Department of Sociology
School of Social Sciences and International Studies
Pondicherry University

International Seminar on *Agrarian Transition in India*
January 28-30, 2014

**Programme Schedule**

Day 1: TUESDAY January 28th

I. Inaugural Session (6.00 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.)
   Convention cum Cultural Complex Auditorium, PU

   Welcome and Opening Remarks : B. B. Mohanty, Convener of the Seminar
   Inaugural Address : Joan P. Mencher, City University, New York
   Special Address : N. K. Jha, Dean, SOSSIS, Pondicherry University
   Presidential Address : Chandra Krishnamurthy, Vice-Chancellor, Pondicherry University
   Vote of Thanks : G. Ramathirtham, Pondicherry University
Day 2: WEDNESDAY January 29th

II. Keynote Session (9.00 am – 11.00 a.m.)
Convention cum Cultural Complex Auditorium, PU

Chair: Haroon Akram-Lodhi, Trent University, Canada

Keynote Presentations

- Henry Bernstein,
  University of London,
  London.
  Revisiting agrarian transition: reflections on long histories and current realities

- Utsa Patnaik,
  Jawaharlal Nehru University,
  New Delhi.
  The peasantry and the global economy – history and the present

- Dipankar Gupta,
  Formerly with Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
  It is not only the economy: the social implications of agrarian change

Tea Break (11.00 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.)

III. Agrarian Transition: Theoretical and Conceptual Issues (11.15 a.m. – 1.15 p.m.)
Seminar Hall - I, Convention cum Cultural Complex, PU

Chair

Discussant

: Jens Lerche, University of London, London.

Paper Presentations:

- Haroon Akram - Lodhi
  Trent University, Canada.
  The agrarian question and global value relations

- D. N. Reddy
  Formerly with University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad.
  Agrarian transition – is there an Asian way? An exploratory survey

- Hira Singh
  York University, Canada.
  Agrarian transitions during colonial rule in India: questions of class and caste

- Marc Edelman
  City University of New York, New York.
  Defining “peasant” at the United Nations Human Rights Council

Lunch Break (1.15 p.m. – 2.15 p.m.)

Dining Hall Convention cum Cultural Complex, PU
IV. Global Capitalism, Neoliberal Reform and Changing Agriculture (2.15 p.m. – 4.15 p.m.)
Seminar Hall - I, Convention cum Cultural Complex, PU

Chair
Discussant
: D N Reddy, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad.

Paper Presentations:

- D. N. Dhanagare
  Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla.
  Declining credibility of the neo-liberal state and agrarian crisis in India

- B. B. Mohanty
  Pondicherry University, Pondicherry
  Agrarian change in India: the question of survival of peasantry

- R. Vijay
  Professor
  Department of Economics, University of Hyderabad.
  Hyderabad.
  Changing economic structure and importance of non-cultivating households in rural areas

- Barbara Harriss-White
  Oxford University, London.
  Towards a lower carbon agriculture: an experiment in expert and situated knowledge

Visit to French Institute of Pondicherry (FIP) : (4.30 p.m.)

Presentation of French Institute : (5.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.)
Day 3: THURSDAY January 30th

V. Agrarian Transition: Regional Perspectives I (9.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.)
Seminar Hall - I, Convention cum Cultural Complex, PU

Chair
Discussant
: Marc Edelman, City University of New York. USA.

Paper Presentations:

- Jens Lerche
  University of London, London.
  Agrarian questions in India: three political economy approaches to regionally specific agrarian questions

- Gaurang R. Sahay
  Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.
  Reflections on agrarian structure in contemporary Bihar: a village study

- Santanu Rakshit
  Visva-Bharati University, Calcutta.
  Stressed commerce, agrarian crisis and the question of transition—a farm level study of agrarian West Bengal in the current millennium

- Elumalai Kannan & R. S. Deshpande
  Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore.
  Towards critical tipping point: agrarian changes in central India

- Mamata Swain
  Ravenshaw University, Cuttack.
  Changes in agrarian structure in Odisha.

Tea Break (11.00 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.)
VI. Agrarian Transition: Regional Perspectives II (11.15 a.m. – 1.15 p.m.)
Seminar Hall - I, Convention cum Cultural Complex, PU

Chair : Venkatesh Athreya, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai.
Discussant : Haroon Akram-Lodhi, Trent University, Canada

Paper Presentations:

- Joan P. Mencher
  City University, New York
  Which human beings will survive to the end of the 21st century?

- Joseph Tharamangalam
  Mount Saint Vincent University
  Halifax
  Is there a new agrarian question for Kerala in the new millennium?

- Daniel Munster
  University of Heidelberg, Germany.
  Agro-ecological double movements? alternative agricultures after the neoliberal crisis in the western ghats (Kerala)

- Jonathan Pattenden
  University of East Anglia, UK.
  The agrarian question and changing dynamics of accumulation and exploitation in rural Karnataka

Lunch Break (1.15 p.m. – 2.15 p.m.)
Dining Hall, Convention cum Cultural Complex, PU

VII. Agrarian Dynamics: Response from Below (2.15 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.)
Seminar Hall - I, Convention cum Cultural Complex, PU

Chair
Discussant : R. S. Deshpande, ISEC, Bangalore.

Paper Presentations:

- Isabelle Gurien & G. Venkatasubramanian
  French Institute of Pondicherry, Pondicherry.
  Agrarian transition, bonded labour and capital

- Joël Cabalion,
  EHESS-CEIAS
  Displacing and relocating peasant social dispositions

- Zoe Headly
  (IFP-CNRS), Pondicherry.
  Exploring changing judicial authority in Tamil villages

Tea Break (3.45 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.)
VIII. Agrarian Transition: A Comparative Perspective (4.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.)
Seminar Hall - I, Convention cum Cultural Complex, PU

Chair
Discussant
: Hira Singh, York University, Canada.
: Jonathan Pattenden, University of East Anglia, UK.

Paper Presentations:

Frehiwot Tsfaye
York University, Canada.
- The state and agrarian reforms from above: proposal for a comparative study of land reforms in Ethiopia and India

Tudor Silva
University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.
- Agrarian transition, unregulated agrochemical use and their impact on public health

IX. Valedictory (5.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.)

Welcome Address
: K. Gulam Dasthagir, Pondicherry University

Valedictory Address
: Barbara Harriss-White, Oxford University

Presidential Address
: M. Ramadass, Director of Studies, Pondicherry University

Closing Remarks
: B. B. Mohanty, Pondicherry University

Vote of Thanks
: Sudha Sitharaman, Pondicherry University