New Geographies of Citizenship |
| | 46. Right to Privacy |

The list is deliberately kept long to cover departments of social sciences, laws, languages and management studies within the overarching debate of citizenship. The Congress would encourage inter-disciplinary papers from scholars of any stream.

Important Dates and Other Announcements

Those who desire to present papers should **send their abstracts (in not more than 200 words in any of the three languages – English, Punjabi or Hindi) latest by 10.01.2018**. The experts would evaluate the abstracts and the **result**

would be announced by 20.01.2018. The writers of the short-listed abstracts would be allowed to read their papers against a **registration fee of Rs 1500/ --** (for Teachers and JRFs) and **Rs 1000/ --** (for non-fellowship-holder scholars). Each paper-presenter would be given a minimum time of 15 minutes. **Full papers received by 15.02.2018** shall be circulated in the Congress, and would be considered for publication as part of the proceedings the Congress. Selected papers would be considered for **publication in Panjab University Research Bulletin, Arts (PURBA)**. The abstracts and papers can be emailed at the following address

chasscong@pu.ac.in
chasscong18@gmail.com

All others who wish to attend the Congress and want a certificate of participation shall have to register against a **nominal fee of Rs 500/ --**. The registration of all such participants would be done on the spot. The hosts shall not be able to provide accommodation to out-station paper-presenters/ participants. However for invited guests and plenary speakers, arrangements would be made for boarding and lodging. Also during the two-day Congress, **NO LUNCH WOULD BE SERVED**. There shall however be arrangement of tea/ biscuits at the venue.

Coordinators

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For more information, please visit our website **<http://chasscong.puchd.ac.in>**