



CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
SOCIAL JUSTICE: A MIRAGE OR REALITY IN PLURAL SOCIETIES

Conference Dates: **13-14 June 2019**

Organizer: **Department of Politics and Governance, Central University of Kashmir**

Social Justice has always remained an essentially contested concept in terms of philosophy, ethics, legal notion and political conceptualisation. The contours of social justice stimulated in different dimensions according to the time and concern. The concerns of justice were as old as civilization and debatable even in contemporary philosophical understanding. Initially the concept of social justice travelled with religion and justified the authority for society and individual's harmonious relationship. Later the philosophers believed in social contract, which is grounded in reciprocity; between individuals, as persons and as a society and state. But the notion of social justice occurred when the concept of reciprocity was justified only among the elites. Then the contemporary philosophers further extended the concept of social justice to individual rights in order to address the ills of diversified societies. Thus the discourse of social justice, over the years often surrounded around the arguments in favour of social goals on one side and the individual liberties on the other. This dichotomy between social goals or collective responsibility and individual liberty while achieving social justice in a diversified society intensified the debates.

In the sphere of plural societies, the debates carried from ancient to modern societies. To understand, the early patrimonial societies have relative autonomy in the beginning, continued with homogeneity and finally assimilated not only into modernity and into industrialisation, but also to postmodern, post-industrialist societies of heterogeneity and difference. Hence, the convention on social justice is very much in demand. Since the philosophical underpinnings are applied to individual actions, nature of laws and to public policies; the sanity instilled and remained within individuals as part of society always realizes the unjust done to oneself and to others and would suggest either to resist or to reject. In order to comprehend the mirage or reality of social justice in a plural society, the following questions need to be addressed: a) considering the time and concern of the society how does the critical questions of inequality have been addressed by the philosophical inquisition of social justice? b) How social justice need to deal with the root causes of the inequality? c) In an ever changing society, how does the philosophy of social justice respond to the challenges to face newer conditions of inequality? and d) what other nuances of society needs to be additionally understood to confront the inequality issue in the plural societies?

The conference focuses on the questions through the lens of analytical political philosophy and critically examines the range of debates on social justice like the value of equality, role of individual responsibility, moral justifications and the structural effects of inequality. This international conference will provide a venue for the students, scholars and academicians from interdisciplinary subjects to deliberate upon the contestations over the issues and challenges in the plural societies under the framework of social justice. This international conference provide a venue for the students, scholars and academicians to deliberate upon the contestations over the issues and challenges in the plural societies under the framework of social justice.

The conference invites papers related to the following sub-themes:

- *Phenomenon of social justice
- *Ethics and social responsibility
- *Gender, equity and social justice
- * Identity and Diversity
- * Social justice movements

Send your abstract of a minimum of 300 words MS word document/PDF along with a biographic note of 200 words to conference.dpg@cukashmir.ac.in

Important Dates:

Last date for submission of abstracts : 10th December 2018
Notification of selected papers : 20th December 2018
Last date for submission of full papers : 10th March 2019

Selected papers will be considered for publication.

The organisers would be facilitating the accommodation for the invited speakers and selected paper presenters and the travel allowance depends upon the funding agencies. No registration fees for attending the conference.

Conference Convener:

Dr. Himabindu M.
Assistant Professor
Department of Politics and Governance
Central University of Kashmir
bindustalin@gmail.com