



**The Department of English Language Teaching**  
School of Humanities, Netaji Subhas Open University, West Bengal

*in collaboration with*

**The Department of English,**  
University of Kalyani, West Bengal

**organizes a Two-Day National Conference on**

**(RE) SEARCHING THE INDIAN CULTURE,  
LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE: A  
METHODOLOGY OF ONE'S OWN**

5 - 6 October 2023

Kalyani Regional Centre Campus, NSOU and University of Kalyani,  
Kalyani Ghoshpara, Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal 741251

**CALL FOR  
PAPER**

# Concept Note

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**R**esearch Methodology is commonly defined as a structure or plan for the study that directs the entire process of data collection and analysis of data. In truest sense of the term, most Humanities Research in India fail to keep up with the empirical spirit hinted in the description above. Research in Humanities has a wide scope encompassing allied disciplines, especially Social Sciences, and is a systematic and critical investigation of human culture, values, beliefs, and practices, including the study of literature, philosophy, history, art, languages, religion, and other aspects of human experience.

Yet, recent Humanities research evinces a strange blend of contradictions. While there is a spurt of new areas and possibilities like Digital Humanities or Medical Humanities, Ecological Humanities or Peace Studies, a large section of researchers in Indian varsities continue to engage themselves in textual analysis and sometimes mere summarizing of such texts or at best discourses. Subtle plagiarisation of content and method from foreign sources is rampant.

With AzadiKaAmritMahotsav approaching a full circle on 15 August 2023, and taking a cue from the noted historian Partha Chatterjee's aspersion that even our imaginations must remain forever colonized, the conference seeks to ponder upon and reassess the models of Research Methods borrowed from Western varsities to find answers to indigenous problems in the academic circuit. While accepting the truth that some precepts are universal, and choosing to differ that all are not, the conference seeks to select, reorganize or even suggest alternative methods of Research in Humanities which appropriately tackle the needs of academic pursuits viz research on topics related to the changing and vibrant India. Popular and effective methods in Humanities continue to be Content analysis, Discourse analysis and Narrative analysis. But there are better ways to approach given problems. Using a suitable framework, like understanding the concepts of intuition and inspiration as distinguishing characteristic of Indian aestheticians rather than exact emotive association or (objective correlative of emotions, of the Western practitioners) can yield better results while trying to understand Indian Culture, Language practices and Society. One such area would be contemporary Field Studies in the domain of Migration, displacement or loss of habitat in the Indian sub-continent, which can be approached more successfully through collection of narratives via Oral History methods rather than structured interviews. Perhaps a conscientious

application of Ethnographic analysis, Network analysis or even Visual analysis with suitable modifications of templates offered, might elicit better answers to the research problems highlighted. This suggestion becomes even more potent in cases where Researchers try to study scantily available texts of living authors/ communities to address the idiosyncrasies of socio-cultural practices and language habits of particular communities in rural or remoter parts of India. Useful data collection may involve, employing Case Studies method of collecting data through interviews, observations, and Archival research. Case studies are often used in Cultural Studies to understand specific social or cultural phenomena. The use of Focus Groups which brings together a small group of individuals to discuss a particular topic or issue. Focus groups may be conducted in person or online, and are often used in qualitative research to gain insights into social and cultural practices and attitudes. A latest trend is Participatory Action Research, which engages with individuals or communities in the research process, with the goal of promoting social change or addressing a specific social problem. Participatory action research may involve conducting focus groups, interviews, or surveys, as well as involving participants in data analysis and interpretation.

The Conference deliberations will also hope to generate the realization that more contemporary, and socially relevant, multidisciplinary, cross-cutting topics (like the influence of pandemic in creating an alternative language of teaching-learning in Indian classrooms) need to be focused on rather than dwelling on interpretation of texts/ data which are of the past and bear no relation to the Indian reality. It is hoped that the selection of right methods for topics would meet the research objectives better and such research would yield better hypothesis. Authentic, data based research which yield closer results would result in identifying problems, facts (psychological and physical) thus impacting policy making and ultimately bringing in a change in the society. Such methods would necessarily foreground and suitably address the research questions and objectives about the culture and ethos of a multilingual India while attempting to retrieve its proverbial lost glory. The possibility of a self reliant structure or plan for the Humanities Research is to be hinted at in the above conference. Hoping that some of the brightest minds would engage in intense academic deliberations, thereby forging new and sustainable methods of research in India Studies, the Department of English Language Teaching, NSOU in collaboration with the Department of English, University of Kalyani aspires to publish an edited volume of the proceedings at a later date, with a reputed publisher.

**Abstracts are invited in not more than 250 words, along with a maximum of 5 keywords, from participants willing to present at the National Conference. Abstracts are to be sent along with the registration form (Google Form Link) as specified in this CFP. At this National Conference, a brief and cogent presentation of the academic argument of the topic is encouraged rather than reading out of papers. The allotted time for each paper presenter will be strictly 15 minutes followed by discussions.**

## **Subthemes for Paper Presentation:**

The Two-day National Conference invites original abstract submissions related to India Studies and the Indian academic context on (but not restricted to), the following subthemes:

- Socio-cultural outcomes of Archival Research in Humanities
- Oral history in Humanities Research
- Relevance of Field survey in Humanities research
- Digital Humanities and Retrieving Cultures
- Relevant methods in Medical Humanities Research
- Ethnographic analysis method and retrieval of endangered cultures and languages
- Participatory Action Research in Humanities
- Focus Groups and Research in Ecological Humanities
- Quantitative Research in Humanities
- Auto/Biography as an interrogative method
- Survey Methods in Language Studies
- Statistical Methods in Language Studies
- Media and Visual Methodology
- Media studies, Culture and Interviewing as a Method
- Innovative Research practices in English Language Teaching
- Visual analysis in English Language Teaching

*All abstracts received will be blind peer reviewed for selection.*

# Registration

All registrations including abstracts for review will be conducted and received only through the following link:



[tinyurl.com/2oj3x5nw](https://tinyurl.com/2oj3x5nw)

The Registration fees are as follows:

Category	Registration Fees	Registration Procedure
<b>Faculties</b> (with paper presentation)	1500 INR	Registration fees to be paid after confirmation of acceptance of abstract, by going back to the same link (Google Form) to complete payment.
<b>Research Scholars</b> (with paper presentation)	1000 INR	
<b>Faculties</b> (without paper presentation)	600 INR	Participants pay the registration fees at the time of online registration via Google form link as provided in the CFP
<b>Research Scholars</b> (without paper presentation)	300 INR	

It may please be noted that Registration Fees, once paid, cannot be refunded. There is no scope of attending the Conference without Registration.

Those participants not willing to present papers , are also encouraged to register themselves.

Bank details for payment of Registration Fees (Online mode of Transfers only):

Name of the Account: **CLTCS - NSOU**

Account No.: **50375446309**

IIFSC Code : **IDIB000K770**

Bank Name : **INDIAN BANK**

Branch : **Salt Lake City, Kolkata**

## Dates to remember

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Deadline for Abstract Submission

**15th August 2023**

Notification of Acceptance

**by August 20th, 2023**

Deadline for Full Paper Submission

**September 20th, 2023**

Last date for payment of Registration fees (After acceptance of abstracts)

**by September 20th 2023.**

*( Please note: Accommodation will not be arranged by the conference organizers and Participants need to find accommodation themselves. However, a list of stays near the venue may be provided as help)*

## Organizing Committee

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### Chief Patrons

**Professor Chandan Basu**

Vice Chancellor, Netaji Subhas Open University and

**Professor Amalendu Bhunia**

Vice Chancellor, University of Kalyani

### Advisors

**Professor Manan Kumar Mandal**

Director, School of Humanities, NSOU

**Sri Sachindra Kar**

CA, Finance Officer, NSOU

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**Smt Sharmila Majumdar**

Associate Professor and Head, Department of English, University of Kalyani.

**Dr. Sharmistha Chatterjee**

Professor and Head, Department of English Language Teaching, NSOU

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**Sri. Arijit Ghosh**

Assistant Professor of Journalism and Communication, School of Humanities

**Smt. Anindita Sarkar**

Assistant Professor of ELT, School of Humanities, NSOU

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ELT, NSOU