



JAIN UNIVERSITY

Declared as Deemed-to-be University u/s 3 of the UGC Act, 1956

(Accredited by NAAC with 'A' grade and CGPA of 3.31)

Department of English

Extend an invitation for

“Comparative literature in the 21st century : theory and praxis”

a one day symposium



Venue

Kondajji Basappa Memorial Hall
Bharat Scouts and Guides-Karnataka
Shanti Gruha, #39 Palace Road
Bengaluru-560001

22th September 2017

This symposium titled “Comparative literature in the 21st century: theory and praxis” is an attempt at extended critique of world views reflecting literature / writings in the global times through comparative practises. The theme of the symposium is formulated critiquing homogenised world views that privilege Anglo-American cultures over others. The need therefore is to reinvent comparative practises addressing ideological issues that negotiate hierarchized relations, circumventing cultural mainstreaming. Earlier literary assumptions about nation, culture and even language as the essential bearer of literary culture have been set aside in the context of accelerated globalization. When literature, culture, history and society stay seamlessly intertwined, the turn of the century, its interdisciplinary character seem to possibilities at the same time pose challenges through raising questions on: Which Literature?, Whose world? Multifarious world views in the 21st century seem possible depending on mechanisms and institutions that regulate the processes on which either literary success or failure is contingent

Comparing the world/worlds through literature(s)/ writings (derivative formulations to be critiqued) that are in circulation across the world mediate rethinking the world hitherto held “one and equal”. Is world literature an “entrepreneurial, bulimic drive to anthologize and curricularize the world’s cultural resources”? Do such exercises hierarchize Anglo/American master-languages, narratives? Do attempts to mediate cultural differences through translation, papering over differences, privilege dominant languages, literatures and cultures making it palatable to the Anglo-American tradition, with its emphasis on common sense and ‘ordinary language’? Does globalization in the 21st century more than ever before invest responsibilities on preserving the specificity of untranslatable words/ worlds, drawing one’s attention to the (in)visibility of translation, transduction, the politics of what is (un)translatable and so on. Is to compare in the 21st century to tread between translatability and untranslatability, the universal and the particular, cosmopolitanism and localism?

The symposium explores the politics of virtual society that claim to make the world’s information “universally accessible and useful”. While critical skills of intervening into writings are replaced by new skills required in the time of data, the session focuses on debates around how literature becomes data, approaches and research acumen exclusively digital to writings. If ‘Digital Humanities’ is ‘the next big thing in a long time’. What are the implications of digitization in the 21st century? What are the ramifications in its attempt to rephrase questions of social, cultural and political import, making them more and more about infrastructure, of turning information into data? Is it merely a complex way of storing and accessing knowledge? Does the act of archiving pose ethical problems? Through this symposium we attempt to conjecture questions of ‘Linearity’, ‘Simultaneity’, the west in the world, question of marginality and translation in the global times.

Schedule

Inauguration - 9.00 am

Key note speaker:

- **Professor E.V.Ramakrishnan** 9.30-10.30

Member of the executive council of the international comparative literature association and Vice-President of Comparative Literature Association of India

Plenary sessions

Session-I

- **Professor Chandra Mohan** 10.30-11.15

General secretary, Comparative Literature Association of India Advisor, International Higher Education, Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar Chair, ICLA Standing committee for research on South Asian Literatures and Cultures

Topic : “Comparative literature : Multiple rhythms”

TEA BREAK -30min 11.45-12.30

Session-II

- **Dr. Etienne Rasendran**

Associate Professor Department of English St. Joseph’s college Bangalore

Topic : “World Writing / Writing the world?”

Session-III 12.30-1.15

- **Professor. Ipshita Chanda**

Head, Department of Comparative Literature, EFLU

Topic : “Comparative Literature and the Ethics of Plurality”

Lunch break 1.15-2.15

Session-IV

- **Dr. Sushumna Kannan** 2.15-3.00

Adjunct Faculty, Dept. of Women’s Studies, San Diego State University (SDSU)

Topic : “Digital Humanities”

Organizing Committee

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Dean - Languages, Jain University

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Head, Department of English, School of Sciences

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Registration Fee

Teachers / Research Scholars - Rs.200

Students - Rs.100

Time :

9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.