

LAAJVERD VISITING SCHOOL

A TEN DAY CROSS-CURRICULAR & INTERDISCIPLINARY INTENSIVE WITHIN A REGIONAL LANDSCAPE

SIMULATING TIR'THA

Neelum District in Kashmir has a beautiful valley that not only attracts tourists but also houses indigenous settlements along with ancient ruins. This valley is located at the Line of control (LOC) and is also divided by it. There are increased pressures on the natural environment of this area due to tourism, excessive deforestation as well as dependency of livelihoods. Influx of foreigners also affects the indigenous cultural repository. The cultural archive is embedded in the local practices, folklore traditions and customs for which the school will work closely with the indigenous people. Laajverd Visiting School aims to engage with the local *worldview* and investigate creative propositions for conserving indigenous culture, suggest alternate livelihoods and promote methods of conserving the environment focusing on perma-culture, audio-visual cultural uplifting, eco-tourism and environmental security among other issues. Workshops will be conducted on the following,

Built Environment | Audio Visual Cultures
Ecotourism | Creative Research methods
Environmental Security

25th July – 05th August 2015
Neelum Valley: Shardah & Aran Kel

Eligibility

Young Faculty, young researchers and students in their 4th yr of Bachelor Study or above in Art, Architecture, Management, Social Science and related disciplines are encouraged to apply.

Fee: Rs 40,000/-

Covers travel to & from Islamabad - Neelum Valley + course fee + accomodation + food], concessions maybe considered for students.

Apply by 10th June 2015, with a 300 words motivational statement and resume to laajverd@gmail.com. Please also indicate your area of interest. Selected candidates will be informed by the **25th of June 2015**.

There is a rising need to revisit our approach to academia that contributes to critical awareness and sound co-shaping of our shared environment. Encouraging interdisciplinary academic discourse, Laajverd has initiated its visiting school that responds to conditions of 'crises'. Crises are instants of shifting modalities – they mark points of change in a multilayered program. It is a specific period of time that is crucial in several ways of identification and determination of a system that is being regulated in an escalated force field. Combined systems of humans and nature are convoluted in terms of how they anticipate and respond to disturbed environments: disasters and conflict zones. The capacity to deal with the types of uncertainties and surprises requires innovative approaches, creative combinations of strategies, and the ability to adapt to the changing environment.

How does the creative and developmental faculty respond actively to shifting environments? This intensive invites the creative and developmental faculty, students and field experts to join this visiting school in chalking out a more effective academic and intervention methodology.

The Visiting School will also host local food, culture and communal living for interactive dialogue and learning. It also includes excursions around the natural habitat. Evenings will be filled with discussions, games and communal cooking.

