

Hoineilhing Sitlhou

Dr. Hoineilhing Sitlhou completed her PhD (Sociology) from JNU, New Delhi. She is currently working as Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad. She is a recipient of the M.N. Srinivas Award, 2016. She has published three books 'Kuki Women' (Ed.), 2014, 'Deconstructing Colonial Ethnography: An analysis of Missionary Writings in North East India', 2017 and Identity and Marginality in Northeast India: Challenges for Social Science Research (Ed.), 2024. She has also contributed articles in Economic and Political Weekly, Indian Journal of Gender Studies, International Journal on Religion and Spirituality, Asian Ethnicity, Indian Anthropologist, Explorations (E-Journal of Indian Sociological Society), The Eastern Anthropologist, Sociological Bulletin, Journal of North East India Studies, Third Concept and chapters in edited books. She has written on social and gender issues for online news portal like The Wire, News Click, Times of India and the Quint.

Research Interests	Religion, Culture, Ethnicity and Race and North East India
Courses taught	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SL 101 Introduction to Study of Society 2011 to 2019 (July-Dec Sem) 2. SL 351 Roots of Social Protest 2012 (July-Dec Sem) 3. SL 353 Religion and Society 2012 till date (Jan-May Sem) 4. SS 545 The Sociology of Culture 2013 to 2016 (July-Dec Sem) 5. SL 528 Debating Ethnicity and Race 2020 till date (July-Dec Sem) 6. SL 221 Changing Indian Family 2023 (Aug-Dec Sem) with N. Annavaram 7. SL803 Academic Writing Course 2023 (Sept-Jan Sem) with C. Nagalakshmi 8. FN 202: Sociology in India: Contemporary Issues 2024 (Jan-May Sem)
Invited Lectures/ Resource Person/ Paper Presentation in Seminars/ Conference	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presented a paper 'Gender and Politics in Land Rights: The case of the North Eastern Tribes of India' in the Seminar <i>Re-imagining Gender and Politics: Transnational Feminist Interventions</i>, Organised by Frankfurt Research Centre for Postcolonial Studies, Goethe University Frankfurt on 27th/28th November 2010. 2. Presented a paper 'Colonialism and Textualisation of Cultures: A Critical Analysis of Christian Missionary Writings in India' at the <i>International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society</i>, Organised by Common Ground and University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA on 15-17th February 2011. 3. Presented a paper 'Agrarian Society in Transition: The Case of the Kukis of Manipur' at the <i>37th All India Sociological Conference (The Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Indian Sociological Society)</i>, JNU, New Delhi on 11th -13th December, 2011.

4. Culture and Ecology in the Hills of North East India in the conference *ASA 12: Arts and Aesthetic in a Globalising World*, organized by Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth held in JNU, New Delhi from 3rd April to 6th April, 2012.
5. Presented a paper 'Colonialism, Evangelism and Print Culture in Mizoram' in the Seminar *Orality and Folk Literature in the Age of Print Culture: Contemporary Challenges and Prospects*, Pachhunga University College, Aizawl (Mizoram) from 29th to 31st October, 2012.
6. Presented a paper 'Forest Conservation and Community Land Rights in Manipur' in the Seminar *State and Society in North East India* organized by North East India Studies Programme, JNU (New Delhi) from 26-28 February, 2014.
7. Invited lecture 'Identifying areas for engagement with researchers and activists to work on customary laws related concerns' *4th National Conference, Women in Governance*, Constitution Club, New Delhi, India on march from 26th to 27th, 2014.
8. Presented a paper 'Symbolism of Bride wealth and gift-giving in Marriage system of the Kukis' *RC 2 Family, Kinship and Marriage at the 42nd All India Sociological Conference*, The Indian Sociological Society at Tejpur University, Assam between 27th to 30th December, 2016.
9. Invited lecture on 'Narrative Analysis' at the *Ten-Day Research Methodology Course (RMC) for Research Scholars* from 22nd to 31st March, 2017, organised by Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad.
10. Presented a paper 'Spatialising the Missionary Encounter: The Interaction between Missionary Work and Space in Colonial Settings' at the National Seminar on *Ethnography, Historiography and North East India*, organized by Department of History, Manipur University in collaboration with the Asiatic Society, Kolkata on 26-27th October, 2017.
11. Presented a paper 'The Shifting 'Stages' of Performance: A Study of 'Chavang Kut' festival in Manipur' at the Seminar on *Revisiting the Hill-Valley connection in North-East India*, Organised by Aryabhata College, University of Delhi and North-East Centre at JNU, New Delhi on 5th and 6th of January, 2018.
12. Presented a paper 'Diverging Discourses and Representations of State Violence due to AFSPA in Manipur' at the *International Conference on Materiality and Visuality in North East India*, Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research, held at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi on 28th February to 1st March, 2019.
13. Delivered a keynote address at the *Two days National Seminar on Social Change and Development in India: Issues and Dynamics* organised by Research, Innovations and Extension Cell, IQAC on 11th and 12th February, 2021 (online), organised by Government Aizawl College, Aizawl.

14. Invited lecture on 'Food Habits, Fundamentalism and Implications for the Northeast, particularly Manipur' at the *National Webinar on Fundamentalism, Secularism and Conflicts in India* organised by North Eastern Social Research Centre (Guwahati) on February 19th and 20th, 2021 (online).
15. Presented a paper 'Performing Sacred Conducts in Secular Context: The influence of Christianity in the Anti-Tribal Bills Protest in Manipur' in the session *Constitution, Citizenship and Minorities: Mapping Seventy Years of Indian Republic*, In the 46th All India Sociological Conference, Department of Sociology, University of Mumbai on 8-10th, Dec, 2021.
16. Invited lecture on 'Tribal Land Rights and the Women: A Gender Perspectives' in the Seminar on *Land Use and Land Management Policy in the Hills of Manipur: A Reformist Perspectives* organised by Kuki Research Forum on 28th and 29th December, Thangkhanphai, Kangpokpi District, Manipur.
17. Presented a paper, 'The power of a praying woman: Religion and Women in Zones of Conflict' at the *Two-day National Seminar (virtual mode) on Gender, Society and Development in the Context of North East India*, 27th and 28th March (2023), Department of Sociology, NEHU, Shillong.
18. Invited speaker at the *50th Anniversary of the Progressive Organisation of Women*, Sundarayya Vignan Bhavan (Bhagligampalli), Hyderabad on August 19th, 2023. The paper presented was titled: Role of Disinformation in Gender-based violence in Manipur.
19. Presented a paper titled 'Normalizing Sexual Violence and the Body-Politic of the Raped/Assaulted Women' in the *Workshop 'Conceptualizing Critical Studies on India's Northeast'* on 12th April, 2025, organised by IIIT Delhi (Online).
20. Presented a paper (with N. Annavaram) titled 'Meanings and Hierarchies in Foodways: An analysis on the food culture of the Chin-Kuki-Mizo' at the *International seminar on Mizo Foodways: Cultural Traditions, Societal Transformations, and Political Dimensions Across Time* on 6th May, 2025 organised by Tribal Research Institute, Art and Culture Department, Government of Mizoram in collaboration with Department of History, Pacchung University College (Online).
21. Presented a paper titled 'The "Silencing" and "Normalizing" of Sexual Violence' in the three-day national seminar on *'Exploring Human Connections: Culture, Identity and Society in a Changing World'* organised by IQAC, Lamka College on 14th to 16th May (Online).
22. Delivered a lecture 'Narrative Analysis as a Method' in the Research Methodology Course for PhD Students in Social Science, on 5th March, 2025.
23. Delivered a lecture 'Gendered Violence in Conflict Zones' on the 7th August, 2025, in the Summer Course on *'Gender and Society in Contemporary India'* organised by the Office for International Affairs (OIA), University of Hyderabad.

	<p>24. Invited as a speaker on the event titled 'Everyday Practices and Meanings of Food in India: An Academic Writing Workshop' organised in collaboration between AD Hoc Group 03—<i>Food, Culture and Society of the Indian Sociological Society (ISS)</i> and Bihun collective, on 15th August, 2025. (online)</p>
<p>Publications (Articles in Journals, Newspaper and Book Chapters)</p>	<p>JOURNALS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2009. "Straying beyond conquest and emancipation: Exploring the faultlines of Missionary education in North East India" <i>Indian Anthropologist</i>, 39 (1&2): 65-84. 2. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2012. "Colonialism and Textualisation of Cultures: A Critical Analysis of Christian Missionary Writings in India", <i>The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society</i>, 1 (4):11-23. 3. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2012. Stigma and Identity Construction of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Manipur, <i>Journal of North East India Studies</i>, 2 (1): 49-58. 4. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2015. "Patriarchal bargains and paradoxical emancipation: Issues in the politics of land rights of Kuki women" in <i>Indian Journal of gender Studies</i>, 22(1): 1-26. 5. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2015. "Confronting the State: Land Rights Discourse in the Hills of Manipur", in <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i> (Special Article Section), L (30): 70-77. 6. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing and Salah Punathil. 2017. "Racial Discrimination and Violence against Northerners and Bezbaruah Committee Report, 2014 (Research in Progress)", <i>Explorations, ISS e-journal</i>, 1(1): 91-102. 7. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2018. "Identity, Contestation and Ethnic Revivalism among Nepalis in Darjeeling" co-authored with Sangay Tamang, in <i>Economic and Political Weekly (Perspective Section)</i>, 53 (1): 33-39. 8. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2018. "The shifting 'stages' of performance: A study of 'Chavang Kut' festival in Manipur," <i>Asian Ethnicity</i>, 19 (4): 468-488, DOI: 10.1080/14631369.2018.1476834. 9. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2018. "Symbolism of Bride Wealth and Gift-giving in Marriage System of the Kukis", in <i>Indian Anthropologist</i>, 48 (1): 31-46. 10. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2020. "Appraising Extra-Judicial Killings (EJKs) in Manipur", <i>Third Concept</i>, 34 (403): 52-55. 11. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2020. "Food, Culture and Identity in North East India: Prospects for Social Science Research", <i>Explorations, ISS E-Journal</i>, 4 (2): 49-66. 12. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2020. "Sacred Ecology and Ritual Practices of the Thadou Kukis of Manipur", <i>The Eastern Anthropologist</i>, 73 (3-4): 445-462. 13. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2022. "State Violence and Collective Victimhood in a Militarised State. <i>Sociological Bulletin</i>", 71(2): 255-271.

14. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2022. "Agro-Economy in the Hills of Manipur: An Interplay of Peasants, Middlemen and Markets", *Journal of North East India Studies*. 12 (2):70-85 (July-Dec).
15. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing, 2025. "Negotiating "Home" and "Belongingness": A Narrative Approach to Displacement and Migrants' Mobility", *Sociological Bulletin*, (online first July 9th 2025).
16. Tiplut Nongbri in conversation with Hoineilhing Sitlhou, *Explorations*, Vol. 9 (1), pp. 5-25, April 2025.

CHAPTERS IN AN EDITED BOOK

1. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2011. "Continuity and Change: The Setting of a Customary Court amongst the Kukis" in Ngamkhohao Haokip and Michael Lunminthang Haokip (Ed.) *Kuki Society: Past, Present and Future*, New Delhi: Maxford Books.
2. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2015. "Religion and death: The concept of death and the afterlife among the Mizos" in Malsawmdawngliana et al (Ed.) *Orality and Folk Literature in the Age of Print Culture: India's Northeast Experience*. Guwahati: Scientific Book Centre.
3. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2016. "Forest Conservation and Community Land Rights in Manipur" in Komol Singha and M. Amarjeet Singh (Ed.), *Identity, Contestation and Development in Northeast India*. New Delhi: Routledge.
4. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2018. "Changing face of Death in Northeast India", In Jyoti Prasad Saikia and Partha Pratim Borah (Ed.), *Sociology of Northeast India: Empirical Reality and Disciplinary Practice*, New Delhi/ Gauhati: DVS Publishers, pp. 102-119.
5. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2019. "Her-Story in History: Women's Roles and Participation in the Anglo-Kuki War", in Jangkhomang Guite and Thongkholal Haokip (Ed.), *The Anglo-Kuki War, 1917-1919: A Frontier Uprising against Imperialism during World War I*, London and New York: Routledge.
6. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing and Ruth Nengneilhing. 2020. "Spatialising the Missionary Encounter: Missionary Work and Space in the Aftermath of the Anglo-Kuki War," in Ngamjahao Kipgen and Doungul Letkhojam Haokip (Ed.). *Against the Empire: Polity, Economy and Culture during the Anglo-Kuki War, 1917-1919*. India: Routledge.
7. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing (with Ruth Nengneilhing). 2021. "Blockades and the three bills in Manipur", in Meena Tula and Kusumika Ghosh (Ed.). *Women and Peacebuilding: Perspectives from the Field*, Guwahati: North Eastern Social Research Centre.
8. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing (with Salah Punathil). 2023. "Northeastern Migrants in Delhi: Racial Discrimination, Violence and State Response" in Hoineilhing Sitlhou (Ed.)

Identity and Marginality in Northeast India: Challenges for Social Science Research, Orient Black Swan: New Delhi.

9. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2024. Manipur's Daughters? Or Victims of Conflict, Targets of Politics. In the edited book *Our Stories, Our Struggles: Violence and the Lives of Women* by Mitali Chakravarty and Ratnottama Sengupta. New Delhi: Speaking Tigers

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

1. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing and Zamminlien. 2020 (7th June). "How a decades-long land feud triggered arson attacks in a Manipur village", *The Wire*, <https://thewire.in/rights/chassad-sampui-manipur>.
2. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2021 (5th August). 'Frame the Victim': Another 'Extra-Judicial' Killing in Manipur Reopens Talk on AFSPA, *The Wire*, <https://thewire.in/rights/frame-the-victim-veil-the-crime-another-extra-judicial-killing-in-manipur-reopens-talk-on-afspa>.
3. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2023 (1st June). 'How Fake News Created Pretexts to Lynch Kuki-Zo Women in Manipur', *Newslick*, <https://www.newslick.in/how-fake-news-created-pretexts-lynch-kuki-zo-women-manipur>.
4. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2023 (15th June). 'Manipur Violence: Why the Army must stay on', *Times of India*, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-edit-page/manipur-violence-why-the-army-must-stay-on/>
5. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2023 (22nd July). Why & How Mobs are targetting women. *Times of India*, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-edit-page/why-how-mobs-are-targeting-women/>
6. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2023 (21st Dec). Manipur Mass Burial: Can the Govt Ensure the Dead get their rightful dignity? *The Quint*. <https://www.thequint.com/opinion/manipur-violence-mass-burial-churachandpur-district-ethnic-clashes-meiteis-kukis-supreme-court-order>
7. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2025 (11th March). Biren's Shadow, Biren's Stories' in *Times of India*. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/toi-edit-page/birens-shadow-birens-stories/>

REPRINT OF PUBLICATIONS

1. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2023. 'Forest conservation and community land rights in Manipur,' in Sumi Krishna (Ed.), *Routledge Readings on Security and Governance in Northeastern India: Resource Conflicts, Militarisation and Development Challenges*, Routledge India. <https://www.routledge.com/Routledge-Readings-on-Security-and-Governance-in-Northeastern-India/Resource/Krishna/p/book/9781032270241>

	<p>2. Sitlhou, Hoineilhing. 2023. 'Straying Beyond Conquest and Emancipation: Exploring the fault lines of Missionary Education in North East India,' in Sajal Nag and M. Satish Kumar (Ed.), <i>Encounter and Interventions: Christian Missionaries in Colonial India</i>, Manohar Publishers.</p> <p>https://www.routledge.com/Encounter-and-Interventions-Christian-Missionaries-in-Colonial-North-East/Nag-Kumar/p/book/9781032545868.</p>
Book Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kuki Women (Ed.). 2014. Synergy Books India. New Delhi • Deconstructing Colonial Ethnography: An Analysis of Missionary Writings on North East India. 2017. Ruby Press. New Delhi. • Identity and Marginality in Northeast India: Challenges for Social Science Research. 2023. Orient BlackSwan. New Delhi.
Courses designed	SL 528: Debating Ethnicity and Race
Seminar organised	Organised a National Seminar, 'Identity and Marginality in North East India: Challenges for Social Science Research' on 16th and 17th January, 2017, Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad and sponsored by UGC-SAP and ICSSR.
Research Projects (Major) Completed & Ongoing	<p>1) Completed a research project 'Archiving Marginalities in North East India' funded by UGC-UPE PHASE II, University of Hyderabad. Sanctioned amount was Rs.9,64,000/- for a period of 1 and half year, 2015-2017 (PI along with Salah P and C. Nagalakshmi).</p> <p>2) Completed a research project 'Towards an enabling Historiography of Performative and Embodied Practices: Case Studies from Khasi, Kodava, Mizo, Chakhesang and Thadou' funded by UGC-UPE Phase II, University of Hyderabad. Sanctioned amount was Rs. 9, 63,000/- for a period of 1 and half year, 2015-2017 (PI along with Venusa Tinyi, P. Thirumal, Sowmya Dechamma, Gracious Mary Temsen).</p> <p>3) Completed a research project 'Strengthening SC Women Participation in Economic, Social and Civic Activities,' funded by IOE Directorate, University of Hyderabad. Sanctioned amount is Rs.32,50,000/- for a period of 2 years duration (01-12-2021 to 31-03-2024). (Co-PI along with Prof. P. Thirumal, Prof. K. Laxminarayana, Dr. Gummadi Sridevi).</p> <p>4) Ongoing research project 'Tracing the History, Culture and Geography of Food amongst the Scheduled Tribes of Manipur' under the ICSSR <i>Special Call for the Studies on Culture, History and Geography of the Scheduled Tribes of India</i>. Budget sanctioned is 12,00,000/- (12 lakhs) for a period of 24 months (1st Sept, 2023 to 1st Sept, 2025) (Co-PI N. Annavaram).</p>
Awards and Distinctions	Awarded the Professor M.N. Srinivas Memorial Prize 2016 at the 42nd All-India Sociological Conference in Tejpur, Assam held from 27th to 30th December, 2016.

	External Expert for the Board of Studies (BOS), Department of Sociology, ICFAI University, Mizoram.
Administrative Responsibilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Warden (Ladies Hostel 7 & 8) UOH 2013-2016 2. Appointed as coordinator for conducting entrance examinations 2014-15 at Centre Imphal, 1 to 7th February, 2014, UOH. 3. Appointed observer and liaise during counselling/ admission of academic year 2014-15 in 2014, UOH. 4. Member of the School Level Grievance Committee (as on 7th August, 2017), 2017-2018, UOH. 5. Member of admission committee for the Academic Year 2019-20 for College of Integrated Studies (ST Representatives), 2019-2020, UOH.
Research Guidance	<p>PHD STUDENTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mahesh Surnapaka (Mining Development and Impact on Communities: A Study of the Koyas of Telangana) (Thesis Awarded, 2020) 2. Kalla Naga Aditya (Access of Healthcare among the Tribals of Odisha: A Study of Koraput District) (PhD in progress) 3. Rajiandai Bahriam (Conservation Politics in Manipur: A Study of Western Hills of Manipur) (Thesis Submitted, 2025) 4. Baidehi Das, Negotiating Homeland, Belonging and Citizenship in an Indo-Bangladesh Borderland: An Ethnographic Study (Thesis Submitted, 2025). 5. Fathima Noora (The Re-Imagining of the Past: A Sociological Perspective on the Institution of Heritage Sites in Hyderabad) (PhD in progress) 6. Jems Bag (Development and Community Rehabilitation: A Study of Bauxite mining in South Odisha) (PhD in Progress) 7. Vennela Mocherla (Prosperity Gospel and Neo-Liberal Morality: A Sociological Study of King's Temple Church in Hyderabad) (PhD in Progress) <p>MPHIL STUDENTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sangay Tamang (Ethnic Revivalism and the quest for Identity: Contextualizing Identity formation among the Gorkhas of Darjeeling Hills, West Bengal) (Awarded, 2016) 2. Murchana Kaushik (Sub nationalism and the State: The case of ULFA, Assam) (Awarded, 2016) 3. Manalisa Sarmah (Revival of Oral History through theatre: A Study of Badungduppa Theatre in the Goalpara District of Assam) (Awarded, 2019) 4. Anup Das (Issues of Identity and Autonomy: A Sociological Study of Bodoland Movement in Assam) (Awarded, 2019) 5. Tingnunnem Tuboi (Protest against protection of Manipur People's Bill (2015): A Study of Women's Participation) (Awarded, 2022)

6. Fathima Noora (Curating a Tribal Museum: A Study of Nehru Centenary Tribal Museum, Hyderabad) (Awarded, 2022)

MASTER OF ARTS STUDENTS

1. Anju VN (Challenging Institutionalized and Structured Gender Politics: A Feminist Critique of the Movie Thappad) (Awarded, 2021)
2. Obangtila (Religious Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Study of the Baptist church in Nagaland) (Awarded, 2021)
3. P. Nikhil Kumar (Asserting ethnic identity through language: A case study of Telangana dialect during Telangana movement) (Awarded, 2023)
4. Haris Lalpekhlua, The Taste of Home: Linking Identity and Culture Through Food – The Experience of the Mizo Community in Hyderabad (Submitted 2025).
5. Abu Sufian Mondal, Religion and Social Mobility: A Study of Muslim Mission Schools in West Bengal (Submitted 2025).
6. Malsawmdawngzela, From Puan to Pantsuit: Colonialism, Masculinity and the Gendering of Clothing in Mizoram (Submitted 2025).

MENTORING OF MA INTERNSHIP STUDENTS

From Policy to Practice of Grassroots Public Health Delivery: A Sociological Study of Asha Workers by Shaili Singh, M.A. 3rd Semester, Dept. of Sociology, 2025.

Social and Emotional Learning of Children through Art, Craft and Storytelling (Internship Report for the Internship with Thoughts to Action: A Youth-led Social Impact Organisation) by Kaku Lahon, M.A. 3rd Semester, Dept. of Sociology, 2025.

Empowerment of Rural Women by Mamta Jeevika Mahila Gram Sangathan (JEEViKA) in Bihar: A Sociological Study by Aprajita Kumari, M.A. 3rd Semester, Dept. of Sociology, 2025.

Tracing the History of Muslim Politics in Assam by Mayuraksha Dey, M.A. 3rd Semester, Dept. of Sociology, 2025.

Sanitation and Waste Management Practices under GHMC, Serilingampally by Rajesh K., M.A. 3rd Semester, Dept. of Sociology, 2025.

Sincerely,

Dr. Hoineilhing Sitlhou