

1st CIRCULAR



**International Indo-Swedish Seminar on
'Practice-based Knowledge in the 21st Century'
14 - 16 November 2011**

Organized by: Department of Philosophy & Religion, Faculty of Arts, Banaras Hindu University,
Varanasi, UP 221005, India

Under the auspices of the BHU-Gothenburg University collaboration within the
"go:India program": <http://www.goindia.gu.se/>

Organizing Committee

Chief Patron: Prof. D.P. Singh, *Vice-Chancellor*, B.H.U.

Patron: Prof. B. D. Singh, *Rector*, B.H.U

Chairman: Prof. Kamal Sheel, *Dean*, Faculty of Arts, B.H.U.

Convener:

Prof. D. N. Tiwari

Head, Department of Philosophy & Religion, Faculty of Arts, Banaras Hindu University,
Varanasi, UP 221005. INDIA

Res. : B-20/ 185 Bhelupur, Varanasi, UP 221002.

Tel., Office: +091-542-230-7429. Cell : 0-9956 231085. Email: dntphil@rediffmail.com

Organising Secretary:

Prof. A. K. Rai

Ex-Head, Department of Philosophy & Religion, Faculty of Arts, Banaras Hindu University,
Varanasi, UP 221005. INDIA

Tel., Office: +091-542- 6703196. (+091)-542-2368026 (home). Email: arvindkr@bhu.ac.in

Advisory Committee:

Prof. Mallicarjun Joshi, Chairman, International Centre, B.H.U.

Prof. Rana P.B. Singh, Dept. of Geography, B.H.U., & President: Indo-Nordic Cultural Association

Prof. Sigriður Beck, International Programme, Gothenburg University, Sweden.

Organising Committee:

The *Organising Committee* will also seek help and support of all the faculty members of the
Department of Philosophy and Religion, Faculty of Arts, Banaras Hindu University.

Swedish Coordinator:

Prof. Dr. Åke Sander

Department of Literature, History of Ideas and Religion (LIR), Lennart Torstenssonsgatan 11,
Gothenburg University, Box 200, SE- 405 30 Göteborg. SWEDEN. <http://www.lir.gu.se/>

phone: + 46 (0)31 786 15 61. Fax: + 46 (0)31 786 15 60. Cell phone: + 46 (0)708 572327

(Res.): Prång. 2; 42674 V Frölunda; tel. + 46 (0)31 693336. mobile: + 46 (0)708 572327.

Email: aake.sander@religion.gu.se

The Background

Theory and critical thinking are at the core of the academic enterprise. In contemporary academic discourse new knowledge concepts and knowledge regimes have made inroads, based on new conceptions of knowledge, for example: knowledge based on/in identity, class, gender, sexuality, culture and in different experiences, practices and activities – which is what is at stake here. Back in the 1960's ideas of *practitioners' knowledge*, and of the professional as a *reflective practitioner* took shape in various professional contexts: teaching, including religious instruction, health care, social work and the arts. Today, practice-based knowledge as new forms of academic knowledge constitutes a permanent reference in the discussions of the nature of the social world and the social sciences, creating a healthy, constant tension between a more distant *theoria*, and a closer, more committed *practice* and *phronesis*.

The aim of this conference is to see and reflect on new sides of the social worlds and the social and humanistic sciences in India and Sweden using the perspectives of practice based knowledge developed within social work, religious work, health care as well as in the arts and philosophy, in order to identify and generate new interesting platforms for academic cooperation.

Sub-themes

The general theme of the Seminar will include the following sub-themes related with “Practiced based knowledge from” -----

- a philosophical (theoretical, historical) perspective.
- the perspective of social science, especially social work.
- from the perspective of education, learning and awakening.

Contributions from practitioners and researchers with critical perspectives are welcome.

Key questions to be addressed are:

- Practice based knowledge production, results, methods, and dissemination.
- The academic value of practitioners' knowledge.
- Practice based knowledge as an integral part of life long learning.
- The contribution of practice based knowledge to social change in Sweden and India.

General Information

Varanasi, popularly known as Banaras, is one of the oldest living cities in the world. It is located on the crescent-shaped left bank of the holy river Ganga. It is a sacred site for Hindus, Buddhists and Jains, however Islam and Christianity are also well-represented. Besides being a cultural and religious centre of India, it remained a great seat of learning from the ancient times. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, who was the second president of independent India, was associated with B.H.U. as Vice-chancellor and with the department as a Professor of Philosophy. The past glory of education and erudition of Varanasi is being kept alive by Banaras Hindu University founded by Mahamana Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya-ji. The Department of Philosophy & Religion at Banaras Hindu University, the

largest department in India, was established on 1 October 1917. The Department has been recognized as a national and international centre of scholarship in philosophy and religion. Because of its long tradition of leadership in the field of Indian Philosophy, it has been attracting scholars from different parts of the globe. The Banaras Hindu University played host to the Indian Philosophical Congress thrice: In 1926 (2nd session presided over by Dr. Ganganatha Jha), in 1947 (22nd session presided over by Dr. M.N. Sircar) and in 1967 (41st session presided over by Dr. Kalidas Bhattacharya).

Practical Information

The month of November falls in the range of winter in North India and the weather will be cold requiring light to medium woollen clothes.

§ Varanasi is well connected from Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Delhi and Kolkata both by train and air.

§ Non-Indian citizens should apply for their Indian visa at their Indian Embassy in good time.

Call for Abstracts/Papers

Abstracts not exceeding 200 words are invited on the theme of the Seminar. The abstracts submitted will be screened by a Screening Committee and the inclusion of the papers in the sessions will depend upon the decision of the Screening Committee.

Important Deadlines

15 September 2011: Abstract submission/ notification in the sequence.

Submission of Abstracts/Papers/Registration Forms

Abstracts: goindia@gu.se ; and: philosophybhu@rediffmail.com; dntphil@rediffmail.com

Convener, Indo-Swedish Seminar

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The Registration Fee (the amount of which will be settled in June 2011, ca. IRs. 500) covers a copy of the abstracts volume, free accommodation and local hospitality. The registration fee should be paid through Bank Draft preferably drawn on the SBI payable at Varanasi in favour of Convener, Indo-Swedish Seminar, B.H.U.

Registration Form
(Completed and returned by 1 September 2011)
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Name:

Designation:

Organisation:

Mailing address:

Residence address:

Phone Numbers (with ISD & STD Code):

Residence:

Office:

Mobile:

Email:

Presenting Paper: YES/ NO

Title of the paper:

No. of accompanying persons:

Registration Fee Details:

DD No.:..... Date:

Bank drawn on:

Amount:

Travel details:

Arrival Date and time:

Departure Date and time:

Train/ Flight No.:

Place:Date.....

Signature:

Any other request/ information:

Mail to:

Prof. D. N. Tiwari, Convener Indo-Swedish Seminar, BHU

Department of Philosophy and Religion, Banaras Hindu University Varanasi, UP 221005. INDIA.

Email: goindia@gu.se; philosophybhu@rediffmail.com; dntphil@rediffmail.com