

**Young Researchers'
Conference
25th & 26th July, 2019**



**Department of English
School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies
Bankura University, WB, India
Chief Patron : Professor Deb Narayan Bandyopadhyay
Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Bankura University**

Checking Past the Canon New Mandarins in English, Film and Cultural Studies

Conveners

**Dr. Subhadeep Paul
Mr. Sukhendu Das**

**Conference Hall
BKU Main Campus**

Checking Past the Canon: New Mandarins in English, Film & Cultural Studies

Concept note

The idea of the canon and the history of canon formation have traditionally been considered integral to the understanding of literature. Literary historiography has been subject to the domineering influence of canons. Multifarious complexities and quandaries addressed by minority discourses, marginalised voices and novel domains of critical and creative enquiry that have been conventionally snubbed, owing to the claims to legitimisation on the part of canons, have called for a revision in the generally accepted criteria of canonicity. Given the inherent critical conservatism of Anglo-American literary cultures, the very act of stepping beyond sanctioned textual confines was almost considered an academic profanity, especially in the Third World academia. This manifest colonial hegemony has been contested and re-contested over and over, in a bid to expand and modify the scope of canonicity itself. Ironically, canonicity, shaped by choices based on assessment of value(s), doesn't obey any clear-cut codification. This results in either the continuation of an unchanging, orthodox canon or sweeping modifications in favour of subjective dimensions of altering literary sensibilities. Authenticity debates of textual celebration or treason riddle apprentice scholars and critics, as to how they should best address new-age intertwined issues of canon, discipline and pedagogy. Canonical State narratives have their own official silences, which all the more calls for re-evaluations of interpretative practices. Post-memory (Hirsch) that has etched beyond the contestation between memory and counter-memory. Similarly, the defined territories of canonicity have been rendered fluid and fissiparous in this probably post-canonical age that has witnessed major transformations and transmutations in the ideas of the canon, counter-canon and the hyper-canon (c.f. the 'Eileen Chang phenomenon' in Chinese literary historiography). In Film Studies, canonicity has majorly conditioned the preservation, telecast, reception, analysis and award-conferring processes that has initiated several revisionary approaches in film reception and criticism. Furthermore, Cultural Studies, by dismantling the very ideas of canon and counter-canon from the outset, has done an immense favour to English Studies by focussing not on what to critique but how and why to do so.

This conference celebrates such re-drawing and re-charting of the contingencies and vicissitudes of cultural commodities, as also the aesthetic imperatives and material objectives of textual production and critical evaluation. We invite, within a broad ambit of address, original and evaluative papers on the following (but not confined to) sub-themes, with a bid to foreground periodic self-re-fashioning of critical concepts and values and reconceptualise the role of canonicity today, to better understand the meaningful processes of

interlaced agendas in pedagogy and performance, both within and without the bounds of disciplinary frameworks:-

Sub-Themes

- ☐ Inter/multi/trans – disciplinary Research: Texts and Contexts
- ☐ Borders and Crossings: Literal and Metaphoric
- ☐ New-Age Humanities: Frames of Mind
- ☐ Pop-Culture: New Modalities of Dissemination
- ☐ Direct/discursive Constructs of Contemporaneity
- ☐ Hidden/Forgotten/Silenced Discourses
- ☐ His/Her/Hir-stories: Gender and Queer Representations of Counter-Canonical Texts
- ☐ Hurting and Healing: Exceptional Trauma Narratives
- ☐ Violence & Counter-Violence: Partition/Holocaust Studies
- ☐ Translating Culture(s): Disturbances & Discourses
- ☐ The New Media: Elixir or Virus? – Debates
- ☐ Screen(ed) in/out: Post-millennial Possibilities in Film & Animation
- ☐ Reconfigurations of Identity: Critical Interrogations in Religion/Caste/Race
- ☐ Anthropocene and After: Posthumanism and Afterglobal, (Post-)Environmentalism, Ecocriticism, Ecofeminism, Climate Fiction
- ☐ Signposts of Culture: Comic Strips, Graphic Novels, Inspirational Literature, Neo-mythological fiction, Folk/Tribal/Ultra-Local Motifs Signifying a Symbolic Revolution, Billboards, Hoardings, Advertorials
- ☐ Post-Memory and Spectral Returns of the Past
- ☐ Post-Truth Narratives and Political Engagement
- ☐ Contemporary Developments in Bio-Cultures, Medical Humanities and Drug Literatures
- ☐ Travelling Cultures/Cultures in Travel: Advances in Globalization and Transnational Studies
- ☐ Topical Researches in Australian Studies, Scottish Studies, American Studies, Portuguese Studies, Hispanic Studies, Islamic & Middle-Eastern Studies
- ☐ Genre-Studies: Developments in Non-Fiction, Memoirs, Young Adult Fiction, Lad/Chic Lit, Corporate Fiction
- ☐ Recent Engagements in Postmodern, Postcolonial and Post-totalitarian Studies
- ☐ Arts & Preservation: Museological Studies, Urban Planning, Archival Studies, Heritage Preservation, Eco Museums
- ☐ Aesthetics of Haptics and Tactile Aesthetics
- ☐ Topophrenia, Spatial Humanities, Geocriticism, and Literary Cartographies
- ☐ Gerontology and Geriatric Studies: Environmental Gerontology, Cultural Gerontology, and Population Ageing
- ☐ Priority Areas of Future Research: Fashion Studies, Social Habits in the Virtual World, Paremiology, Graffiti Analyses etc.

Presentation Guidelines

- Participants are requested to send an abstract (not exceeding 200 words, with 5 keywords) and a short bio-note to both email ids, paul.sdp@gmail.com and sukhendujimmy@gmail.com no later than June 20, 2019. Status of the abstract will be communicated to the participants by June 30, 2019.
- Full papers should not exceed 2500-3000 words. Participants should follow MLA handbook 8th edition.
- Presenters are encouraged to bring power point slides for their presentations. Chair persons will notify presenters of the time limits.
- Queries relating to this conference are to be directed to the aforementioned email ids.

Publication Prospects

- All selected papers will be published free of cost in an **edited volume** and in our *Interface* associated journal, **Bankura University Review** (to be launched soon).
- Accepted Manuscripts will be sent to our external reviewers and publication will be reliant on the decision of the peer reviewers.

Registration Details

- Registration fee: ₹ 1000 (One thousand rupees only)
- Mode of Registration: Spot Registration on 25th & 26th July, 2019
(Registration fee includes tea, snacks, lunch and seminar kit)

Accommodation Details

- Conference committee will not be able to provide accommodation to the outstation presenters. However, our conference team will provide all sorts of assistance to arrange paid accommodation on prior request.

Communication Details

- Full address of Bankura University

Bankura University
Purandarpur Campus (**Not the old Poabagan Campus**)
Near Bikana
P.O – Purandarpur
Bankura-722155
Website- www.bankurauniv.ac.in

- Nearest Rail stations are Bankura and Durgapur; and both are well connected to Kolkata, Howrah Rail Junction and other parts of the country. Auto/e-rickshaws are available from Bankura Rail station and Haevy More (nearest bus stop of the university, especially for those coming from Durgapur).
- Two designated buses of Bankura University ply through the town. Time schedule and bus numbers will be intimated later.
- One dedicated conference car will be available on 25th and 26th July, 2019.

Chief Patron

Professor Deb Narayan Bandyopadhyay, Vice-Chancellor, Bankura University

Convenors:

Dr. Subhadeep Paul, Assistant Professor of English, BKU

Mr. Sukhendu Das, Assistant Professor of English, BKU

Conference Organizing Committee

Dr. Sarbojit Biswas, Associate Professor of English & HOD, BKU

Prof. Goutam Buddha Sural, Professor of English, BKU

Dr. Sandip Ain, Associate Professor of English, BKU

Dr. Aindrilla Guin, Assistant Professor of English, BKU

Ms Ipsita Sengupta, Assistant Professor of English, BKU

Dr. Tanuka Roy Singha, Assistant Professor of Social Work & TIC, BKU

Dr. Kaushik Ghosh, Assistant Professor of Political Science, BKU

Dr. Sujato Ghosh, Secretary to VC & Research Officer (Addl. Charge)