

CALL FOR PAPERS

Journal of Human Sciences Special Issue Theme: Redefining Kerala Reform Narratives

Concept Note

The mainstream reform narratives of Kerala, South India, often exclude the reform attempts that emerged from various religious, caste and tribal communities as they do not subscribe to the vocabularies of Western modernity. Appropriating the reform dialogues into the secular frameworks of nationalism, these narratives continued to misinterpret and misrepresent reformist endeavours of the subaltern and minority communities within the region. In recent years, attempts have been made to critically engage with the dominant discourses on Kerala reform, problematizing and deconstructing their linear narratives.

This Special issue of the Journal of Human Sciences proposes to investigate the conceptual and historical anomalies in the dominant narratives of Kerala reform by re-examining the concepts of “reform” and “modernity” within the parameters of region and community. It diverges from the con-

ventional celebratory or liberal critique of reformation by creating a space to reconceptualize reform as a colonial and epistemological endeavour, often justified through the rhetoric of modernity, rationality, and progress. Rather than proposing a return to premodernity or glorification of the past, this issue focuses on deliberations on reform beyond the binaries of tradition and modernity. We invite original scholarly articles contributing to the debates on Kerala reform narratives.

We welcome contributions that may include (but are not limited to):

- Colonialism and modernity in Kerala
- Alternative modernity/multiple modernity
- Reform, modernity, *navodhanam*
- Social reform movements

- Re-readings of Kerala *navodhanam*- subaltern, minority communities, religious communities, tribal communities
- Claiming and re-claiming of modernity articulations
- Vocabularies of reform and progress
- Indigenous critiques of colonial modernity and epistemic violence
- Gender, caste, and class in the discourse of reform
- Religion, reform, and modernity
- Methodological and epistemological reflections on decolonial approaches to history, anthropology, sociology, education, and related fields
- Reform and cultural transitions in Kerala
- Reform and literary and cultural analysis
- Developmentalism and tradition
- Reform and economic transformation
- Identities and reforms
- Political transitions and reforms in Kerala

Submission Guidelines:

- Abstracts of about 300-500 words in Times New Roman (12 point, single space), along with the presenter's designation, affiliation, and email id, mentioned at the end of the Abstract, may be sent to: editorjhs2020@kannuruniv.ac.in
- Submissions should follow *Chicago/APA* referencing style and include a short author bio.
- Contributions from early-career scholars from across disciplines (History, Anthropology, Sociology, Religious Studies, Philosophy, Cultural Studies, Literary Studies, etc.) are especially encouraged.

Important Dates:

- Submission of abstracts: 20 July 2025
- Notification of Acceptance: 30 July 2025
- Submission of full paper: 20 September 2025
- Expected Publication: November 2025

All submissions and queries can be directed to:

Subject line: *Special Issue Submission – Redefining Reform*

About the journal:

Journal of Human Sciences (JHS) is a multidisciplinary online journal of Kannur University devoted to the study of humans. JHS engages established and emerging scholars in extended fields of Anthropology, Sociology, Folklore, Gender studies, Economics, History, Geography, Environmental and Behavioral Sciences. Its objective is to serve as a platform for intellectual academic exchange on a wide range of economic, social, cultural, historical, environmental, and political issues that affect humans in multiple ways and are in turn affected by delicacies and patterns of humans' interferences.

Chief Editor:

Dr. B. Bindu

Professor

Department of Anthropology

Kannur University

For any enquiries, contact: shabeerthacholi@kannuruniv.ac.in, samadkadavaan@gmail.com