

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH UNIVERSITY OF GOUR BANGA



Presents an International Seminar on

South Asian Literature and Culture: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

April 26 & 27, 2023

Venue: Department of English, University of Gour Banga, N.H. 34, Malda, West Bengal, India 732103

Seminar Concept Note:

The term 'South Asia' is a construct of colonial cartography and a conduit for Cold War contingencies. The region possesses a civilizational history of over five thousand years, a shared history of external aggression and domination, a long memory of internal disturbances, an area of approximately 5.2 million square km, five time zones, a population of almost two billion people, the GDP of 4.47 trillion, two nuclear powers, over six hundred and fifty active languages and an extensive literary and cultural corpus. As Sugata Bose and Ayesha Jalal assert, "Peoples inhabiting such a clearly defined, yet diverse, region have evolved a shared cultural ambience, but at the same time are deeply attached to distinctive cultural beliefs and practices" (*Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy* 3-4).

The region faces extraordinary prospects and problems in this era of globalization and post-pandemic recovery. An incredible diversity of flora and fauna and accelerated consumption of natural resources make the area a veritable laboratory of experiences and experiments. In this context, Alex Tickell observes, "South Asia is now more fast-paced and competitive, more globalized and resource-hungry, more technologically networked and socially fragmented than ever before..." (*South Asian Fiction in English Contemporary Transformations* 9-10). Therefore, South Asia's literature and culture deserves sustained scholarly deliberations in keeping with the evolving contours of South Asian Studies.

In this year of India's presidency of the G20, the proposed conference seeks to generate a vibrant discussion about the interaction between culture and literature of the one-time parts and partners of the Indian Subcontinent. Involving scholars and researchers from diverse fields of study, we expect to reveal the dynamics of expression and practices that make the region tick despite its multiple precarity. In doing so, we propose to shed some light on South Asian Literature as a product and producer of South Asian culture.

The seminar abstracts may address (but should not be confined to) the issues specified in the “sub-themes” section. The Seminar Organizing Committee reserves the right to make the final selection.

Sub-themes:

- History and Memory
- Culture and Identity
- Values and Vulnerabilities
- Tradition and Modernity
- Folklore, Folk Literature and Folk Culture
- War and Instability
- People and Places
- Borders and Boundaries
- Themes and Genres
- Migration and Diasporas
- Gender and Sexuality
- Race, Caste, Religion and Language
- Health and Education
- Reception and Representation
- Performance and Publication
- Development and Democracy
- Inclusion and Exclusion
- The Local and the Global
- Colonization and Partition
- Film and Media
- Ecology and Environment

Call for Papers:

Interested participants are requested to send an abstract within 250 words with 5 keywords to ugbenglishseminar@gmail.com by March 31, 2023. Acceptance of abstracts will be communicated to the participants by April 04, 2023. Full papers, not exceeding 3000 words can be submitted on the day of the seminar. The abstract and a short bio-note (within 50 words) of the author(s) should be mailed as a single MS word attachment, font size 12 in Times New Roman with 1.5 line spacing. Participants are encouraged to adhere to the guidelines provided in the MLA handbook (latest edition). Only online registration is permissible, and the necessary details will be shared along with the intimation of the selection of abstracts.

Registration Fees:

Delegates (Faculty Members): ₹ 2000

Delegates (Research Scholars): ₹ 1500

Delegates (PG Student): ₹ 1200

Participants (non-presenter): ₹ 1000

- On both days, lunch and tea will be provided to the registered participants.
- No TA/DA & other allowances will be provided.
- The Seminar Organizing Committee is unable to provide accommodation to the outstation participants. However, assistance will be provided to find adequate hotel accommodation on prior request.
- In the case of a presentation made by joint authors, each of them should get registered separately.
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Seminar Organizing Committee:

Dr Shanti Chhetry, Vice Chancellor, University of Gour Banga, Patron

Professor Amit Bhattacharya, Department of English, University of Gour Banga, President

Dr Samipendra Banerjee, Head, Department of English, University of Gour Banga, Convener

Sri Sabuj Sarkar, Department of English, University of Gour Banga, Organizing Secretary

Dr Bibek Adhikary, Department of English, University of Gour Banga, Treasurer