



On the Solemn Occasion of the Observance of Platinum Jubilee
International Seminar

on

**LITERATURE, CULTURE AND SOCIETY:
INTERRELATIONS AND THE SEARCH FOR IDENTITY**

14th & 15th February 2020

Sponsored and Funded by

MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD INSTITUTE OF ASIAN STUDIES (MAKAIAS)
(An Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)

Organized by

Department of Bengali, Department of English, Department of History
Berhampore Girls' College

In Collaboration with

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS)
IB 166, Sector III, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700106

&

Department of Bengali, Department of English, Department of History
University of Kalyani
Kalyani, Nadia
West Bengal, India

Venue

BERHAMPORE GIRLS' COLLEGE
Berhampore, Murshidabad
West Bengal, India

Email: bgc2007@rediffmail.com

berhamporegirlscollege@gmail.com

Website: www.berhamporegirlscollege.org.in

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is to bring to your kind notice that the **Department of Bengali, the Department of English and the Department of History** (Departments running with regular Post Graduate Programmes) of Berhampore Girls' College, Berhampore, Murshidabad, West Bengal are going to organize a **Two-Day International Seminar** on the solemn occasion of the **Observance of Platinum Jubilee – 2020-21** on the area entitled: **"Literature, Culture and Society: Interrelations and the Search for Identity"** on 14.02.2020 and 15.02.2020 in the college premises in collaboration with the **Department of Bengali, the Department of English and the Department of History, University of Kalyani, Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal, India.**

Your gracious presence in the Seminar is highly solicited.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Hena Sinha

Principal

&

Chairperson, Seminar Organizing Committee

About the College

Founded in 1946 by Prof. Amiya Rao – the woman emancipator and an ardent advocate of individual liberty, and her husband Mr. B.G. Rao (IAS), the then District Collector of Murshidabad – Berhampore Girls' College, an institution of inestimable pride with its robust academic traditions and cultural values has emerged as one of the premier institutions of West Bengal since the time of the legendary Principal, Prof. Priti Gupta. This is one of the oldest government-sponsored girls' colleges in the state. The college is situated in the heart of the district town, Berhampore. The college is on the verge of entering the **Platinum Jubilee – 2020-21**. Since its inception the institute has been imparting education with unremitting ethical values to the girls and helping them to reclaim economic and social freedom and thereby retain the self-esteem. The motto of the institute is **"SA VIDYA YA BIMUKTAYE"**. Upholding the dreams of the legendary founders, the institute is still trying utmost to promote its noble goal of quality-based higher education and to grapple with the global challenges of the rapidly changing society.

About the Seminar

Broadly speaking, society, an organized structure and an outcome of people's conscious endeavour is inseparably linked with literature. Rather both are intertwined. Literature takes its narrative form from society and cannot sustain without society. The history of human civilization brings forth a genealogical social canvas and the history of literature has a logical object to trace back the dawn of human civilization. Coming to the history, it is crystal clear that it supplements the culture, tradition, faith, myths, religion, human relational values, ignorance etc. of the people which are amenable to the historical, political and social facts. Quite significantly, Hayden White, the historian has pointed out that history emplots events from factual life and partakes of the literary qualities that the historian shapes into a form of narrative.

Literature, it is broadly understood as something in the form of writing. To that extent cultural theorists like Andrew Milner have pointed out that, with adherence to the form of written subject matter, women's groups, political parties, trade unions and churches tend to set up 'literature stalls' to display their published writings. But this is not what is meant by literature as a 'subject' to be studied in schools and colleges, 'Literature' as distinct not only from political or religious pamphlets, but also from 'fiction'. But, from the fourteenth to the eighteenth century, it denoted 'both an ability to read and a condition of being well-read'. Thus all available writings were indeed literature, just as it still is on literature stalls, and yet, in a society in which most adults were unable to read and where literacy remained a mark of social privilege, what was read, 'polite learning', carried with its connotations that prefigured the later sense of 'literature' as an academic discipline. More significantly, as Ojaide viewed, 'the English I write is neither mainstream British nor American, and I Cherish this uniqueness...'. For India, the literature of Indian vernacular languages including the Bengali literature as well as English literature clearly anticipated both contemporary customs and usages. It is only from the eighteenth century, however, that we can trace an 'attempted and often successful specialization of literature to certain kinds of writing, understood as well-written books but more clearly understood as well-written books of an imaginative or creative kind'. Taking this definition of *literature* by Andrew Milner into account, we would like to redefine the parameters in perspective of Weltliteratur or 'world literature'.

The concept of the seminar is towards broadening the parameters of the notion of literature as not specifically focused on the English literature but also the literature of Indian vernacular languages. It includes also the literatures of other parts of the world and attempts cultural readings of the production of such literatures by using the parameters of empirical historical perspectives.

Let us now offer our own working 'non-definition' of 'culture' as referring to that entire range of institutions, artefacts and practices that make up our symbolic universe. In one or another of its meanings, the term will thus embrace: art and religion, science and sport, education and leisure. By convention, however, it does not embrace the range of

Guidelines for Paper Presenters

Research papers submitted for publication should be original and fundamentally unpublished writings and not under consideration for publication. The writings should be double-spaced with a 3 cm margin for both left and right hand and 5cm for head and foot. The text should be in Times New Roman with 12 font. The Bengali manuscripts must be typed in MS word using the AVRO keyboard or any other Unicode typing software and the soft copy of the full paper should be submitted as an MS word.docx/.doc file through Email. Papers in PDF or JPEG format will not be accepted. The Abstract should comprise 150 to 200 words. The full paper should not exceed 3000 words including Notes and References and the List of Works Cited. The Maps, Images, Illustrations and Data (if any) are to be used accordingly. The details of the author should be mentioned (Name, Designation, Mobile No., Alternative Contact No., Email Address and Current Postal Address) on the front page of the paper. The last date for receipt of Abstract is 31st January 2020. Information regarding selected Abstracts will be announced on the college website before 5th February 2020. The full papers of the accepted Abstracts in MLA/APA format (current edition) should be submitted on or before 10th February 2020 both in hard and soft copy. The communication in this regard should be accomplished by Email to bgclcs2020@gmail.com in MS word format only. Selected research papers presented in the seminar will be published in the Edited Volume with ISBN.

Registration Fee

Students: Rs. 500/-

Research Scholars: Rs. 800/-

Faculty: Rs. 1000/-

Note: Registration Fee includes: Seminar Kit, Participation Certificate and hospitality (without accommodation) during the Seminar.

Registration procedures

The registration Form duly filled in all respects along with the prescribed Registration Fees should be sent By Post (bearing college address) to the *Conveners, Seminar Organizing Committee, Berhampore Girls' College, Berhampore, Murshidabad, PIN – 742101, West Bengal, INDIA.*

Accommodation will not be provided by the organizers. However, the list of hotels/lodging houses nearby has been given thereon.

The last date for submission of Registration Forms: 10.02.2020. Registration Fees may be remitted either Online or by Demand Draft drawn on a Nationalized Bank, in favour of "*Principal, Berhampore Girls' College*" (Chairperson, Seminar Organizing Committee).

Notes: (i) Copy of DD should be attached with the Registration Form;

(ii) Participants paying Online will have to attach the auto generated receipt along with the Registration Form.

Account details for remitting the Fees Online:

Name of the Account Holder: **BERHAMPORE GIRLS COLLEGE PG BENGALI SEMINAR**

Account No.: **548202010010731** Name of the Bank: **UNION BANK** Name of the Branch: **Berhampore Branch**
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Preferable Accommodation Contact Details:

1. Hotel The Fame: **9734923388 / 8348709997 (Whatsapp)** 2. Berhampore Lodge Pvt. Ltd.: **9474645477 / 7872370270**
(As accommodation is limited, the participants may directly contact the above places and make arrangements for their stay).

Organizing Team

Executive Patrons:

Prof. Mrinal Kanti Chakraborty, President of the Governing Body of the College

Dr. Sarup Prasad Ghosh, Director, MAKAIAS

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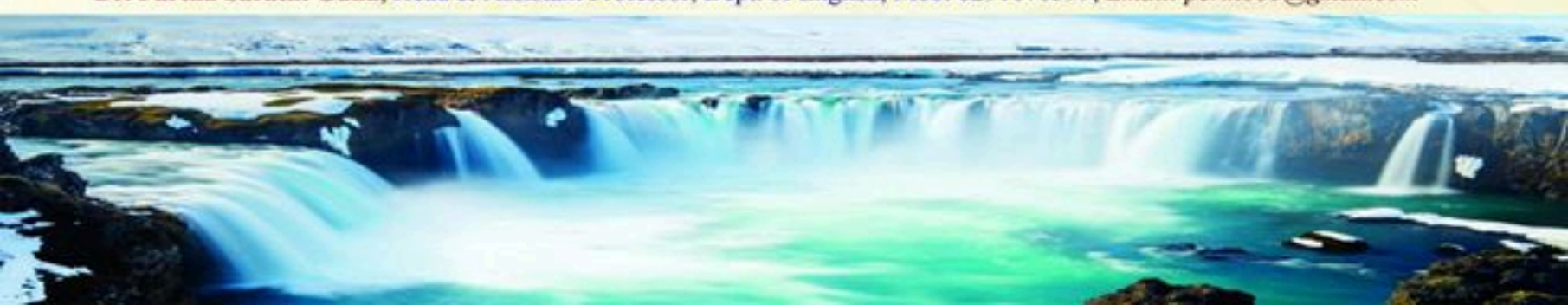
Dr. Smriti Ratan Tripathy, Member, Governing Body

Organizing Committee – Joint Conveners (with Contact Details):

Dr. Md. Khairul Anam, Head & Associate Professor, Dept. of History, Mob. 9932272290; Email: anammk2011@gmail.com

Dr. Sutapa Mukhopadhyay, Head & Assistant Professor, Dept. of Bengali, Mob. 7044076688; Email: sutapa.b76@gmail.com

Dr. Partha Sarathi Guha, Head & Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, Mob. 6291070599; Email: pertho81@gmail.com



activities normally deemed either 'economic' or 'political'. The threefold distinction, between the economics of the market, the politics of the state and the culture of what is sometimes referred to as civil society, has been a recurrent motif in modern social theory.

Taking this brief overview of the integral relation between Literature, Culture and Society – the seminar intends to open up this discourse in the Indian perspective, in particular and look minutely at the cultural production of texts and study their historical, social and political background.

Themes




- 1. Historical Discourse on Representation of Indian Languages, Indigenous Cultures and Traditions:**
 - (i) Literary elements in Chaitanya Literature, Naat Literature and Gitika Literature.
- 2. The Cultural Politics of Difference:**
 - (i) Dalit Context in Modern Bengali Literature;
 - (ii) Women as represented in Historical Documents.
- 3. Form and Ideology in Literature:**
 - (i) The Form and the Structure of Bengali Literature in the Global Perspective.
- 4. Technology and Cultural Form:**
 - (i) Literature, Culture and Media;
 - (ii) Gastronomical Delight and Cultural Writings;
 - (iii) History of Science, Technology and Medicine.
- 5. Modernism/Postmodernism and Popular Culture:**
 - (i) The Context of Folk in Modern Bengali Poetry;
 - (ii) The Use of Folk Languages in Postmodern Bengali Literature.
- 6. History, Memory, Myth and Storytelling in Fiction Writing:**
 - (i) Refurbishing Bengali Mythic Tales;
 - (ii) History in Literature.
- 7. Colonial/Post-Colonial History and South Asian Writing:**
 - (i) Hegemonic and Counter-hegemonic Discourses as Reflected in Literature and other Writings;
 - (ii) The Issue of Nationalism in the Writings of Ramakrishna and Vivekananda.
- 8. Literature and Environment: Ecocritical Perspectives:**
 - (i) Climate, Environment, Ecology and Natural History.
- 9. Race, Ethnicity and Identity: Global Historical Perspectives:**
 - (i) Historical Relevance of Folk Literature and other Queries.
- 10. Confronting Capital and Empire:**
 - (i) Anti-colonial Resistance.
- 11. Historiography;** **12. New Narratives of Urban Space in the Indian Context;** **13. Imagining a Postcolonial World;**
- 14. Contemporary Cultural Studies;** **15. Literature and Print Capitalism;**
- 16. The Novel and Society: The Social Production of Art.**

Guest-Speakers

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>► Dr. Amrit Wilson
Eminent Writer & Social Activist
United Kingdom</p> | <p>► Prof. Saugata Bhaduri
Professor
Centre for English Studies
School of Language,
Literature and Culture Studies
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi</p> | <p>► Dr. Kalpana Wilson
Lecturer
Department of Geography
Birbeck College
University of London</p> |
| <p>► Mr. Tanvir Mokammel
Film-maker
Bangladesh Film Institute –BFI
3 B, House: 39 A, Road: 4 A
Dhanmondi, Dhaka</p> | <p>► Prof. Emran Jahan
Professor
Department of History
Jahangirnagar University
Dhaka</p> | <p>► Swami Shastrajnanandaji Maharaj
Principal
Ramkrishna Mission Vidyamandira
Belur Math, Howrah
West Bengal</p> |
| <p>► Prof. Syed Ejaz Hussain
Professor & Head
Department of History
Visva-Bharati
Santiniketan, West Bengal</p> | <p>► Prof. Abdul Kafi
Department of Bengali
Jadavpur University
Kolkata</p> | <p>► Dr. Sutapa Sengupta
Associate Professor & Head
Department of History
University of Kalyani
Kalyani, Nadia</p> |
| <p>► Prof. Niladri Ranjan Chatterjee
Professor & Head
Department of English
University of Kalyani, Kalyani, Nadia</p> | <p>► Dr. Hassan Imam
Professor of History
Centre of Advanced Studies
Dept. of History & Director
Aligarh Muslim University
Kishanganj Centre
Bihar, India</p> | <p>► Prof. Sukhen Biswas
Professor & Head
Department of Bengali
University of Kalyani
Kalyani, Nadia</p> |
| <p>► Smt. Sharmila Majumdar
Associate Professor
Department of English
University of Kalyani
Kalyani, Nadia</p> | | |

Call for Papers

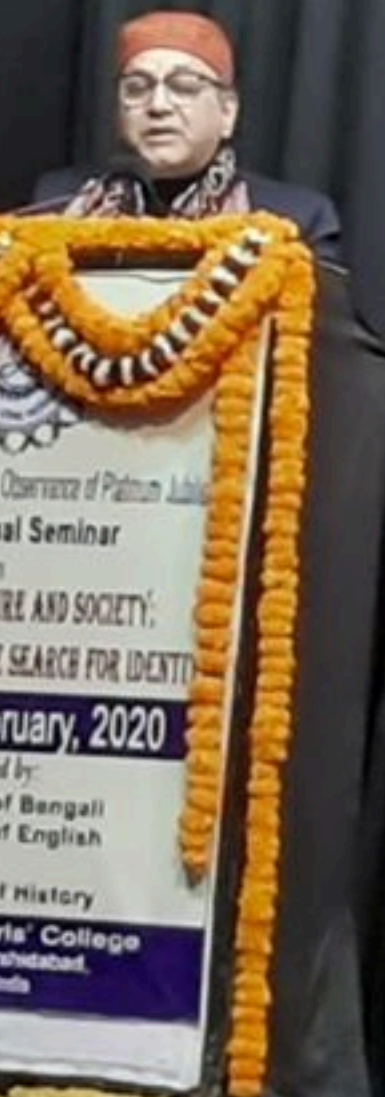
Papers are invited in English or Bengali on the Themes as indicated. Paper presenters are suggested to adhere to the prescribed guidelines.




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DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNICAL EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
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