



Cultural Studies and Interdisciplinary Humanities: Convergences, Interventions and Possibilities

22-23 November 2021

Two Day National Conference (Online)

Organized by:

**School of Languages and Literature
Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University
Katra-182320, UT of J&K**

Concept Note:

The unnerving exigencies of the day in terms of the pandemic, ecological crisis, neoliberal subjectivities call for reflective actualisation of the unrealised. Both at the level of theory and praxis, literature departments through the prism of cultural studies and interdisciplinary humanities have constantly engaged with the crisis of the times through the competing notions of textuality, materiality, subjectivity and identity forging through and beyond non/in/trans/meta/post paradigms. It invites a series of questions “In-discipline”, where, a hyphenated entry as KC Baral puts it is not an “antonym to discipline”, but, an interventionist stance towards traditional humanities discipline to test “internal to and at the same time exceeds the discipline” and the limits of the “arche” or foundation as Derrida contends.

Questions linger on as to how can one engage with the everyday sociality of race, class, gender, caste, ethnicity, religion and public intersectionality

within the “post-method” and “post-tradition” juncture? The task at hand is to critically revisit these identity grids through significant ‘turns’ in critical theory like, digital turn, spatial turn, pictorial turn, affective turn, sensorial turn and so on offering alternative reflective possibilities. Envisaging the critical interface of ‘literary’ with health humanities, geo humanities, digital humanities, environmental humanities, legal humanities, humanities in science and technology studies, the mission is to evaluate anew the limitation of the classical framework of critique based on duality, the universalist and supremacist ethos of ‘human’ embodiment, utterances and artefacts. The cross-disciplinary inquiry seeks an academic “assemblage” that flows across discipline and boundaries. Most significantly, incorporating discursive mode of lived and textual cultures, it strives to widen the idea of critique itself and reboot the hermeneutics of “thick description”.

Given the broad theme of the conference, papers can be formulated around the following themes but are not restricted to:

- Thinking Culture through New Materialism
- Critical Posthumanities
- Gender, Violence and Neoliberal Subjectivity
- Ecology and Animal and Plant Studies
- Geo Humanities
- Bioethics and Biopolitics
- Popular Culture
- Cultural Imaginary of Disease and Pathology
- Urban Scapes
- Films , Visual Culture and Digital Public Sphere
- Speculative Cultural Studies

Keynote Speaker



Prof. Akshaya Kumar

Prof. Akshaya Kumar is currently a Professor and Chairperson, Department of English and Cultural Studies, Panjab University Chandigarh. He is a renowned scholar and a critic and has extensively published in journals like South Asian Review. Major books to his credit include, *Poetry, Politics and Culture: Indian Texts and Contexts* (Routledge: Delhi, New York and London, 2009), co-edited volume *Cultural Studies in India: Essays on History, Politics & Literature*, (Routledge: New Delhi, New York and London, 2016) and has been recently commissioned by Orient Blackswan for A Critical History of Punjabi Literature. His areas of academic interest include Comparative Indian Literature, Translation Studies and Cultural Studies.

Distinguished Speakers



Prof. Bijoy Boruah

Prof. Bijoy Boruah is presently serving as Professor of Philosophy at IIT Ropar. He retired as a Professor from Indian Institute of Technology Delhi in 2018. He was awarded Senior Fulbright Post-doctoral Fellowship and worked in the Department of Philosophy, University of Texas at Austin, Texas, USA.



Dr. Priyanka Tripathi

Priyanka Tripathi is an Associate Professor of English, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Patna. She has published extensively with *Indian Literature*, *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*, *Postcolonial Studies*, *Economic and Political Weekly* amongst others. She is also Book Reviews Editor for *Rupkatha Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities* and works in the area of Gender Studies, South Asian Fiction, GeoHumanities and Graphic Novels.



Dr. Nirmala Menon

Dr. Nirmala Menon leads the Digital Humanities and Publishing Research Group at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indore, India. She is an Associate Professor in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), Discipline of English, IIT Indore. She is the author of *Migrant Identities of Creole Cosmopolitans: Transcultural Narratives of Contemporary Postcoloniality* (Peter Lang Publishing, Germany, 2014) and *Remapping the Postcolonial Canon: Remap, Reimagine, Retranslate* (Palgrave Macmillan, UK 2017).



Dr. Manoj NY

Dr. Manoj NY is skilled in Anthropology, Philosophy, and Social Sciences with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) focused on Anthropology of Objects & Philosophy of Objects from Manipal Centre for Philosophy and Humanities. He is now into the domain of Philosophy of Technology, Artificial Intelligence and Postmedia Studies. He is the General Secretary, Deleuze and Guattari Studies in India Collective. He is Visiting Fellow, Global Centre for Technology in Humanities at Kyung Hee University, South Korea.



Dr. Raj Thakur

Dr. Raj Thakur is an Assistant Professor, Department of English, Central University of Jammu. He has extensively worked on the cultural economy of leisure and cricket in India and has published in the journals like *South Asian Popular Culture*, (Routledge, 2021), contributed to the volume on *Cultural Studies in India: Essays on History, Politics & Literature*, (Routledge: New Delhi, New York and London, 2016). His area of academic interest includes cultural studies, critical theory, sports studies, popular culture and new materialistic aesthetics.

Submission Guidelines:

We invite abstracts from scholars belonging to various disciplines and backgrounds. Abstracts of around 400 words and bio note with contact details may be sent to **conferencesoll@smvdu.ac.in** by 10 October 2021.

Selected contributions maybe considered for publication in an edited book or journal.

Important Dates:

Submission of abstracts: 10 October 2021

Intimation of Selected abstracts: 20 October 2021

Submission of full paper (3000-5000 words): 10 November 2021

Registration fee:

For Research scholars: Rs 500/-

For Faculty members/Others: Rs 1000/-

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