

# Review of: "Social-Cultural Anthropology in the Oldest Department of Anthropology in India: Writing History or the Suppression of Records?"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

## **Social-Cultural Anthropology in the Oldest Department of Anthropology in India: Writing History or the Suppression of Records?**

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The paper is an important contribution to Indian anthropology, particularly social and cultural anthropology. The author has illuminated that initial phase of teaching and research in the holistic science of humanity, i.e., anthropology in the Indian context, which began with the establishment of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Calcutta more than a hundred years ago, in 1920. The early teachers of the Department of Anthropology of the University of Calcutta, as explained by the author, had set high standards of empirical field work tradition, theoretical analysis in tune with the world anthropological theories of that period, and also explored contexts for applied anthropological research on issues like famine in Bengal in pre-Independent India. The author has rightly highlighted how the detailed empirical research of T.C. Das on the Purum Kuki (now known as Purum Chothe) tribe of Manipur has kindled sparks of academic interest in the anthropological circle worldwide. The paper, when published, will go a long way towards eradicating many misconceptions regarding the history and development of Indian anthropology and the contribution made by early teachers and scholars in shaping the holistic vision of anthropology.

I strongly recommend that the paper be published as early as possible.