

# **Call for Papers: Witchcraft, Superstition, and Rationality: Examining Harmful Practices, Legislation, and Cultural Beliefs in India**

**Publisher: Cambridge Scholars**

**Submission Deadline for Abstracts: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024**  
**Submission Deadline for Full Papers: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024**

The editors invite scholars, researchers, and practitioners to submit papers for an upcoming publication titled "Witchcraft, Superstition, and Rationality: Examining Harmful Practices, Legislation, and Cultural Beliefs in India." This volume aims to explore the multifaceted dimensions of witchcraft and superstition in India, analysing their historical roots, societal impacts, legislative responses, and efforts to foster rational thinking.

## **Scope of the Volume**

This publication will provide a comprehensive examination of witchcraft and superstition in the Indian context, with a focus on:

- Historical backgrounds and cultural beliefs.
- Societal impacts and the intersection with gender and marginalised groups.
- Legislative measures and their effectiveness.
- Initiatives promoting rational thinking and combating harmful superstitions.

## **Suggested Themes and Topics**

We welcome submissions on a broad range of topics, including but not limited to:

### **I. Introduction**

- Overview of Witchcraft and Superstition in India
- Definition and Scope
- Historical Context and Evolution
- Contemporary Relevance and Case Studies

### **II. Historical Perspectives**

- Colonial and Post-Colonial Narratives
  - Witchcraft Accusations during Colonial Rule
  - Post-Colonial Legal and Social Developments
  - Comparative Analysis with Global Practices
- Indigenous Beliefs and Practices
  - Cultural Beliefs Rooted in Local Traditions
  - Influence of Indigenous Practices on Modern Superstitions
  - Interplay between Indigenous Knowledge and Rationality

### **III. Societal Impacts**

- Gender Dynamics and Witchcraft Accusations
  - Women as Primary Targets

- Intersectionality: Gender, Caste, and Socio-Economic Status
- Impact on Marginalised Communities
  - Caste-Based Superstitions and Discrimination
  - Case Studies and Personal Narratives
- Psychological and Social Consequences
  - Trauma and Mental Health Issues
  - Community and Family Dynamics

#### IV. Legislative Measures

- Analysis of Anti-Superstition and Witchcraft Laws
  - Historical Development of Legislation
  - Effectiveness and Enforcement Challenges
- Case Studies of Legal Interventions
  - Success Stories and Persistent Gaps
  - Role of Civil Society and NGOs

#### V. Promoting Rationality

- Educational Initiatives
  - Curriculum Development and Public Awareness Campaigns
  - Role of Educational Institutions and Media
- Advocacy and Activism
  - Grassroots Movements and Key Figures
  - Strategies for Combating Superstitions
- International Perspectives and Best Practices
  - Comparative Analysis with Other Countries
  - Lessons Learned and Adaptable Strategies

#### Submission Guidelines

- **Abstracts:** Submit an abstract of 300-500 words outlining the proposed paper, including its main arguments, methodology, and contribution to the field.
- **Full Papers:** Upon acceptance of abstracts, full papers should be 6,000-8,000 words, including references and footnotes, adhering to the Chicago Manual of Style.
- **Formatting:** Manuscripts should be double-spaced, using a standard font (e.g., Times New Roman, 12-point), and submitted as a Word document.
- **Submission:** Via email to [samantha.spence@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:samantha.spence@staffs.ac.uk)
- **Deadline:** Abstracts due by 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024; full papers due by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

#### Contact Information

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We look forward to your contributions to this important and timely volume.