



Anthropos  
India Foundation

# Newsletter

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## ABOUT US

Anthropos India Foundation (AIF) is a trust registered in Delhi in October 2011. The aim is to promote the discipline of Anthropology, its philosophy and methods and engagement in applied and Action Research. AIF, through its work, seeks to address issues in the local/ regional context, based on the 'emic' perspectives and bottom-up approach to solve the problems faced by the communities and its people. Taking due consideration of the local knowledge and respecting the local culture and ecology, AIF has been conducting community-based research and, in its effort, has tried to inform the Policy initiatives too.

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## PAST ACTIVITIES

We are happy to share the first book 'Caste Covid and Inequality' by Prof. Sanghmitra Acharya and Dr Steven published by Springer in collaboration with Anthropos India Foundation under the book series 'People, Cultures and Societies: Exploring and Documenting Diversities' has been released in the 'South Asia Women's Conference' held on 27-28th May 2022 organized by Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences and KIITs.

Along with that the AIF third issue of the digital magazine 'Childhood Matters' was also released at the august gathering.



### A Four Day Intensive Online Module Workshop On Understanding And Applying Anthropological Theories

The four-day module would review the major theoretical approaches that make the discipline of Anthropology unique. The approaches that include evolutionism, diffusionism, functionalism, structuralism, interpretive and symbolic anthropology and postmodernism will be sketched chronologically by senior academicians and experts to give a better understanding of the discipline of anthropology and also analyze the historical, social and political contexts. Focusing on the major schools of thought and major theorists, the workshop spread over four days will take you to a somewhat known journey but with a critical lens and help you learn how to propose theories in your study.

To Know More about the Module and register: [CLICK HERE](#)

## LATEST BOOK UPDATE

### Contours of South Asian Social Anthropology: Connecting India and Nepal

By: **Swatahsiddha Sarkar**

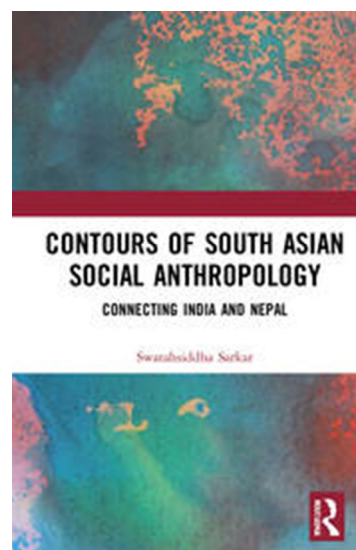
ISBN 9780367723880

**Published:** April, 2022 by Routledge India, 152 Pages

The book presents a conceptual and methodological framework to understand South Asia by engaging with sociology and social anthropology practices in India and Nepal. It provides a new imagination of South Asia by connecting the region's historical, political, religious, and cultural divides. Drawing from the experiences of Indian and Nepali social anthropology, the book discusses the presence of Nepal studies in Indian social anthropology and vice versa. It highlights Nepal or South Asia as a subject for social anthropological research. It stresses pluriversal knowledge production through regional scholarship, dialogic social anthropology, South Asian episteme, post-Western social anthropology and the decolonisation of disciplines. In exploring the themes and problems of doing social anthropology in Nepal by Indian scholars, the book assesses the scope of developing the South Asian social anthropological worldview. It explains why social anthropological and sociological inquiry in India has failed to surpass its focus beyond the territorial limits of the nation state. The book examines the issues of methodological nationalism and social anthropological research tradition in South Asia. This book will be of interest

to students, teachers and researchers of South Asian studies, anthropology, sociology, social anthropology, South Asian sociology, cultural anthropology, social psychology, area studies, cultural studies, Nepal studies and Global South studies.

**Swatahsiddha Sarkar** is Professor and Director (2019–2021) of the Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal, Darjeeling, India. He has been engaged in Nepal studies in various capacities and was the recipient of Scholars Exchange Grants (2016–2017) under the Indo-Swiss Joint Research Programme. Besides publishing *Gorkhaland Movement: Ethnic Conflict and State Response* (2013) and the co-edited volume *Ethnicity in India: Issues in Community, Culture and Conflict* (2013), he is engaged in research and teaching and has published widely.





## ANTHROPOLOGIST OF THE MONTH

### Prof Nirmal Kumar Bose (1901-1972)

Prof Nirmal Kumar Bose was born in Kolkata in Bengal on 22nd January 1901. He received his school education from different schools in three states, namely Bihar, Bengal and Orissa. He completed his graduation in Geology from Presidency College, and his masters in Anthropology from the same college in 1925. Bose was influenced by Gandhi's ideas and participated very actively in the freedom movement. He was Gandhiji's Secretary and a close companion. Bose was influenced by Gandhi's *The Story of My Experiments with Truth* (1957).

As an anthropologist, Bose conducted archaeological excavations in Mayurbhanj and wrote about the Palaeolithic culture of the area. He wrote both in Bengali and English and his best-published works like *Nabeen o Pracheen*, *Paribrajaker Diary* and *Hindu Samajer Garan* are in Bengali. Bose also wrote about temple architecture, material culture of the tribal people and on society & culture in India. He was not a narrow specialist and his works ranged from researching on the simple Juang tribe of Orissa to the complex metropolitan city of Calcutta. His authority over multiple areas showed his commitment and quest to understand human society. His famous works are: *Canons of Orissan Architecture* (1932); *Studies in Gandhism* (1959); *Cultural Anthropology* (1929); *Culture and Society in India* (1967); *The Structure of Hindu Society* (1975).

Bose was attracted by the works of the Diffusionists and functionalists like Malinowski and was equally influenced by Sigmund Freud, Karl Marx and M K Gandhi. In 1937, he was appointed Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Prehistoric Archaeology, Calcutta University. Later, he taught Anthropology and Human Geography at Calcutta University as Lecturer and then Reader from 1937 to 1959. He was also a visiting scholar at California, Berkeley and Chicago in 1957-58. From 1959 to 1964 he was the Director of the Anthropological Survey of India. He also went to the universities at Wisconsin, Michigan, Columbia, North Carolina, and Hiroshima (Japan). Prof Bose was granted the S. C. Roy Medal and the Annandale Medal for his research by the Asiatic Society of Bengal (1948). He became the President of the Anthropology and Archaeology Section of the Indian Science Congress in 1949. He was also the editor of *Man in India*. He was awarded the Padma Shree in 1966 by the President of India. Prof Bose passed away on 15th October 1972.



#### References:

1. <https://www.insaindia.res.in/detail.php?id=N55-0118>
2. Beteille, (1973). Nirmal Kumar Bose: An Obituary. Sociological Bulletin, Volume 22 Issue 1 pg. v-vii

### JOB ALERTS

**Anthropometrist -Sports Authority of India, New Delhi**

**Link:** <https://g.co/kgs/wU5B5f>

## Halma: the collective action for water resource development among the Bhils

India is home to multiple diverse ethnic groups, and its cultural richness is not confined to its beautiful material and visual culture. The cultural traditions of various ethnic groups reflect our socio-cultural constructs and ethos. One of these adivasi groups is the Bhil tribe, which is part of the scheduled tribes in India. They are prevalent in Western and Central India in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra. One of the important traditions of the Bhil tribe is Halma. It



is an ancient Bhil tradition that was invoked when a family had a problem but could not tackle it alone after exhausting all its means. The family then invited other families around to help them, with the idea that their collective action would solve the problem. The tradition of Halma showcases the community values and the selfless nature of helping each other in crisis.

A common problem faced by adivasi groups living in these regions of India is water scarcity. Scarcity of water for drinking, farming, and livelihood purposes often results in people migrating to other places, leading to the development of crucial issues regarding education and healthcare facilities. So the tradition of Halma is invoked to solve the community problems through collective action. Halma is usually called at the village level in front of a deity. Although, the involvement of NGOs on occasion magnifies the scale of mass movements rallying the support of tribal communities from multiple villages. This demonstrates positive results of the interaction of adivasi groups with mainstream society in the effective resolution of water scarcity. The implementation of Halma has developed the most extensive watershed management in the arid landscape of Jhabua district. Halma channels the community spirit of the tribe through the individuals who volunteer for the water conservation project towards the creation of wells, ponds and check-dams/stop-dams. Halma

is a part of their habitus, a value system that is embedded in the collective consciousness of the Bhil tribe. The understanding of Halma enables

our perception of the Bhil tribe to transcend the fascination with materiality and exotic rituals and focus on the simple functionalities of their life shaped by their values and norms. The Bhil tribe's tenet of Halma enables regional level water conservation management to tackle the urban industrial development that

neglects sustainable natural resource management. The preservation of principles like Halma among the Bhil tribe is significant to combating climate change issues created by post-development movements like urbanization and industrialization.

### References:

1. Aggarwal, Anjali. 2022. "Revival of a Tribal Practice for Water Resource Development | India Water Portal." [Www.indiawaterportal.org](http://www.indiawaterportal.org). February 15, 2022.

<https://www.indiawaterportal.org/articles/revival-tribal-practice-water-resource-development>

2. Chakravarty, Dipanwita, Vatrika Singh, Trupti Kamat, and Sandeep Sabharwal. 2018. "Water Sensitive Development of New Towns –a Regional Development Approach." *Creative Space* 6 (1): 1-10.

<https://cs.chitkara.edu.in/index.php/cs/article/view/94>

### Photo reference:

<https://igsss.org/newsevents/halma-a-traditional-practice-in-the-bhil-community>

## E-RESOURCE CENTER INVITATION

We realize that there is no centralized resource center for the Anthropological works of Indian Anthropologists, where a scholar can look for publications- articles, papers and books. Thus, AIF is developing an anthropological e-resource center hosted at the AIF website- [www.anthroposindiafoundation.com](http://www.anthroposindiafoundation.com)

Given your valuable contribution to anthropological discourse in India, we would be glad if you can share your

publication to be uploaded in the AIF E-resource center, which will benefit all the researchers from India and abroad interested in various fields of the discipline. This will be one of its kind E-resource repositories.

Hope you will share your publications with us. Do let us know if you have any questions or queries. Write to us for any feedback, internship or collaboration [anthroposif@gmail.com](mailto:anthroposif@gmail.com)

## Get involved & Support Us

- **Promote Anthropological work**  
*share your work- blogs, documentaries, videos, podcasts, photographs*
- **Can intern with us**
- **Collaborate with us**  
*Can collaborate with us in research, workshops, digital magazine*
- **Volunteer**
- **Fund the activities**

Anthropos India Foundation



## AIF Life Membership

You can now register with us to become a Life member of Anthropos India Foundation for a nominal fee of Rs 1000 and by filling the google form. The life members will be receiving our Newsletter, quarterly digital magazine, "Childhood Matters", research study summaries conducted by AIF, alerts for Upcoming Courses, Workshops & seminars and job alerts. You can access our newly created E-resource Center, a one-stop destination where you can find research articles by eminent anthropologists in one place

[Click Here](#) to Register

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