



Sub Themes:

1. The Indian English Novel: Pragmatics of the Post Gandhi era
2. Indian English Poetry by Women: Erasure to Assertion
3. Indian English Drama: Beyond the Metrosexual confines
4. Graphic Novel: From verbal text to art text
5. Contemporary Indian English Non-Fictional Literature: Polemics with a cause?
6. Texts on Dalit life by non-Dalit writers: Interrogating Politics of Representation

PROGRAMME

- Registration: 9.45 am – 10.15 am
- Inaugural Session: 10.30 am – 11.45 am
 - Welcome Address: Dr Manan Kumar Mandal, Officer in Charge, School of Humanities
 - Introducing the Theme: Srideep Mukherjee, Organising Secretary
 - Keynote Address: Professor Sukalpa Bhattacharjee, Head, Dept. of English, NEHU
 - Presidential Address: Professor Shanta Mahalanobis, Sr Member, PG BoS, English
 - Vote of Thanks: Arijit Ghosh, Lecturer in Journalism & Mass Comm. School of Humanities, NSOU
- Tea Break: 11.45 am - 12 noon
- Session 1 – Invited Talk by Dr Albeena Shakil, Fellow, IAS, Shimla: 12 noon – 12.30 pm
- Session 2 – Panel Discussion – Articulate Subaltern(s)? Explorations Across Genres: 12.30 pm – 2.30 pm
- Lunch: 2.30 pm – 3.00 pm
- Session 3 – Participant Presentations: 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm

School of Humanities NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

*cordially invites you to the UGC-DEB sponsored
Research Project based National Seminar on*

Postcoloniality, Subalternity and Indian Writing in English: The Open Learning Praxis

on October 1, 2015

**at the Seminar Hall, 1st Floor, NSOU
Sector – 1, DD – 26, Kolkata - 700064**

Professor Sukalpa Bhattacharjee

Head, Dept. of English, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong

has kindly consented to deliver the Keynote Address.

Professor Shanta Mahalanobis

Senior Member, Post-Graduate Board of Studies, NSOU

will preside over the Inaugural Session.

Your presence is sincerely solicited.

Dr Manan Kumar Mandal

Associate Professor of Bengali
&
Officer in Charge
School of Humanities

Srideep Mukherjee

Organising Secretary
Seminar Committee

About the School:

The School of Humanities is one of the newest entities at Netaji Subhas Open University, culled out of the erstwhile School of Humanities and Social Sciences on 5th June 2015 vide Memo No. Reg/1010 which is a follow through to clause 15.(1) of Netaji Subhas Open University 1st Statute (Revised) 2014.

The establishment of the School of Humanities (SOH) marks a reiteration of the commitment of Netaji Subhas Open University to underline the need of devising strategies for capacity building through Humanities. With this broad goal in mind, the SOH intends to pursue serious academic research and offer programmes to learners within the precincts of the Open and Distance Learning mode. With dynamic and vibrant faculty to moot, the vision of the School is to intensify outreach through ODL so as to inculcate an ambience of cultural-literary pursuits that has always been the forte of the state of West Bengal. The mission of SOH is to foster a community, cutting across institutional lines, that will disseminate the study of language and literatures in vernaculars and English, encourage trans-literary activities, become a centre for pan-India literary confluence and in due course of time evolve as a window to the wider world from this part of the country. In a nutshell, the endeavour of the SOH will be to rear itself in the true spirit of Open Learning.

Our hand-picked human resource is well augmented with a state of the art Interactive Learning Centre that serves as a hub in the creation of next generation multimedia materials, a full fledged Editing laboratory for training learners of Journalism and Mass Communication courses, infrastructure for smart classrooms and a well stocked library. The faculty of the SOH have engaged themselves in UGC-DEB sponsored projects and this keeps them in constant interactions with the wider academia. Our faculty are also invited for consultancy and special academic exchanges by institutions both in the ODL and regular modes.

As regards our regular way of functioning, while keeping up the trend of intensive Personal Contact Programmes (PCP's) that is characteristic of NSOU, the new School eagerly awaits the resuming of Ph.D programmes in conformity with revised UGC rules. In the context of our existing courses both at Graduation and Post Graduation levels, we are on constant vigil in updating and revising syllabi; monitoring academic delivery, organising counselor workshops and learner interactions as also nurturing our learners with an individualised holistic approach.

Academic Campus

School of Humanities
Netaji Subhas Open University
2nd Floor, Academic Building,
Ghoshpara Station Road,
Kalyani, Nadia, Pin - 741 235

City Campus

School of Humanities
Netaji Subhas Open University
DD-26, Sector-I, Salt Lake,
Kolkata - 700 064.
Phone : 033 406 63214

About the Seminar:

The days of critical hair splitting over the authenticity of Indian Writing in English as a meaningfully valid coinage and its existence as a genre are long over. This has come about not just as a result of institutionalising of the curricula in the academia, but also largely because of its mass acceptance as an independent discourse. The path to this has been a chequered one no doubt, but then it is time to think beyond.

Since the title of this Seminar takes **Postcoloniality** as a condition rather than as just a phase in the history of nation building, it is incumbent that the time is ripe to interrogate how far such a theme has actually been explored in the texts and contexts of IWE. In other words, we aim to signal an epistemological shift from the issue of semantics in IWE and foray into the vital aspect of representation in literary texts. The postcolonial psyche, needless to say, is not just something temporal; so researchers in the field will have the option of probing representational areas across a spectrum of time spread largely over the 20th and 21st centuries in the works of numerous writers of all possible genres. That way, the seminar ideally looks forward to hearing deliberations that would encompass a wide gamut of socio-economic phenomena ranging from the upsurge of mainstream nationalism to global consumerism against the backdrop of which all literary texts of the era would naturally be placed.

The other keyword in the title, **Subalternity**, becomes a relevant intervention in this context, and it aims to foreground a debate that has closely followed the nationalist movement ever since – the issue of inclusivity in India's struggle for freedom and subsequent nation building. Clearly, the focus is on the paradigms of caste, class and gender; and the point of contention/analysis is whether literary representations have been able to surge past the topos of what Ranajit Guha calls the ideology of 'statism'. The substantial body of literature from the margins, a lot of it in translation too, bears ample testimony to the fact that this is an area always up for honest academic deliberation.

Within the curricular framework of an Open University, our UG and PG syllabi in English offer full fledged Papers on IWE. The School of Humanities encourages researchers to contemplate on presentations taking off from but not necessarily limiting themselves to the literary texts syllabised in Paper 8 of the new BDP – EEG syllabus and Paper 7 of the existing PG syllabus for this Seminar. The detailed syllabi may be found on the University website under the 'School of Humanities' tab. Papers may be based either on texts of Indian Writing in English or in Bhasa literatures that have been translated into English. It is expected that the Papers thus received at the event will soon be compiled for publication in an edited volume with ISBN.