

SOCIAL HEALING, INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE CALLING OF GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY AND PEACE

*—Book Offering and International Symposium on Some of the Recent Books
Authored, Edited, Co-Edited, and Translated by Ananta Kumar Giri*

Dear and Respected Friends,

Our best regards and warm greetings to you!

We hope this finds you well. We share with you the outline of the following international symposium to be held in a hybrid mode jointly organized by the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS) and the University of Madras on 18 March 2024 as part of the MIDS Golden Jubilee Celebrations at Adishesiah Auditorium, MIDS (earlier we had planned to hold it at the Dept of Sociology, University of Madras but because of some contingencies, we are now holding it here). We invite you to kindly join us in this in person or online and share your thoughts on one of the books or some books together. We are sharing with you the Registration Form for the symposium and we request you to kindly fill this form by 15 March 2024. We are sharing with you the tentative programme and we request the speakers to kindly send the title, and abstract presentation, and a bio-note within 100 words by 6 PM IST 15 March 2024 to Ananta Kumar Giri at aumkrishna@gmail.com

We are sharing the proofs of these books for your perusal in Google Drive. We are grateful to you for taking the time to have a look at some of these works.

Link to Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vXYrMjeL7XMZX3sxoZWf6GpCe1S08A?usp=sharing>

Link to Registration Form:

<https://forms.gle/pDQypVWoK4ejMgjh8>

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89803408330?pwd=QynsH6ogwUpZFm81bUIPPjTQzUEpPF.1>

Time: March 18, 2024 10:00 AM

Meeting ID: 898 0340 8330

Passcode: 594505

(Please use the zoom link for yourself and interested friends and do not circulate it widely among anonymous networks).

Looking forward to hearing from you and with regards,

Sincerely Yours,

Ananta and Thamilarasan

SOCIAL HEALING, INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE CALLING OF GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY AND PEACE

—Book Offering and International Symposium on Some of the Recent Books
Authored, Edited, Co-Edited, and Translated by Ananta Kumar Giri

Date, Time and Venue

Monday, 18 March 2024

Registration from 9:30 AM, Dialogues from 10 AM to 8 PM IST
Adishesiah Auditorium, Madras Institute of Development Studies

Outline

We are passing through multiple crises now that challenge us to rethink our visions and practices of self, society, development, and the world. The books authored and edited by Professor Ananta Kumar Giri engage with some of our contemporary crises and challenges of transformations. At this international symposium, we launch some of these works and engage with issues discussed in a day-long event to be held in hybrid mode on 18 March 2024. We will release and discuss the following books:

1. *The Calling of Global Responsibility: New Initiatives in Justice, Dialogues, and Planetary Realizations* (Routledge, 2023, authored);
2. *Social Healing* (Routledge, 2023, authored);
3. *Cultivating Integral Development* (Routledge, 2023, authored);
4. *Contemporary Contributions to Critiques of Political Economy* (Routledge, 2024, edited);
5. *New Works in Consciousness Corridors: Dialogues with Subhash Sharma and Creative Planetary Futures* (New Delhi: Authors Press, 2023, co-edited with Michael Zirkler, Minati Pradhan & Divya Kirit Gupta);
6. *Rethinking Media Studies: Media, Meditation and Communication* (Routledge, 2024, co-edited with Santosh Kumar Biswal, Rama Devi Women's University, Bhubaneswar);
7. *Towards a Dharma of Peace Building* (Springer, 2024, co-edited with Saji Varghese, Dept. of Philosophy, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong);
8. *Pagala Padatita, Baluka o Phena: Khalil Gibranka Amara Rachana Trayee* (Madman and Wanderer, Sand and Foam: Three Immortal Works of Khalil Gibran (Vidya, 2024, co-translated with Sabita and Kahnucharan, Bolangir, Odisha).

We invite you to kindly join us in this symposium and share your reflections on some of these works.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

9:30 AM Registration

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| 10:00 AM | Session One |
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Welcome Song

Maitree Bhajeta by Janani

Welcome

L Venkatchalam

RBI Chair Professor and
Officiating Director, MIDS (online)

Welcome

M Thamilarasan

Professor & Head
Dept. of Sociology, University of Madras

**Social Healing, Integral Development and the Calling of
Global Responsibility and Peace: An Introduction and
Invitation to the Book Offering Symposium**

Ananta Kumar Giri
Professor, MIDS

**Social Healing, Global Responsibility, Integral
Development, Peace and Meditative Communicative
Practices: Dialogues and Further Conversations
(Keynote Address)**

David Blake Willis
Professor, Fielding Graduate University
Santa Barbara, USA (online)

Windows on Wisdom

Lisa Maroski
Mind Spring (online)

Detlef Briesen
Professor, Germany and Vietnam (online)

Discussion

11:45 AM Bio Break and Bridges

11:55 AM – 1 PM Session Two

Reflections on Contemporary Critiques of Political Economy

Karthik Ravo Kavale
Krea University

Rowan Moses
Independent Scholar
Trivandrum & Chennai

Reflections on *Pagala Padatita, Baluka o Phena: Khalil Gibranka Amara Rachana Trayee* (Madman and Wanderer, Sand and Foam: Three Immortal Works of Khalil Gibran)

Sushri Sangita Mishra
Corporate Executive, Poet and Thinker
Vishwaneedam Center for Asian Blossoming

Discussion

1:15 – 2:00 PM Lunch Break

2:00 – 3:00 PM Session Three

Randhir Kumar Gautam
GSDS, ITM University, Gwalior

Reflections on towards a New Dharma of Peace Building

Rama Sharma
Government College
Sangrur, Punjab

Discussion

3:00 PM Session Four

Ecological Compassion and Expressions of Responsibility

Dame Marilyn Strathern
Professor
William Wyse Professor Emeritus of
Anthropology, University of Cambridge (online)

From Fair to an Empathetic Society: Seeking a New Transcendence

Savita Singh
Professor
Indira Gandhi National Open University (online)

Maayan Amir
Ben-Gurion University
Beer Seva, Israel

Discussion

Carlos Alvarez Pereira
The Club of Rome (online)
Anand Kumar
Former Professor
Center for the Study of Social Systems
Jawaharlal Nehru University
& Past President
Indian Sociological Society (online)
Maany Rao

Discussion

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| 5:15 PM | Session Five |
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Reflections on Cultivating Integral Development

Man Bahadur Khattri
Dept. of Anthropology
Tribhuvan University
Kathmandu, Nepal (online)

Cansu Gurkaya
EHESS, Paris (TBC)

6:00 PM **Bio Bridges and Walking with the Setting Sun**

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| 6:15 PM | Session Six |
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**Global Responsibility of Intellectuals: Three New Essay
Gifts for Our Ongoing Spiritual Journey**

Christian Bartolf
Gandhi Information Center, Berlin
G. Tarun
Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences
IIT Madras
Muhammand Maroof Shah
Writer and Scholar
Jammu & Kashmir (online)

***New Works in Consciousness Corridors: Dialogues with
Subhash Sharma and Creative Planetary Futures***

Abhishek Kumar
Professor, Army Institute of Management
Kolkata (online)

Prashant Kumar
MIDS (TBC)

Dilip R. Shah
Former Professor
South Gujarat University (online)

A. Osman Farah
Aalborg University, Denmark (online)

Minati Pradhan
Writer and Poet
Vishwaneedam Center for Asian Blossoming

Discussion

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| 7:15 PM | Vote of Thanks |
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Prasanna M R
Publication Officer, MIDS

ABSTRACTS

Ecological Compassion and Expressions of Responsibility

This contribution is inspired by *Global Responsibility*, and the way in which Ananta Giri guides us through so many aspects of both the thinking and the activism that has turned it into a calling. The paper picks up the thread of 'ecological justice', an urgent appeal to new modes of thought in an era of climate change but not confined to such an epoch. Drawing on the book by Sophie Chao, *In the shadow of the palms: More-than-human-becomings in West Papua* (2022, Duke University Press), it offers the symposium some material for reflection from an unusual quarter.

Transcending Mediums: Spiritual Dialogues and Societal Transformation

By Rowan Moses

Transcending Mediums: Spiritual Dialogues and Societal Transformation is an interdisciplinary exploration into the profound interactions between media theory, the philosophy of technology, spirituality, and societal transformation. Through a meditative synthesis informed by the philosophical underpinnings of Deleuze and Guattari, this work examines praxis as the dynamic intersection of theory and practical application, illuminating the transformative potential of media as both a conceptual and material force in shaping human consciousness and societal structures. Drawing upon the actions of Pope Francis as analyzed through Kuruvilla Pandikattu's lens, it critiques McLuhan's adage "the medium is the message," proposing that the essence of messages transcends their mediums when imbued with values of solidarity and spiritual depth.

The volume delves into the role of spirituality and symbolic communication in fostering societal engagement and openness towards the marginalized, utilizing phenomenological approaches to highlight the power of symbolic acts of solidarity. It further explores the evolution of media and its societal implications, echoing McLuhan's insights while integrating perspectives from Socratic and Gandhian philosophies, and the non-verbal communication of existential and divine concepts through art.

A significant portion of the discourse navigates the intricate relationship between communication, spirituality, and the pursuit of a "communicative society" as envisioned by Johannes Heinrichs, extending communication beyond mere information exchange towards a realm of mutual recognition and intersubjective reflection. This reimagining of communication, bolstered by the spiritual philosophy of Sri Aurobindo and the critical insights of Scott Lash on new media critique, calls for an immersive, ethical, and reflective engagement with media technologies, highlighting the necessity of an expanded communicative praxis that includes spiritual and reflective dimensions.

By advocating for a dynamic and reflective approach to media consumption and creation, as inspired by Donald A. Schön's "Designing in motion," this work invites a reevaluation of our relationship with technology, urging a deeper engagement that nurtures the co-evolutionary potential of spirituality, ethics, and technology towards a holistic societal transformation.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Marilyn Strathern DBE is Emeritus Professor of Social Anthropology at Cambridge University, and Hon. Life President of the UK Association of Social Anthropologists (ASA). Her research in Papua New Guinea led to work on law, kinship and gender relations, and in the UK with anthropological approaches to the new reproductive technologies, intellectual property and audit cultures. She pairs *The Gender of the Gift* (1988), a critique of anthropological theories of society applied to Melanesia, with *After Nature* (1992), a comment on the cultural revolution at home. Her latest book is *Relations: An Anthropological Account* (2020).

Savita Singh is a political theorist and a distinguished feminist poet. She has published in both areas of interest. Her book *Reality and its Depth: A conversation with Roy Bhaskar* is considered a book of great significance which examines the many layers of critical realism with Bhaskar. Her research paper on Krishna Sobti, *Walking on Dew: A Feminist Reading of Krishna Sobti's Listen! Girl* written during her stay in Paris while availing FM's post doc fellowship is published in a volume, *Krishna Sobti: A Counter Archive* by Routledge. Her chapter, *Three Languages of Indian Modernity* is published in a volume, *Exploring Indian Modernities: Ideas and Practice* by Springer. In creative field, she has published five volumes of poetry in Hindi for which she has received many prestigious awards including Hindi Academy Award for Poetry, Raza Foundation Award, Mahadevi Verma Award given by Rajbhasha, Eunice de Souza Award, and most recently, Kedar Samman. Her work is translated in many languages of India and the world including French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Bangla, Marathi, Odiya and Mathili. She is the founding director and professor at the School of Gender and Development Studies, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Delhi.

Karthik Rao-Cavale has a PhD from the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and his research interests lie at the intersection of regional political economy, urban studies, economic geography, and development studies. His dissertation constructs a social history of regional road networks, regimes of circulation, and rural development in southern Tamil Nadu (1915 – 1965). Rao-Cavale holds a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University, New Jersey, and a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. His earlier work in the field of city planning has been published in leading journals such as 'Transportation Research Record' and 'Landscape and Urban Planning'. He has also contributed an empirical chapter to an edited volume on the Indian Supreme Court (Cambridge University Press, 2019), and has edited a special issue of *Projections*, the MIT Journal of Urban Planning. He is presently working on multiple research projects: a study on

the long-term consequences of colonial land tenure systems, a project on Chennai history, and a fieldwork-based study on skilling and capability acquisition in Indian manufacturing.

Christian Bartolf is the Founder–Director of Gandhi Information Center, Berlin. He is an educational and political scientist with two university diplomas. He has a PhD from Freie Universität Berlin. He curates exhibitions at the Anti-War Museum (Peace Gallery), Berlin. He is also a human rights activist (counsellor for conscientious objectors). He has authored and co-edited books including *Letters to a Hindoo* and *Herman Kallenbach: Mahatma Gandhi's friend in South Africa*, *The breath of my life: The correspondence of Mahatma Gandhi and Bart de Ligt*, *Tolstoy and Gandhi (Non-Violent Resistance)*. He has published his research articles in journals of international repute. He:

- is the author of exhibitions and publications (essays and books) on Thoreau, Ruskin, Tolstoy, Gandhi, King
- has a doctor of philosophy (Free University Berlin, 2021)
- is an educational and political scientist with two university diplomas (Free University Berlin, 1987)
- is a human rights activist (counsellor for conscientious objectors 1991 – 2006)
- is president (since 1993, thirty years now) of the Gandhi Information Center (Research and Education for Nonviolence), Society for Peace Education, Berlin, Germany
- <https://www.nonviolent-resistance.info/index.htm>

Rowan Moses Gnaniah, a distinguished professional with a multifaceted background in media design, AI, and interdisciplinary research, possesses a deep academic foundation from the University of Waterloo and the University of Madras. Specializing in English Studies, Experimental Digital Media, and Comparative Religious Studies, his expertise extends to Rhetoric, Critical Design methods, and Adaptation Studies gained during his tenure as a Teaching Assistant at UWaterloo International. Rowan's approach integrates critical thinking and creative expression, aiming to advance knowledge and innovation across the fields of the philosophy of technology, critical thinking, spirituality and religion in the public sphere and empathy and love as political forces for impactful societal contributions.