



The Department of English  
 School of Humanities  
*in collaboration with*  
 Centre for Language, Translation and Cultural Studies ([www.clctcsnsou.in](http://www.clctcsnsou.in)), NSOU  
 Kolkata, India  
 organises a Three-Day International Web-Conference

on

**“THE AGONIES OF NATIONHOOD: CULTURAL REFLECTIONS FROM  
 THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT”**

Dates: 31 July - 2 August, 2020  
 All timings in IST

**“Detailed Conference Schedule”**

**Day 1 : July 31, 2020**

**Inaugural Session: 3 pm to 4.55 pm**

**Chair: Professor Himadri Lahiri**

**Professor of English, Netaji Subhas Open University**

Welcome Address by Organising Secretary	Dr Srideep Mukherjee, Associate Professor & Head, Dept. of English, NSOU
Welcome Performance	NSOU Post Graduate English Learners
Address by Director, SoH & Coordinator, CLTCS	Dr Manan Kumar Mandal, Professor of Bengali & Director, School of Humanities, NSOU
Introduction of the Theme	Dr Srideep Mukherjee, Associate Professor of English, NSOU
Keynote Speech	Professor Prathama Banerjee, Historian, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi: <b>“A Crisis of the Narrative Form? Contemporary Nationalism and the Humanities”</b>
Guest of Honour	Professor Kaiser Haq, Poet & Translator; Dean, Arts and Humanities, University of Liberal Arts, Dhaka, Bangladesh: <b>“ Nationality and Other Difficulties”</b>
Special Guest	Nasir Aijaz, Chief Editor, <i>Sindh Courier</i> , Pakistan: <b>“Independence or Demise of Nation States?”</b>
Address from the Chair	Professor Himadri Lahiri, NSOU
Vote of Thanks by Organising Secretary	Dr Srideep Mukherjee, Associate Professor of English, NSOU

**Host: Srideep Mukherjee**

Plenary Session 1: 5.00 pm to 6.50 pm

Session Title	<b>Contextualising the Nation through Cultural Studies</b>
Session Moderator	Dr Srideep Mukherjee, Associate Professor of English, NSOU
Dr Amina Yaqin, Reader in Urdu & Postcolonial Studies, Centre for English Studies, SOAS, University of London, UK	<b>“The Politics of Culture in Pakistan”</b>
Professor Abdullah Al Mamun Chairperson, Dept. of English, University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh	<b>“Reading the ‘Concept Note’: Intra-traffics between Memory, Fiction and Dream”</b>
Professor Banibrata Mahanta, Dept. of English, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India	<b>“Nation as M/Other : The Shifting Significations of Bharat Mata”</b>
Interactions	Open House (Audience will be un-muted for 10 minutes)
Summing Up	Dr Srideep Mukherjee



**Day 2: August 1, 2020**

**Participants' Session 1: 12.45 pm to 2.45 pm**

**Session Title: Nation, Nation-State and Nationalism in the Indian Subcontinent**

**Moderator:** Professor Sharmistha Chatterjee (Sriwastav), Aliah University, Kolkata

**Host:** Dr Intaj Ali, Assistant Professor of English, NSOU

7 Participant Presentations	15 minutes each (Total 105 minutes)
Interactions with audience	10 minutes (Audience will be un-muted)
Summing up by the Moderator	Professor Sharmistha Chatterjee (Sriwastav), Aliah University, Kolkata

**Plenary Session 2 : 2.50 pm – 3.55 pm**

**Performing the Nation on Screen and Stage (Bilingual Session)**

**Moderator: Dr Srideep Mukherjee**

**Bonna Mirza**, Actor and Social Activist, Indo-Bangladesh Friendship Awardee, 2018 –  
**“Perceptions of Nation and Nationalism in Performance: View from Bangladesh”**

**Sri Debasis Mazumdar**, Playwright, Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee for contribution to  
Indian Theatre – **“Can Theatre/Cinema as Performance uphold the ‘Idea of India’?”**

Audience Interaction: 10 minutes (Audience will be un-muted)

Summing up by the Moderator: Dr Srideep Mukherjee, NSOU

**“This Side - That Side”: The Nation and its Citizenry in Mainstream Cinema**

**Moderator: Dr Intaj Ali**

**(4.00 pm – 4.35 pm)**

**Samiya Mumtaz**, Screen and Stage Actor, Karachi, Pakistan

In Conversation with **Roshni Sengupta**, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland

Audience Interaction: 7 minutes (Audience will be un-muted)

Summing up by the Moderator : Dr Intaj Ali, NSOU

Participants' Presentation Session 2: 4.40 pm to 6.40 pm

**Session Title: Nation and Heterogeneity**

**Moderator:** Professor Sipra Mukherjee, West Bengal State University, Barasat

**Host:** Dr Srideep Mukherjee, Associate Professor of English, NSOU

7 Participant Presentations	15 minutes each (Total 105 minutes)
Interactions with audience	10 minutes (Audience will be un-muted)
Summing up by the Moderator	Professor Sipra Mukherjee, West Bengal State University, Barasat



**Day 3: August 2, 2020**

Participants' Presentation Session 3: 1.45 pm to 3.45 pm

**Session Title – Nation: Agonies and Dissent**

**Moderator:** Professor Banibrata Mahanta, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

**Host:** Dr Jaysankar Basu, Associate Professor of ELT, NSOU

7 Participant Presentations	15 minutes each (Total 105 minutes)
Interactions with audience	10 minutes (Audience will be un-muted)
Summing up by the Moderator	Professor Banibrata Mahanta, BHU, Varanasi

**Nations, Nationalisms and Media,**  
**Moderator: Dr Srideep Mukherjee**  
**3.50 pm to 4.55 pm**

**Mofidul Hoque**, Researcher, Publisher & Columnist; Founder Trustee, Bangladesh Liberation War Museum; Ekushe Padak (2016) Awardee: **“Nation, Nationalism and Media”**

**Arfa Khanum Sherwani**, Senior Editor, *The Wire*, India. Chameli Devi Jain Awardee (2019) for Reportage on Kashmir: **“The State of Indian Journalism: Will Digital Media Define its Future?”**

Audience Interaction: 10 minutes (Audience will be un-muted)  
Summing up by the Moderator: Dr Srideep Mukherjee, NSOU

**Tete-a-Tete: Veteranspeak on ‘Journalistic Ethos across Borders’**  
**Moderator: Professor Sipra Mukherjee**  
**(5.00 pm – 5.35 pm)**

**Abdul Sattar**, Asst Editor *The News*, Karachi & Columnist for *The News*, Karachi; *Pak Observer*, Islamabad

In conversation with **Snehasis Sur**, Senior Journalist Doordarshan: President, Press Club of Kolkata

Audience Interaction: 5 minutes (Audience will be un-muted)

Summing up by the Moderator : Professor Sipra Mukherjee

**Valedictory Session : 5.40 pm. to 7 pm**

**Moderator:** Professor Himadri Lahiri, NSOU  
**Host:** Dr Srideep Mukherjee, NSOU

Moderator	Dr Himadri Lahiri, Professor of English, NSOU
Setting the Closing Note	Ms Baby Shaw, Pashchim Banga Akademi Awardee Poet, 2020; Student PG English, NSOU
<b>“A Story of an Unbounded Mind: Aestheticism and Beyond”</b>	Dr Rajashree Bhattacharya, Rabindra Sangeet Exponent; Associate Professor of Music, Dept. of Performing Arts and Music, University of Calcutta
Valedictory Address	Dr Anand Prakash, Formerly Professor, University of Delhi <b>“Defining Parameters of the Cultural Kind”</b>
Open House for feedback/comments	2 General Participants 2 Participant Presenters 1 Invited Speaker
Concluding remarks from the Moderator	Professor Himadri Lahiri, Dept. of English, NSOU