



University
of Victoria



UNESCO Chair in Community Based
Research and Social Responsibility
in Higher Education



Knowledge Democracy: Bridging Knowledge Cultures

6 February 2023

Hosted by UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility
in Higher Education, Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) & Asia Democracy
Research Network (ADRN)

In the current system of socio-economic development around the world, the place of knowledge has become increasingly important. Knowledge economy is seen to be rapidly integrated in the growth strategies of societies. Yet, the dominant knowledge system of our times is the basis for educating and training next generation of professionals. Higher education institutions produce and mobilise the academic knowledge, largely based on European theories and frameworks evolved over a few centuries. Universal access to higher education, mostly conducted in a European language, is further alienating youth from contexts in which their parents live and work.

One of the most invisible forms of exclusion in modern societies, therefore, is that which devalues local, experiential and indigenous knowledge systems. By excluding such local knowledge systems, voices, perspectives and world-views of rural, nomadic, tribal, dalit communities and those of women and the elderly, their democratic participation and inclusive development is obstructed.

Over the past decade, many experiments in community-university partnerships to co-create knowledge solutions have been gaining visibility. Such examples of engaged scholarship have been largely driven from academia. Yet, understanding of community knowledge systems, their rituals, literature, music, stories and artefacts has been rather limited even amongst such innovative practices. A recent international study of "Bridging Knowledge Cultures" has produced some significant insights into how diverse knowledge systems can be synergised.

Post-Covid context, increasingly facing climate distress, is starting to raise questions about limitations of various knowledge economy models practiced so far. Greater attention to experiential, indigenous, community knowledge to respond to these challenges is being encouraged at national and global levels. India's National education Policy (NEP 2020) has explicitly recommended efforts to integrate community knowledge in teaching and research in higher education. UNESCO's Recommendations on Open Science (universally ratified by all member states) in November 2021 call for valuing multiplicity of epistemologies and systems of community knowledge.

This is an emerging movement towards 'knowledge democracy' which recognises and integrates diversity of knowledge systems.

The Seminar will be an opportunity to share perspectives and experiences of scholars and practitioners to identify practical ways in which authentic bridging may be practiced and taught to next generation.



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The conversation will focus on:

- Understanding knowledge democracy and process of co-creating knowledge solutions
- Key insights on how diverse knowledge can be synergised

Time	Activity
9.45 am - 10.00 am	Registration & Tea
10.00 am - 10.15 am	Welcome and Setting the Context Dr. Rajesh Tandon , Founder- President PRIA & UNESCO Co-Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education
Session - Knowledge Democracy: Mapping the Field Chair: Prof. N.V. Varghese , Former Vice Chancellor, N.I.E.P.A. University, Delhi	
10.15 am - 10.35 am	Keynote Address Dr. Budd Hall , Professor Emeritus, School of Public Administration, University of Victoria & UNESCO Co-Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education
10.35 am - 10.45 am	Indigenous and Community Perspectives Dr. Sonajharia Minz , Vice Chancellor, Sido Kanhu Murmu University, Jharkhand
10.45 am - 11.15 am	Open discussion
11.15 am - 11.30 am	Closing remarks by the Chair
Health break	
Session: Promoting Bridging Practices Chair: Dr. Pankaj Mittal , Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities	
11.45 am - 12.30 pm	Reflections from UNESCO Chairs & Knowledge for Change (K4C) Global Consortium Prof. Vinod Paravala , UNESCO Chair on Community Media, University of Hyderabad Prof. Reeta Venugopal , Director, Centre for Women's Studies, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur Dr. Bhawani Rao , UNESCO Chair in Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality, Amritapuri Dr. Madhura Jadav , Dean, Faculty of Design at Manipal University Jaipur
12.30 pm - 12.45 pm	Open discussion
12.45 pm - 1.00 pm	Closing remarks by the Chair
1.00 pm - 1.10 pm	Key Takeaways – Dr. Kaustuv K. Bandyopadhyay , Director, PRIA
Lunch	

Venue: PRIA, 42, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi- 110062
Landmark: Batra Hospital & Medical Research Center, Mehrauli-Badarpur Road
Nearest Metro: Saket (Yellow Line); Chirag Delhi & Greater Kailash (Magenta Line)

We are expecting 50 participants – academia and practitioners