

## Africa-Asia: A New Axis of Knowledge 3 Conference-Festival

Roundtable Panel By:



Humanities Across Borders program

**Roundtable title:**

**“Indigo Dialogues”**

**(Knowledge Cluster 1)**

**Date:** 12 June 2025

**Time:** 14:00 to 15:45 GMT

**Location:** LNB-29B

### **Overarching Questions**

1. What was it that led you to work on indigo as a source of community-based knowledge at your respective educational institutions?
2. To start with, what is the word for “indigo” in your country? Does it refer to the plant or the colour or both?
3. What does the indigo plant look like? What are the agro-ecological conditions in which it is cultivated?
4. Could you shed some light on the extraction and dyeing processes with reference to relations of production, including gender?
5. Who are the different stakeholders of indigo in your country, historically and now? Are their regional connections beyond national borders?
6. What are the challenges to achieving your original objectives as stated in the Humanities Across Borders Project you first defined around indigo?

### **Subtopics For Discussion**

By attending to the diverse human, nature, and technology articulations in the different sites of production of indigo, we ask the roundtable participants and audience to consider indigo along the following sites of knowledge and meaning:

1. the ecological (land, water, climate) and economic (class & gender) context of cultivation of the plant;
2. the extraction of the dye, the infrastructure of built structures, tools, techniques, recipes, linguistic markers, and skills involved;
3. its distribution locally, nationally and internationally (the different channels and stakeholders)
4. myriad uses (both value and meaning – identity, power, status, religious, health & well-being, art, craft, fashion etc.)
5. Literary production – stories, myths, songs, proverbs associated with the plant and dye.