

Sociological Research Colloquium

9 October, 2026 | Friday | 3:00 pm
M N Srinivas Seminar Room

The Home and the War: The Mixed-Family in Manipur



**Soibam
Haripriya**

ABSTRACT

One of the fallouts of the ongoing violence in Manipur, described colloquially as “Lan” (War), is the mixed family. Describing what ethnicity is “mixed” in the mixed family is fraught with problems of defining the communities involved in the “mixed-ness”. Such family formation, though common in practice, remains under-researched. Taking the Lan/War as the beginning of my inquiry, I explore what home, family, and identity mean for mixed families who have had to lose homes, live apart, and/or continue to hold on to multiple identities within the home and the self during polarised times. Mobilisations centred on ethnic purity, such as oath-taking ceremonies wherein young women pledge to marry within (the boundaries of the community), bring into motion what Wouters termed as “ethnicisation of identities”. The ways in which family, kin (and enemies) are categorised in this ongoing conflict confront the limits of family, friendship, and kinship, even as families continue to hope for reunion and a return home.

Soibam Haripriya is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Sciences and Humanities at Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi, and a Faculty Member of the Ethnography Lab. She was a Fulbright-Nehru Postdoctoral Fellow at the South Asia Institute, University of Texas at Austin, 2022-2023. She was an FWO Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Conflict and Development Studies, Ghent University, Belgium, 2019-2021, and a Fellow at the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, 2018-2019. Zubaan, New Delhi, published her (edited) book *Homeward* (2022). Her key areas of interest are Gender, Violence, Northeast India, and Poetry and/in Ethnography. Her recent work examines viral videos and trolling on social media and explores the intersection of Gender, New Media, and Digital Ethnography.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
The Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi