

## About the Participants

**Akhil Ranjan Dutta** is an associate Professor of the Department of Political Science at Gauhati University. His areas of research include Globalization, Human Security and Health Security & Conflict and Peace Studies. He has widely published on the related issues, particularly in the context of India's North East.

**Amit Prakash** is Professor at the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance was earlier Associate Professor at the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, JNU and Assistant Research Professor at the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi. His research interests include politics of development and identity; critical governance studies; governance indicators; conflict, governance and the state; democratic political process in India; policing in India; and, global governance.

**Anjuman Ara Begum** is a PhD scholar at the Department of Law, Guwahati University. She has worked on Human Rights and Women's Rights in conflict situations, the right to information and budget analyses/monitoring in Northeast India. She is working with several human rights organizations in different capacities and is also member of Women in Governance Network.

**Atig Ghosh** did his PhD in history from Centro de Estudios de Asia y África, El Colegio de México. He is currently associated with the Calcutta Research Group. He is also Assistant Editor, *The Bengal Post*.

**Bhupen Sarmah** is presently the Director of Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati. He specialises on India's North East and has contributed several research articles on various development issues. His publications include *Rejuvenating Panchayati Raj: Ideology, Indian state and lessons from periphery* (Akansha House, 2006) and a co-edited book titled *Class, Ideology and Political Parties in India* (South Asian Publishers, 2002).

**Chitra Ahanthem** started as a columnist and feature writer with Imphal Free Press published in Imphal, Manipur. She has been conferred media fellowships on HIV/AIDS, and child rights in the context of armed conflict in the state and writes on militarization, gender and media practices in Manipur. She is now Resident Editor of Imphal Free Press.

**Debraj Deb** works as the Tripura state correspondent of *The Northeast Today* (TNT). He was awarded the National Press Club Award for Excellence in Journalism for entertainment news by the Mumbai Press Club in 2012. His area of interest includes issues related to conflict induced displacement and migration.

**Deepak K Mishra** is currently Associate Professor of Economics at the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has worked in the areas of agrarian relations, and gender and livelihood diversification in mountain economies. He has co-authored *The Unfolding Crisis in Assam's Tea Plantations: Employment and Occupational Mobility* (Routledge, 2012) and *Human Development Report of Arunachal Pradesh* (2006).

**David Chandler** is Professor of International Relations and Research Director of the Centre for the Study of Democracy at the Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Westminster. He is a regular media commentator, founding editor of the *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding* and the editor of a new journal *Resilience: International Policies, Practices and Discourses*. He is also editor of the Routledge book series *Studies in Intervention and Statebuilding* and a new series *Advances in Democratic Theory*.

**Gina Shangkhom** is the Secretary General, Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights. She is a prominent face of Naga activism in Manipur Hills.

**Hiren Gohain** taught at the department of English at Gauhati University. A poet, literary critic and an eminent social scientist, Gohain is also known for his relentless fights against communalism and state oppression in Assam both through his writing and through organising protests etc. He was the recipient of the Sahitya Academy Award in 1989.

**Jayanta Bhattacharya** is a senior journalist and presently the Agartala Bureau Chief for the Press Trust of India Ltd.

**Khesheli Chishi** got elected as the General Secretary of Naga Mothers' Association (NMA) in 1997 and became its President from 2003 till 2010 and presently one of the Senior Adviser. She is also a Member of the Forum for Naga Reconciliation (FNR) which was formed in 2008. She was elected Convenor of Indigenous Women Forum of North East India (IWFNEI) in 2010 and got re-elected in 2012.

Prior to serving in these women organization, she served in various capacities in the Church with a Theological background.

**Mrinal Gohain** is presently the regional manager of an international NGO ActionAid. He has been actively involved in analyzing socio-economic forces driving out- migration from Assam and evaluating the role of other natural disasters that contribute to loss of lives and livelihood in the region.

**Neingulo Krome** is a former Convenor of the Naga Peoples Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR) from 1986 to 1999 and became the first Secretary General of NPMHR from 1999 to 2004 and presently an Executive Member. He is also a Member of the Forum for Naga Reconciliation (FNR) which was formed in 2008. Recently, he was elected as a Member of the Executive Council of Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) representing South Asia. He has served in various capacities in Students and Social Organizations since student days and also served as General Secretary of Naga Hoho from 2005 to 2008.

**Patricia Mukhim** is a noted journalist from Shillong, Meghalaya. She was conferred with "Chameli Devi Jain Award" in 1995 and "Padmashri" in 2000. She has written on conflict management, consumer rights, issues of bureaucratic corruption, gender sensitization and rural poverty. She regularly writes in the Shillong Times, The Statesman, The Telegraph, Eastern Panorama and North East Daily. Currently, she is serving as the Director of Indigenous Women's Resource Centre, Shillong and also is a member of District Consumer's Forum.

**Paula Banerjee**, the President of the Calcutta Research Group is an expert on Indo-American relations. As the part of her current work on borders and women, she has authored numerous papers on women in conflict situations in India's North East. She is Associate Professor, Department of South and South East Asian Studies, University of Calcutta.

**Peter Burgess** is an eminent philosopher, political scientist and cultural historian. He is currently a Research Professor at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) and Senior Researcher at the Institute for European Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussels. He is Editor of *Security Dialogue*, an international journal dedicated to innovation in security research and published by SAGE and also the Series Editor of the Routledge/PRIO New Security Studies collection.

**Prasanta Ray** is currently Honorary Visiting Professor, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata and Guest Professor, Department of Sociology, Calcutta University. He is also presently the secretary of the Calcutta Research Group.

**Rakhee Kalita** is a social activist and Associate Professor at the Department of English, Cotton College, Assam and a Senior Fellow at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi. Her interest is in English Literature, Gender Studies, Peace & Conflict Studies, Postcolonial theory (Cultural Theory) and North East India Studies. She has published several papers in national and international publications and journals.

**Ranabir Samaddar** is the Director of the Calcutta Research Group, and belongs to the school of critical thinking. He has pioneered along with other peace studies programmes in South Asia. He has worked extensively on issues of justice and rights in the context of conflicts in South Asia. His particular researches have been on migration and refugee studies, the theory and practices of dialogue, nationalism and post-colonial statehood in South Asia. He has also authored a substantial number of books which includes a three-

volume study of Indian nationalism and a two volume account of his political writings that came out as the *Materiality of Politics* (Anthem Press, 2007) and *The Emergence of the Political Subject* (Sage, 2009).

**Sajal Nag** is an eminent historian and currently Professor, Department of History, Assam University and Senior Fellow at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi. He also associated with NCERT, ICHR and consultant to Oxfam India and South Asia Federation of Human Rights, Katmandu.

**Samir Kumar Das** is presently Vice-Chancellor, North Bengal University. He was earlier Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta. Apart from being a regular contributor to some of the research journals of the country as well as abroad, he is known for his books titled *ULFA: A Political Analysis* (1994) and *Regionalism in Power: The Case of Asom Gana Parishad* (1998) are significant instances of applying insights of social theory to area studies.

**Sanat Chakraborty** is working as an independent journalist, and trying to rebuild a regional magazine, *Grassroots Options*, which he edited since 1994 till 2005. Previously, he had worked with various newspapers like *The Pioneer* as journalist and specialized on issues related to India's North East.

**Sanjay (Xonxoi) Barbora** is presently Associate Professor, TISS North Eastern Regional Centre –Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati and specializes in change, resource conflicts, media studies and human rights. Having worked as a human rights activist on issues pertaining to militarization of Northeast India, he led an advocacy and research based media initiative on peace building in South Asia from 2005 to 2011. He continues to be involved in community media and radio journalism, as well as the democratization of public spheres.

**Sukhendu Debbarma** is currently Associate Professor, Department of History, Tripura University. His specialization has been modern USA, Capitalism and Imperialism coupled with the Socio-economic History of India's North East. He has also been awarded the Commonwealth Staff Fellowship in 2012 for which he was in the UK for his research.

**Tilottama Misra** was formerly Professor, Department of English, Dibrugarh University. Among her publications are *Literature and society in Assam, 1826-1926* (Delhi, 1987), *Ramnabami –Natak: The Story of Ram and Nabami* (OUP, 2007) and her edited work, *The Oxford Anthology of Writings from North-East India: Poetry and Essays* (OUP, 2011).

**Udoyan Mishra** was formerly the Head and the Professor of the department of English at Dibrugarh University. He is a member of the governing body of OKD Institute of Social Change and Development.

**Vijaylakshmi Brara** is an Associate Professor in Centre for Manipur Studies, Manipur University. She is a student of Sociology with masters from Delhi School of Economics, and was awarded Ph.D degree from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her Ph.D thesis was later published by Oxford University Press, in the year 1998. Since then she has been researching different facets of this region, with special focus on cultural dynamics, grass root level political institutions, and gender issues. Her present research focus is on the dynamics related to gender and identity movements. She has various national and international papers revolving around these issues, to her credit.

**Virginus Xaxa** is presently the Deputy Director, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati. His area of specialization has been agrarian Social Structure, Development Studies and Tribal Studies. He is also member of the Indian Sociological Society, the Indian Association for the Study of Population and the North-East Indian History Association.