

A report on:

Three Days National Seminar and Festival on
"GLORY OF PUPPETRY AND ITS SOCIAL
IMPORTANCE"

Organised by:

SUROJIT ACADEMY

In collaboration with Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India
&

West Guwahati College of Education (WGCE)

Dates: 16th, 17th and 19th February 2024

Venue: West Guwahati College of Education, Maligaon Templeghat, Pandu, Ghy-12

INTRODUCTION:

A **3-Day National Seminar and Festival** on "Glory of Puppetry and its Social Importance" was organised by **Surojit Academy**, an institute that has been imparting training and knowledge for acting (film & stage), Satriya dance, folk song, Bihu dance, Bhupendra sangeet, drama, drawing, mime and puppetry etc since the last 26 years. The event was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Mr. Prabhat Goswami, eminent actor, director, script writer. It was held on **16th, 17th and 19th February 2024**, in the **West Guwahati College of Education campus**. The special guest for the occasion was Dr. Gitanjali Choudhury, Principal, West Guwahati College of Education. The Three day seminar aimed to shed light on the rich heritage and **societal significance of puppetry** as an art form. It was an extremely interesting,

Surojit Academy
In collaboration with Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India & West Guwahati College of Education
presents
Three Days National Seminar and Festival On
"Glory of Puppetry and its Social Importance"
on 16th, 17th and 19th February 2024 | Time: 10:30 AM
Venue: West Guwahati College of Education, Maligaon Templeghat, Pandu, Guwahati-12

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
16th February 2024 Seminar topic: "Kinetics in Puppetry" Mr. Subhasis Sen, Kolkata Eminent Puppeteer Puppet show: "Sri Krishna Janmashtami" Direction: Pranab Sarma Bashudev Putola Nach, Assam	17th February 2024 Seminar topic: "Practical session of Puppetry" Mr. Subhasis Sen, Kolkata, Eminent Puppeteer Seminar Topic: "History and Origine of Puppetry" Binita Devi, Eminent Puppeteer, National Jajore Research Scholarship awardee from Ministry of Culture, Govt of India. Puppet show "Ravan Badh" Direction: Binita Devi Surojit Academy, Assam	19th February 2024 Seminar topic: "Folk Theatre of Assam and its Social impact with special reference to puppetry". Mr. Dayal Krishna Nath, Eminent Actor and Director Puppet show: "Rajee Hanchandra" Direction: Suresh Chandra Das Ma Tripureswari Puppet Dance, Tripura Seminar topic: "Contemporary Puppet of India" Mr. Simanta Sarma Senior Fellowship awardee from Ministry of Culture, Govt of India.

Surojit Academy, Assam Engineering College Campus, Amar Path, Jalukbari, Guwahati-13, Website: surojitacademy.com, email: simbin2011@gmail.com Phone: 03612911533, Mobile: 9435042348, 8822471686

informative and engaging event that provided all the teacher trainees of the college a great opportunity to **enhance their inner creativity** and **broaden their horizon** by exploring the special art form. The esteemed **chief guests** that blessed the event with their presence were: eminent puppeteer **Mr. Subhasis Sen**, eminent actor/director/script-writer/author/theatre personality **Mr. Prabhat Goswami**, eminent puppeteer **Miss Binita Devi**, Senior Fellowship awardee from Ministry of Culture **Mr. Simanta Sarma** & eminent actor & director **Mr. Dayal Krishna Nath**.

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE		
	16th February'2024 11:15AM	Inauguration Chief Guest Mr. Prabhat Goswami Eminent Actor, Director, Script Writer Special Guest Dr. Gitanjali Choudhury Principal, West Guwahati College of Education, Maligaon
	11: 30AM-12:30PM	Seminar topic: "Kinetics in Puppetry" Mr. Subhasis Sen, Kolkata Eminent Puppeteer
	1:00PM	Puppet show "Sri Krishna Janmashtami" Direction: Pranab Sarma Bashudev Putola Nach, Assam
	17th February'2024 10:30AM- 11:30PM	Seminar topic: "Practical session of Puppetry" Mr. Subhasis Sen, Kolkata Eminent Puppeteer
	11:45AM – 12:30PM	Seminar topic: "History and Origine of Puppetry" Binita Devi, Eminent Puppeteer, National Tagore Research Scholarship awardee from Ministry of Culture, Govt of India.
	1:00PM	Puppet show "Ravan Badh" Direction: Binita Devi Surojit Academy, Assam
	19th February'2024 10:30AM-11:30PM	Seminar topic: Folk Theatre of Assam and its Social impact with special reference to puppetry. Mr. Dayal Krishna Nath Eminent Actor and Director
	11:45PM-12:45 PM	Seminar topic: "Contemporary Puppet of India" Mr. Simanta Sarma Senior Fellowship awardee from Ministry of Culture, Govt of India.
	1:00PM	Puppet show "Raja Harichandra" Direction: Suresh Chandra Das, Ma Tripureswari Puppet Dance, Tripura, India

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS OF DAY 1 (16th Feb 2024; Friday):

● Speech by Mr. Prabhat Goswami:

Eminent theatre personality, actor, director, script-writer, and author, **Mr. Prabhat Goswami**, delivered an **insightful opening speech**. He delved into the **origins of puppetry**, tracing its roots back to the dawn of human civilization. Mr. Goswami's address provided a **captivating glimpse into the historical evolution** of this ancient art form.



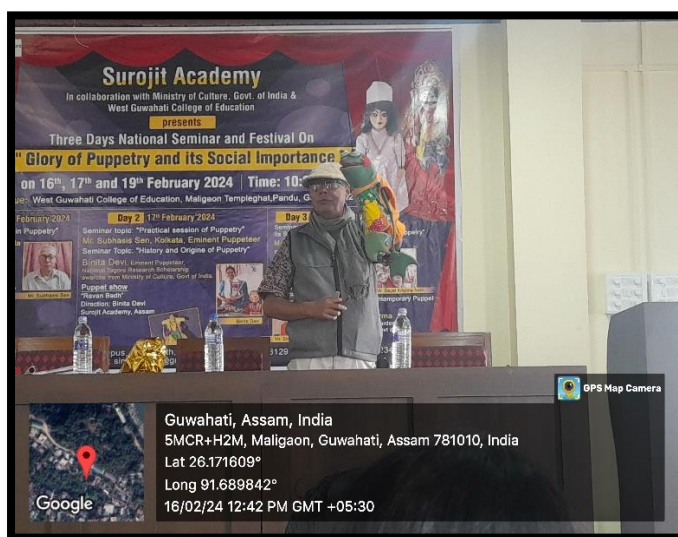
● Address by Dr. Gitanjali Choudhury:

Dr. Gitanjali Choudhury, Principal of **West Guwahati College of Education**, expressed **gratitude** to the organizers **for collaborating with the college**. Her warm welcome set a congenial atmosphere for the seminar and festival, fostering a **sense of camaraderie** among the esteemed guests and participants.



● Seminar on "Kinetics in Puppetry" by Mr. Subhasis Sen:

Eminent puppeteer, Mr. Subhasis Sen, eminent puppeteer, conducted an **engaging seminar on "Kinetics in Puppetry."** He expounded on the various **types of puppets**, their **intricate movements**, and the profound **significance of puppetry** in diverse domains such as **education, entertainment, and therapy**, citing examples from his personal life. He also showed a variety of puppets made by his students. Mr. Sen's expertise illuminated the **multifaceted nature of puppetry**, showcasing its dynamic potential to **captivate and educate audiences of all ages**.



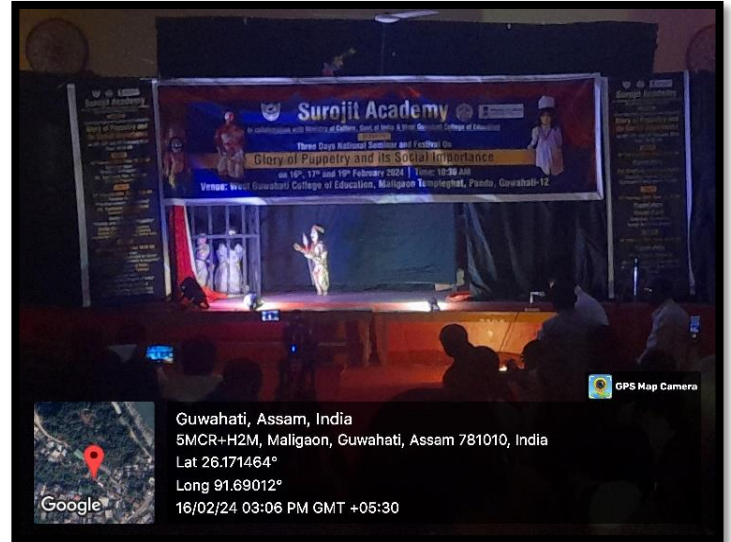


●Puppet Show "Krishna Janmashtami":

The highlight of the event was a mesmerizing puppet show titled "Krishna Janmashtami," directed by Pranab Sarma (Bashudev Putola Nach,

Assam), staged in the college auditorium. The show vividly depicted the timeless tale of the birth of Lord Krishna, enchanting the audience with its artistic rendition and emotive storytelling. The students, in particular, reveled in the immersive experience, showcasing the enduring allure of puppetry as a medium of cultural expression and entertainment.



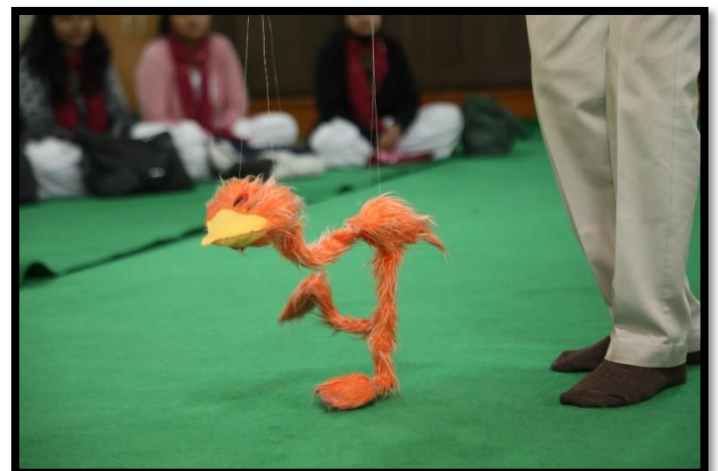
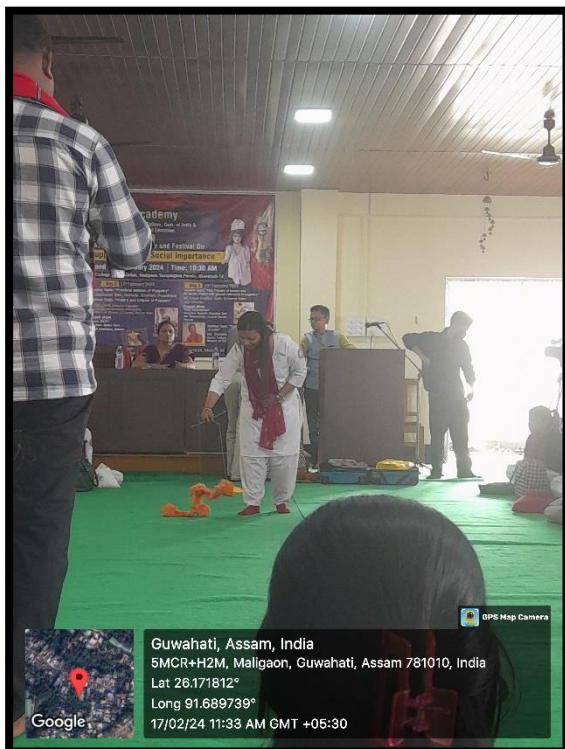


EVENT HIGHLIGHTS OF DAY 2 (17th Feb 2024; Saturday):

● Interactive Session by Mr. Subhasis Sen:

The day began with an enlightening interactive session by eminent puppeteer **Mr. Subhasis Sen**, who captivated the audience with **insights into string puppets, also known as marionettes**. Mr. Sen's presentation included a **delightful act featuring a string puppet resembling an emu/ostrich**, followed by an interactive session where audience members shared their **interpretations of the performance**. The highlight was when select audience members were **given the opportunity to operate the puppet**

them selves, adding an interactive and enjoyable dimension to the session.





●Practical Puppetry Session:

Following Mr. Sen's session, a **practical puppetry session** unfolded, with audience members **divided into 10 groups** and tasked with **creating puppets using everyday household items and waste materials**. Guided by mentors, each group unleashed their creativity, resulting in a diverse array of captivating puppets. The stage came alive as **each group proudly presented their unique creations**, showcasing the endless possibilities of puppetry as a creative medium.



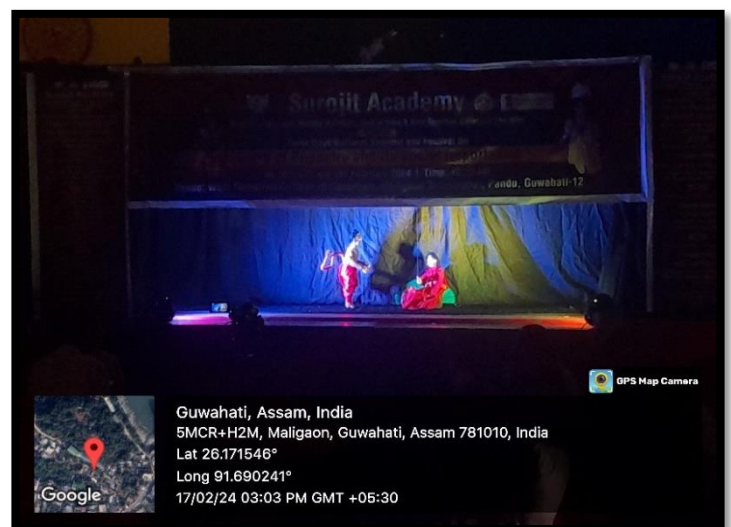
- **Animated Story-telling with Mr. Subhasis Sen:**

Mr. Subhasis Sen continued to enthrall the audience with a session on animated storytelling. He presented a **handcrafted book that ingeniously incorporated animation** to narrate the timeless tale of "The Thirsty Crow." He emphasized on the visual engagement that animation provides to storytelling.



- **Puppet Show "Ravan Badh" by Miss Binita Devi:**

The day further unfolded with a mesmerizing puppet show titled "Ravan Badh," directed by Miss Binita Devi from Surojit Academy, Assam. The show artfully narrated the epic tale of Ramayana, captivating the audience with its immersive storytelling and exquisite puppetry craftsmanship. The audience's enthusiastic response attested to the enduring appeal of traditional narratives brought to life through the artistry of puppetry.





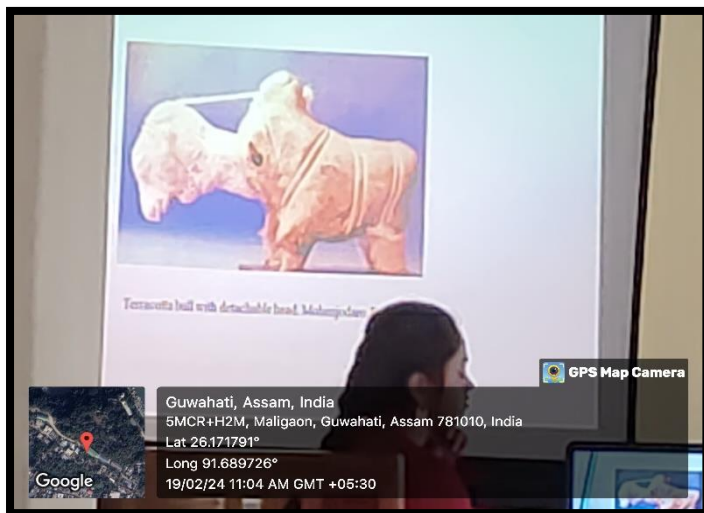
- **Puppet Dance:**

The culmination of the day's events was marked by an enchanting puppet dance show, where Miss Binita Devi and two other students from Surojit Academy mesmerized the audience with their skillful puppetry performance. The harmonious fusion of music, movement, and puppetry showcased the seamless integration of traditional art forms with contemporary expressions, leaving the audience spellbound.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS OF DAY 3 (19th February 2024; Monday):

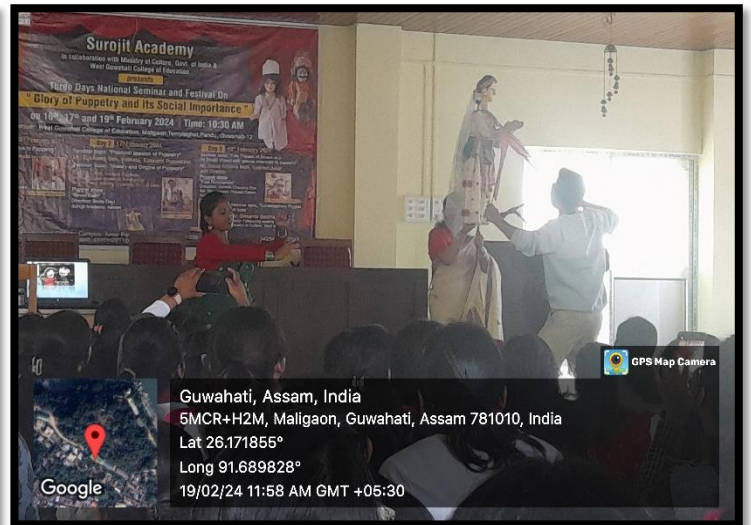
- **Seminar by Miss Binita Devi: "History and Origin of Puppetry"** "The day commenced with an enlightening seminar by the esteemed puppeteer, **Miss Binita Devi**, eminent



puppeteer and National Tagore Scholarship awardee from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India delving into the rich history and origin of puppetry. She elucidated on the four main types of puppets: **String, Rod, Glove, and Shadow puppets**, while also referencing their **presence in ancient texts such as the Bhagavad Gita, Kalika Puran and the works of Shankardeva**. Miss Binita also highlighted puppetry's role in **imparting knowledge and education from the ancient period**. She also showed us different **styles of puppets from different parts of India** through a **PowerPoint Presentation**. Her engaging narrative, coupled with a captivating **short story featuring puppets**, left the audience enthralled.

● Seminar by Mr. Simanta Sarma: "Contemporary Puppets of India"

Following Miss Binita Devi's session, **Mr. Simanta Sarma, senior fellowship awardee from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India** took the stage to shed light on contemporary puppets in India. He explored the **distinctions between traditional and contemporary puppets**, emphasizing their craftsmanship and **utility in modern education**. Attendees were treated to mesmerizing puppet acts, including a **puppet dance, snake and dolphin puppet movements, and a comedic puppet act**. Mr. Sarma's insights underscored the evolving significance of puppets in contemporary cultural expressions.



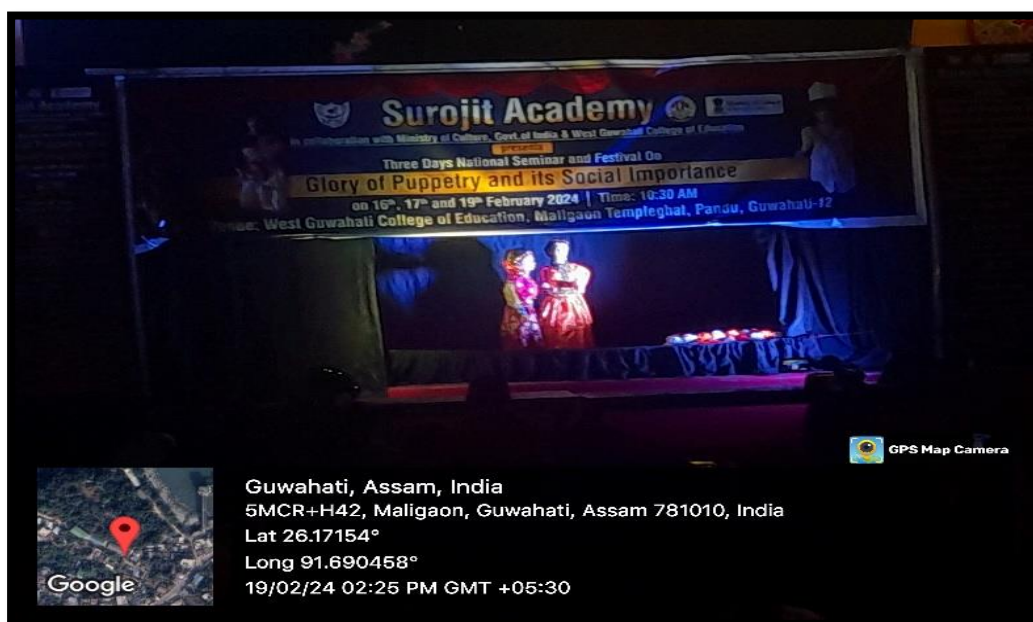
●Seminar by Mr. Dayal Krishna Nath: "Folk Theatre of Assam and its Social Impact with special reference to Puppetry"

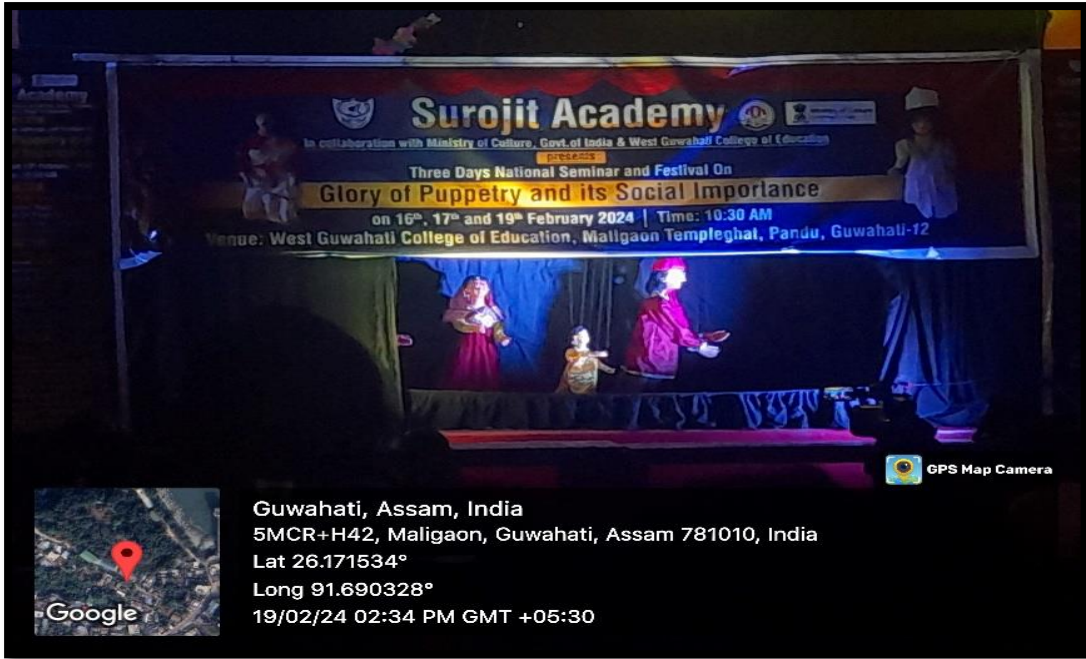
Renowned actor and director, **Mr. Dayal Krishna Nath**, eminent actor and director captivated the audience with his seminar on the **pivotal role of theatre in cultural preservation**, particularly focusing on **Assamese theatre**. He emphasized the transformative power of theatre in **upholding traditions and fostering cultural identity**. Attendees gained valuable insights into the diverse styles of Assamese theatre, reaffirming the profound **impact of performing arts in safeguarding cultural heritage**.



● Puppet Show: "Raja Harishchandra"

The culminating event of the day featured a captivating puppet show titled "**Raja Harishchandra**," directed by **Mr. Suresh Chandra Das** of **Ma Tripureshwari Puppet Dance, Tripura**. The performance, characterized by its **poignant sound design** and **stellar voice acting**, mesmerized the audience with its **dramatic portrayal**. The spellbinding puppetry brought the **timeless tale to life**, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.





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CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, the National Seminar and Festival on "Glory of Puppetry and its Social Importance" proved to be a resounding success, thanks to the collaborative efforts of Surojit Academy and West Guwahati College of Education. The event not only celebrated the rich heritage of puppetry but also underscored its enduring relevance in contemporary society. Through engaging speeches, enlightening seminars, and captivating performances, the seminar and festival served as a testament to the enduring legacy and profound impact of puppetry on our collective imagination and cultural consciousness.

