

CALL FOR PAPERS



**1ST INTERNATIONAL
YOUNG FOLKLORIST CONFERENCE 2024
(ONLINE)**

**Transitions and Transformation in South Asian Folklore:
Problems, Perspectives, and Prospects**

29, 30 & 31 MARCH 2024

CFSR, officially registered as a non-profit charitable public trust under the auspices of the Government of West Bengal, is dedicated to the upliftment of our rich folk artistry. Our primary objective is to rejuvenate various cultural facets by orchestrating seminars, workshops, and conferences on a regional scale. In pursuit of this, we employ a multifaceted approach that integrates cutting-edge technology with on-the-ground fieldwork methods to both promote and safeguard endangered elements of folklore. We promote the use of digital technologies in the study and preservation of folklore and support the establishment of folklore archives and museums. Our unwavering commitment revolves around the central theme of preserving and perpetuating our roots, currently imperilled by the passage of time. Through a harmonious blend of tradition and innovation, we aspire to ensure the survival and sustenance of our indigenous art and artists.

CFSR is a global community of scholars, educators, artists, and community members dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of folklore and its various manifestations across cultures and historical periods. We believe that folklore is an essential part of human culture, shaping our identities, beliefs, values, and practices. Our network aims to promote critical analysis of folklore and to facilitate collaboration and communication among scholars, educators, artists, and community members. We seek to foster a deeper understanding of the significance of folklore in shaping cultural identities, social practices, and artistic expression and to promote the preservation and appreciation of folk traditions worldwide. Through our research, teaching, and outreach activities, we aim to advance knowledge, promote diversity, and engage in dialogue with diverse audiences about the role of folklore in contemporary society. We encourage the representation of underrepresented groups and perspectives in the study of folklore and promote inclusivity and diversity.

“Transitions and Transformation in South Asian Folklore: Problems, Perspectives, and Prospects”

Folklore and traditions constitute an intrinsic facet of our cultural heritage, encompassing a rich tapestry of expressions such as folk songs, dances, tales, proverbs, rituals, and customs. While traditionally associated with the past and rural communities, these traditions are dynamic and responsive to regional, cultural, and global shifts. The impact of migration, globalisation, and evolving technologies, especially the internet and social media, has ushered in new dimensions to the practice and preservation of folklore. Alan Dundes’ seminal concept, “Who are the Folk?” challenges conventional perceptions by asserting that shared experiences define folk groups, thereby reshaping our understanding of folk traditions and their practitioners (Dundes, 1965: 2). In the contemporary digital era, social media platforms have become conduits for the dissemination and preservation of folk practices, enabling communities to showcase their cultural heritage to global audiences. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, innovative adaptations of folklore have emerged, incorporating references to current events while promoting public health awareness.

Folklore studies stand at a critical juncture, marked by transition and transformation. The emergence of post-folklore marks a noteworthy phenomenon within the broader context of South Asian folklore. Conversely, the preservation and promotion of folk heritage confront pressing challenges amidst shifting societal landscapes. The interdisciplinary nature of folklore research opens avenues for exploring emergent themes such as digital ethnography, heritage management, and the evolving role of social media. This conference invites scholars to explore the multifaceted dimensions of South Asian folklore, examining its evolution amidst contemporary realities and addressing critical inquiries such as: How have folk traditions evolved in response to environmental, migratory, and societal shifts? What are the ways in which we reimagine folktales and reinterpret folk practices in contemporary contexts? To what extent do globalisation and commercial pressures impact the integrity of folklore? How does social media influence the transmission and interpretation of folklore? What implications do these transformations hold for folklore research and methodologies, and what strategies are needed to ensure the preservation and revitalisation of folk forms, fostering adaptation and resilience in the face of change?

This Young Folklorist Conference invites early-career researchers (PhD and Postdoctoral candidates), postgraduate and undergraduate students, young practitioners, and enthusiasts to critically examine the dynamics of South Asian folklore within contemporary frameworks. Submissions are encouraged to explore themes including, but not limited to:

- **Folklore in South Asia**
- **Ritual and Performance**
- **Living Traditions and Transformation**
- **Transition of Folklore in South Asia**
- **Liminality**
- **Folklore and Social Media**
- **Crises and Folklore**
- **Post folklore in South Asia**
- **Digital Ethnography and Folklore**
- **Methodologies in Folklore Studies**
- **Reflections from the Field**
- **Material Culture and Aesthetics**
- **Spirituality in Folk Tradition**
- **Knowledge System and Narratives**
- **Indigeneity: Rights and Resistance**
- **Eco-Consciousness in Tradition**
- **Heritage Conservation**
- **Folklore and Tradition**
- **Documentation and Archiving**
- **Applied Folklore**
- **Folklore and Translation**

Important dates:

- **Last date for submission of abstracts: 9th March 2024**
- **Intimation of Selected Abstracts: 14th March 2024**
- **Submission of Full-Length Papers: 26th March 2024**
- **Last date for Registration: 26th March 2024**

Event Highlights:

- **Keynote Speakers**
- **Panel Discussions**
- **Roundtables**
- **Individual Papers**
- **Documentary Screening and Discussion**
- **Conversation with a Folk Artist**

FOR MORE DETAILS



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We welcome original research, theoretical inquiries, case studies, and interdisciplinary perspectives that contribute to the discourse surrounding South Asian folklore.

Authors are invited to submit abstracts by 9th March through the following QR Code/Link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8ozUOfN73G1XgDU28CTiwVhBGKjBgqyexMuL6Lau3Epc7HA/viewform>



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Abstracts of proposed papers must adhere to the following guidelines:

- **Abstract Length: 250-300 words with 5 keywords.**
- **Formatting: Times New Roman, 12-point font, single-spaced, 1-inch margin on all sides, MS Word docs.**
- **Include Title, Author(s) Name(s), Affiliation(s), and Contact Information**
- **Submit abstracts in Word formats via Google Form only**

Please follow MLA 9th Edition Guidelines and the above formatting style for completed papers. Submissions should be free of plagiarism and copyright claims.

Selected papers will be published as conference proceedings in book format with an ISBN, offering a platform for scholarly dissemination and dialogue within the field of folklore studies. Kindly note that the selection of the abstract does not guarantee publication. The papers will have to undergo double-blind peer review processes.

Indian Students

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students: 250 INR

Practitioners and PhD Scholars: 500 INR

Post Doctoral Scholars: 750 INR

International Students

Practitioners, Students, and Scholars from SAARC countries: \$15

Practitioners, Students, and Scholars from non-SAARC countries: \$30

Paper presenters will be awarded an e-certificate for their participation. Attendees are eligible to receive an e-certificate by registering for the event, actively participating in most sessions, and engaging actively throughout the conference at no cost.

For inquiries and submissions, please reach out to us at cfsryfc2024@gmail.com

Join us in reimagining folklore in the contemporary era and charting pathways for its preservation and evolution.

Coordinators:

- Meghal Karki, PhD Research Scholar, Ambedkar University, Delhi
- Bhumika Singh, PhD Research Scholar, Ambedkar University, Delhi
- Mrityika Malakar, PhD Research Scholar, University of Kalyani
- Mir Masudul Hoque, PhD Research Scholar, Aligarh Muslim University

Advisors:

- Dr. Sanjukta Naskar, Associate Professor, Janki Devi Memorial College, Delhi University
- Aaleya Giri, Assistant Professor, University of Delhi
- Pooja Negi, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, Delhi University
- Mekhala Chattopadhyay, Assistant Professor of English, Govt. Kakatiya P.G College Jagdalpur, Chhattishgarh

Treasurer:

- Rusha Bose, JOA(HR) at Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (Pipelines Division); Pursuing MA in Folklore and Culture Studies

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