



Collaborative Research Project on Partition and the Liberation War of Bangladesh

Centre for Language, Translation and Cultural Studies, Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata, India

and

English Discipline, Khulna University, Khulna, Bangladesh

International Seminar and Workshop – 1

Focal Theme - Memories of Partition and the Liberation War: Remembrance and Amnesia

13th & 14th January 2018

Venue: NSOU Headquarters, DD 26, Sector 1, Salt Lake, Kolkata

Project Brief:

The proposed International Conference is part of a collaborative research project taken up between Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata, India and Khulna University, Khulna, Bangladesh. In the spirit of seamless educational exchange in the open praxis, it is conceived as a “People’s Research Project” that aims to reach out to those sections of people affected by successive partitions and also subsequently resurrected by the Liberation War of Bangladesh. In this, the Project eschews the grand narratives that surround these cataclysmic events and intends to foray into hitherto uncharted marginal sections of the populace that have borne the brunt/ embraced the euphoria of history and whose micro narratives are still to be documented. It is a time bound (One Year) project that involves survey and field work, collection and documentation of archival material, organisation of workshops and conferences across both sides of the international border,



and a final publication of the findings – all of these being in the nature of joint activity between the two institutions.

Call for Papers

As part of this project, the first of a series of international conferences and workshops will be organised at Netaji Subhas Open University, Sector – 1, DD – 26, Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700064 on 13-14 January, 2018.

As indicated in the 'Focal Theme', this Conference will attach primacy to deliberations on the scope and perspectives of partition memory across generations, the historic significance of Bengal Partition and the Liberation War of Bangladesh, its impact in creating new canons of humanistic studies in the subcontinent with a specific focus on ever-emergent literatures in Bangla and English. Going beyond written literature, the Project at large and the Conference in particular also invite findings and deliberations on personal documents like letters, diaries, notes etc in this area – things that can reveal new facets of humanistic appraisals of the epochal events. Even unwritten narratives of a mnemonic nature will play a very important role in relating individual perceptions to the plethora of existing literary narratives, which can be enriched and reinterpreted in myriad ways. While such outpourings will have seminal importance in looking back and forth in time, the aspect of unearthing 'silence', which can amplify understanding to a great extent, will also remain an area of abiding interest. In fine, the keynote of this Conference will be less on literature in the conventional sense, and more on extra-literary factors that can aid understanding of literature as also proffer space for creation of newer margins of literature of Partition and the Liberation War. Hence past and present, not just in terms of clock or calendar time, but also in the perception of generations from 1947 to 1971 and beyond are expected to come up for deliberations.

Accordingly, the following **sub-themes** have been identified for preparation of Abstracts and making Presentations at the Conference. It is urged that willing participants confine



themselves within these parameters, as the Project intends to take up related issues in a sequential order so as to proceed in a planned manner for the final publication.

1. Relevance and practicability of preserving memories of the Partition of 1947 and the Independence of India
2. Efforts at preserving partition memory
3. Partition: Borders and the fallacies of borders
4. Unpublished diaries and letters (Experiences of migration and Liberation War)
5. Experiences of migrations from villages and semi-urban areas (District level representation): Video/audio interviews (max. 30 mins); preferred interviewee age being above 70 years
6. Lost/forgotten partition memoirs and literature (fictional and non-fictional); Publications made away from East/West Bengal
7. The Liberation War: Perspectives from West Bengal
8. The Liberation War and Bengali Nationalism

Abstracts (650-700 words) pertaining to the aforementioned sub-themes are invited from interested scholars for presentation at the International Conference. Abstracts are to be typed in **Times New Roman only** (in accordance with the following guidelines) and sent by email. Kindly note that we shall not be able to accept any form of non-electronic submission.

Abstract Submission and Presentation Guidelines:

Header 14 point, respondent's name, email id, contact no. 12 point, body of the abstract 12 point. Times New Roman for submissions in English and Avra (Kalpurush/Brinda font) for submissions in Bangla.

(End)Notes if required may be appended, with relevant superscripts in the body of the abstract.



Citations to be made strictly in accordance with MLA 7th edn. Stylesheet

The Abstract should have clarity of thought and must be relevant to the sub-themes provided. The appropriate sub-theme number should be mentioned in the email communication accompanying the abstract.

Selected Abstracts will be notified in due time (see datelines below). Each selected presenter will be allowed 10 mins for presentation, and there will be a discussion time of 3 – 5 mins.

Presenters will be expected to take note of discussions on their Papers, make adequate incorporations to it, and send their full write ups by dates that will be specified at the close of the Conference. Such Papers will be accepted for final publication after adequate review procedures. In no circumstances may presentations made at this Conference be published elsewhere without prior information/communication with the organisers.

On completion of the collaborative research project (end 2018), accepted Papers will be published as an international publication (with ISBN) jointly by the two institutions.

Interviews in audio/video format on any of the aforementioned sub-themes may also be considered for presentation. In such cases, the audio/video interviews (not exceeding 30 mins) will have to be submitted or sent in appropriate format to the email id provided below for all communication. Such interviews must be accompanied with the interviewee's proof of citizenship and letter of consent to have willingly given the interview for purposes of research. Subsequent to requisite editing, such audio/video tapes will be uploaded on the Project website and the respondent 's credit will be duly acknowledged. A transcript of the interview will also be acceptable at the Conference. The time limit will however remain the same as for all presentations (10 mins) and it will be the responsibility of the interviewer/presenter to choose her/his scope of presentation accordingly.



Photographs/posters on the relevant sub-themes may also be accepted for the Conference and for further use as part of the Project. This will require a minimum of 12 (twelve) photographs/posters, and will have to be accompanied by a letter consenting to the use of such photographs by the research project. The research project can only accept scanned digital copies of such photographs. The Project vouches its commitment to the display of such photographs on its website with due credits acknowledged.

Submissions in all forms stated above from any individual residing in any part of the world shall be acceptable as part of the Conference and thereby the Research Project.

Dates to Remember:

Last Date for submission of Abstracts: 5th January 2018

Notification of Acceptance after review: 7th January 2018

Last Date of Submission of Registration Fees: 10th January 2018

Email ID for all communication: cltcs.nsou@gmail.com

Contact Nos. 9433274815/ 9830222116

Website: www.cltcsnsou.in

Registration Fees:

Student/Researcher (within the due date): Rs 300/- INR

Teachers & Private Individuals (within the due date): Rs 500/- INR

Spot Registration (On 13th January only between 9.30 am – 11.30 am): Rs 500/-

Mode of Remittance:

1. By Demand Draft of the relevant amount (Rs 300/ Rs 500) drawn in favour of "CLTCS-NSOU" payable at Kolkata. Such draft should reach us by 5 pm of 10th January 2018.
2. By Money Transfer through NEFT/RTGS by 5 pm of 10th January 2018. The bank details are as given below:
Allahabad Bank Acc. No. 50375446309 **Branch Code: 1829**
Account Name: CLTCS-NSOU; **IFSC: ALLA0211829**
3. Please note that amounts remitted by DD/Bank Transfer are non-refundable.



Important Information regarding the Project Workshop and International Conference

Registration is compulsory for all individuals willing to participate in the Project Workshop and Conference.

Student researchers who have already registered for the project may remit their Registration fees of Rs 300/- by means stated above, and compulsorily carry proof of deposit to be shown at the Reception Counter on 13th January 2018.

Conference delegates whose Abstracts are accepted/ any individual willing to attend the Conference are requested to carry proof of Registration Fees deposited, to be shown at the Reception Counter on 13th January 2018.

Presence at all sessions of the Conference and Workshop is compulsory to qualify for receipt of the Certificate.

All registered participants at the Conference and Workshop will be entitled to receive Conference kit and lunch packet. The organizers shall not be responsible for lodging arrangements, however assistance in making such arrangements may be provided for participants traveling from a distance and requiring stay in Kolkata.

All deliberations at the Conference and Workshop shall be in Bangla/English.

Paper presenters at the Conference are urged to make use of PowerPoint in order to reach out to all sections of the audience. Such presentations may kindly be handed over to the organizers well in advance to facilitate arrangements and optimize time.

To ensure maximum utility of the Technical Session(s), all participants are requested to carry Smart Phones/ Android enabled phones. Acquaintance with basic app devices is desirable.

All rights of the Abstracts presented for consideration, and Papers submitted thereafter shall rest with the organisers.

The appropriate committees of the Project and CLTCS will be in charge of selection of Abstracts, Registration of participants, and details of presentation. To ensure smooth conduct of the conference and workshop, cooperation of all participants is solicited in the entire process.



The Conference and Workshop mark the beginnings of the execution of the International Research Project jointly taken up by NSOU and KU. The organisers hope that participants at this event, irrespective of their age, educational levels and vocations, will remain integral parts of this research project. The organisers in turn, shall maintain active contact with all participants in course of the running of the project and shall give due deference to their points of view in the best interests of this “People’s Research Project”.

With warm regards

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