



Reg No. S 23082/1992

January 2019

CLAI NEWSLETTER

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

www.clai.in

Delhi • Kolkata



Inaugural Session at the XIII CLAI Biennial International Conference at Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan.
March 6, 2017. From left to right: Bhālchandra Nemade, Nabaneeta Dev Sen, Zhang Logxhi,
Chandra Mohan, Tapati Mukherjee, Indra Nath Chaudhuri.

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Editorial

As we head into a new year, we are delighted to present our members with the latest issue of the CLAI Newsletter. We hope the CLAI Newsletter (January 2019) issue will prove useful to our members.

Over the years, our objective in bringing out the Newsletter has been to highlight developments in the field of Comparative Literature in India. With that objective in mind, we have included reports from various university departments practicing Comparative Literature, Comparative Indian Literature and Indian Comparative Literature, all of which seem to us to champion the same spirit of inclusion, respect for alterity and quest for relevance that CLAI believes in.

These reports showcase the way our discipline has been flourishing in India. For many decades, Jadavpur University had the only department of Comparative Literature in India. Even a decade or so ago, the number of institutions where one could do Comparative Literature was quite unimpressive. Today, though, this number has gone up substantially: one can now study Comparative Literature at a number of new places. We are delighted to carry reports from a number of such institutions; these reports highlight the state of our discipline and the trajectories it is taking.

The Newsletter also carries reports of a number of events related to Comparative Literature and Translation Studies hosted by various university departments. Finally, as has been the norm for us, we also present a series of notes on books likely to be of interest to our members. We have also included information about the next CLAI conference and the next ICLA congress.

Finally, we remember with sadness, Professor Vasant Sharma, CLAI Treasurer, whom we lost a few months back. We recall with gratitude the hard work he would put into the CLAI Newsletter and into all CLAI activities. We will miss him very much.

—Editors.

CONTACT US

Members are requested to follow our website (www.clai.in) for updates on activities of the association, and to send us news on activities related to Comparative Literature at different institutions, as well as reports, essays, news on new books, and other contributions. Please see the website for details. If you wish to have your book reviewed, please contact Professor Anisur Rahman (anis.jamia@gmail.com) or Dr Sayantan Dasgupta (sayantan.dasgupta@jadavpuruniversity.in). We also request you to update your contact details and affiliation with us by e-mail.

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XIII CLAI Biennial International Conference

*A Report from the
Centre for Comparative Literature,
Visva-Bharati*

Riti Sharma



The XIII CLAI Biennial International Conference was held at Viswa Bharati, Shantiniketan from **March 6-8, 2017**. The theme was: Comparative Literature: At the Crossroads of Culture and Society. The programme was organised by the Centre for Comparative Literature (CCL), Bhasa Bhavan, Visva-Bharati, in collaboration with the Comparative Literature Association of India (CLAI), the University Grants Commission, Sahitya Akademi, Oxford University Press, and Rabindra Bhavan, Visva- Bharati.

The inaugural session was marked by a traditional welcome by the students of the Centre for Comparative Literature with students from Patha Bhavana and Sangit Bhavana performing Tagore's songs. This was followed by the welcome address delivered by Tapati Mukherjee, the then Chairperson, Centre for Comparative Literature, Visva-Bharati, and Director, Culture and Cultural Relations and Adhyaksha, Rabindra Bhavana, Visva Bharati. The theme of this conference was introduced to the gathering by the faculty of CCL.

There were deliberations on the academic agenda for the next three years along with formulation of syllabi for the Centre for Comparative Literature at Visva -Bharati. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Visva-Bharati, Swapan Kumar Dutta's address was read in absentia by Supriya Banerjee. The history of the discipline of Comparative Literature along with Tagore's lecture on 'Visva Sahitya', were among the key points in this address. It also emphasized the wealth of language resources available at Visva-Bharati—a strength that could serve Comparative Literature well.

The Vice Chancellor wished the conference a huge success.

A report on the functioning of CLAI and ICLA was delivered by Chandra Mohan, CLAI General Secretary. He expressed his delight at the presence of luminaries like eminent writer-poet Nabaneeta Dev Sen, and Jnanpith awardee Bhalchandra Nemade on the dais. He felicitated the guests from Shenzhen University, China, and Didier Coste,

Professor Émérite de Littérature Comparée, Université Bordeaux, Montaigne. The General Secretary welcomed Professor Zhang Longxi, ICLA President, who chaired the keynote session. He expressed his happiness at the opening of new centres of Comparative Literature in the country. Professor Chandra Mohan mentioned the last ICLA Congress held at Vienna in July, 2017, and congratulated Professor Ipshita Chanda and Professor E V Ramakrishnan, who were elected to the Executive Council, ICLA.

Professor Zhang Longxi, President ICLA, spoke at length on the importance of the East-West interface and its impact in academics. He expressed his conviction that a strong grounding in the study of this interface may lead to relevant dialogue concerning immediate and general issues.

Thereafter, Jnanpith awardee Bhalchandra Nemade presented his views on the practice of Comparative Literature. Among other things, he voiced the need for more work on literatures from Asia. Research should also pertain to the language-cultures of India, and these, he felt would reflect the linguistic consciousness of Asian scholars of Comparative Literature.

Professor Indra Nath Choudhuri, CLAI President, delivered the presidential address. He spoke on Tagore's concept of 'World Literature', and on how this idea was used to reflect on universal humanism. Professor Nabaneeta Dev Sen, in her Keynote Address, narrated a number of personal anecdotes culled from the 60-odd years of her engagement with Comparative Literature. Comparative Literature is the only way of engaging with literary practices in a pluralistic space like India, she argued. The discipline has a bright future in India, she opined.

The first plenary session was chaired by E V Ramakrishnan, Professor Emeritus, Central University of Gujarat. The session was on 'Literary and Cultural Narratives in South Asia'. The speakers included Professor Chandra Mohan, Professor Anisur Rahman Director, Rekhta Foundation and Ameena Ansari, Professor of English at Jamia Millia Islamia. Chandra Mohan spoke on the music-based narratives of Guru Nanak and his companion Mardana who travelled from place to place throughout Asia. This was followed by Ameena Ansari's presentation on 'Narrativising Pakistan: Khalid Akhtar's Literary Discourse.' Anisur Rahman's presentation was on 'Verse Narratives in Urdu: The Case of Masnawi.' Finally E V Ramakrishnan spoke on 'The Return of the Story Teller: A Perspective on Recent Trends in Contemporary Asian Fiction.'



The second plenary session was dedicated to Mahasweta Devi, distinguished writer and activist. It was titled 'Doing Comparative Literature in India: Languages, Literatures and Cultures'. It was chaired by Professor Ipshita Chanda; the speakers included Bhalchandra Nemade, and Dakxin Bajarange.

This was followed by the Sisir Kumar Das Memorial Lecture delivered this year by Professor Zhang Longxi. The session was chaired by Professor Indra Nath Choudhuri. Longxi spoke of the concepts of spirituality beyond western concepts of life and the imperative to move beyond colonialist categories of description. He also spoke on

the concept of heterotopias, or the space of irrelevant otherness which the comparatist has to transcend. He recollected how Tagorean principles had been of paramount importance in South Asia. One has to go beyond a monolithic understanding of the self and the other, in order to better encapsulate the pluricultural view of Comparative Literature, Longxi opined. He looked into factors common between China and India, and delved into the possibilities that translation of texts has to offer to scholars of Comparative Literature.

The third Plenary Session was held on the second day of the conference. It was titled 'Comparative Literature: East-East Dialogue' and was chaired by Dr. Avijit Banerjee, Head of the Department, China Bhavan, Visva-Bharati. Papers were presented by Zhang Xiaohong and Yang Xiaoxia from Shenzhen University, China. Yang Xiaoxia discussed the histories of Chinese and Indian poetics, and the aesthetics of sound and imagination in both countries, and Zhang Xiaoxia's presentation was on American and Chinese confessional poetry. Professor Tapati Mukherjee spoke about Tagore's idea of Visva-Sahitya and how Tagore visualized Visva-Bharati as a research centre where scholars from the East and West could meet and pursue their research. She further argued that from its very inception, the university had assimilated the ethos of comparative literary practice in its academic and research activities.

The fourth Plenary Session was chaired by Professor Ipshita Chanda and was titled 'Cosmopolitanism and Comparative Literature.' Speakers included Professor Indra Nath Choudhuri, Professor Jancy James, Professor Harish Trivedi, and Professor Swati Ganguly. This session touched upon various issues ranging from the possibilities of methodological apparatuses that inform and govern the practice of Comparative Literature and how these can aid a better understanding of literary practices across India.

This was followed by five parallel sessions focusing on various themes and genres. The first panel was titled 'Literature and Censorship' and was chaired by Dr Sayantan Dasgupta, CLAI Secretary. The first presenter, Shashikant Kodur,



explored the claims of 'Sarah Aboobacker as an avant-garde Kannada writer'. The paper gave an informative overview of censorship practices in Kannada literature, and highlighted how various fundamentalist forces have recently come to the fore. The second presentation was by Muralidhar Sharma—his paper on 'Literature Performance and Censorship: Courtesan and the Courtly Poetic Traditions in Colonial India' was read in absentia. It explored Indian traditional musical forms like the *padam*, *javali* and *thumri*, and the politics of rendering them as 'marginal' art forms. M G Prasuna then presented her paper on 'Identity, Culture, and Society: Minority Discourse in Telugu Literature'. She spoke of the daily travails that 'identity politics'

have enforced upon communities. Her readings focused on Skybaba's works.

A parallel session on 'Towards Comparative Indian Literature' was chaired by Professor Tapati Mukherjee. Dr Epsita Halder presented a paper on 'Reclaiming the Sacred: Bengal Muslim Community's quest for Identity and Modernity in Scriptural Sources.' It looked at the discursive projects of the individual Muslim literati in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The second paper was that of Abdullah Abdul Hameed (in absentia) titled 'Moinkutty Vaidyar: The Continuum of Counter Aesthetics and Link between Literary Landscapes'. He argued for the need to discuss Indian literature in conjunction with the localized aesthetics in each language. The third paper was by Judhajit Sarkar, who focused on 'Locating the 'language' of Plurality: Literary Cultures of South Asia and the Practice of Reading Comparatively'.

The third session was titled 'Comparative Literature: Theory and Practice' and was chaired by Dr Damayanti Basu. Shatarupa Sinha presented a paper on 'Critical Pedagogy and Comparative Methodology: A Case Study,' in which she stressed the need for a good grounding in theoretical tools. Rajlaxmi Ghosh's paper was on 'Interrogating Cosmopolitanism: Deconstruction and the New Comparative Literature to Come'. This was followed by S Satish Kumar's paper on 'And Still I Rise: The Continuing(?) Crisis of Comparative Literature', in which he explored the importance of methodology and locational grounding for Comparative Literature.

The fourth parallel session, chaired by Tanusree Paul, was titled 'Feminist Literary Criticism and Comparative Literature'. The first speaker was Rekha Ojha whose paper was titled 'As Women and As Dalit: A Dalit Feminist Perspective'. The second paper was presented by Supriya Banerjee on 'Confronting Power Asymmetries in Feminist Art: A Comparative Analysis of the Graphic Novel Drawing the Line: Indian Women Fight Back'.



The fifth parallel session was titled 'Identity, Language and Politics' and was chaired by Kailash Pattanaik. In this session, a unique venture made by CCL, papers were read out in Asamiya, Odia and Bangla. The first paper was presented by Subasana Mahanta and focused on the importance and problems of translation. Ritulata Biswal presented a comparative reading of post-Independence Odia and Asamiya poetry. The third paper was presented by Puja Karmakar, who explored the representations of transgenders in two Bangla literary texts.

This session was followed by 'Bhasha Adda' over tea. Faculty members from the various European and Indian language departments and centres of Bhasha Bhavan, Visva-Bharati, participated in it. It included as participants faculty members from the various European and Indian language departments and centres of Bhasha Bhavan, Visva-Bharati. Professor Nabaneeta Dev Sen chaired this session. There were discussions on the active interface between single literatures and Comparative Literature, which may lead to mutually beneficial work. This session was followed by the screening of the film, 'Portrait of a Modernist: A Film on Buddhadeva Bose,' which was introduced by Professor Damayanti Basu.

The third and final day started with a morning *upasana* and a reading held at the Mandir followed by a visit to the Udayana complex. The sixth parallel session, chaired by Bhalchandra Namade, was titled 'Literature and Political Writings'. The session had two speakers speaking on issues of 'identity' and 'politics' in literature. Seram Guneshwari Devi's paper was titled 'The Victimization of People in a Conflict Ridden Zone: Manipur and Nagaland'; in particular she referred to the works of Tamsula Ao and Yumlemban Ibomecha. Suchandra Ghatak presented a paper on 'Being Anybody: Reconstruction of Identity in Post-Partition Bangla Theatre,' in which she focused on the migrants in Bengal as represented in Indian theatre after independence.



Another parallel session, on 'Cross-cultural Literary Relations', was chaired by Professor Jancy James. In this session, Dipa Chakrabarty spoke on 'Ananda Devi and *Indian Tango*'. The eighth parallel session, titled 'Towards Comparative Indian Literature' was chaired by Professor E V Ramakrishnan. It had three speakers who focused on Comparative Indian Literature. Divya Shah presented on 'The Construction of Space and Bombay: A Comparative Study of Selected Poems of Namdeo Dhasal in Marathi and Suresh Dalal in Gujarati'. A paper on 'Clashing Voices of Modernity and Tradition: A Comparative Study of Krupabai Satthianadan's *Kamala* and Govardhanram Tripathi's *Sarasvatichandra*' was jointly presented by Roshni Patel and

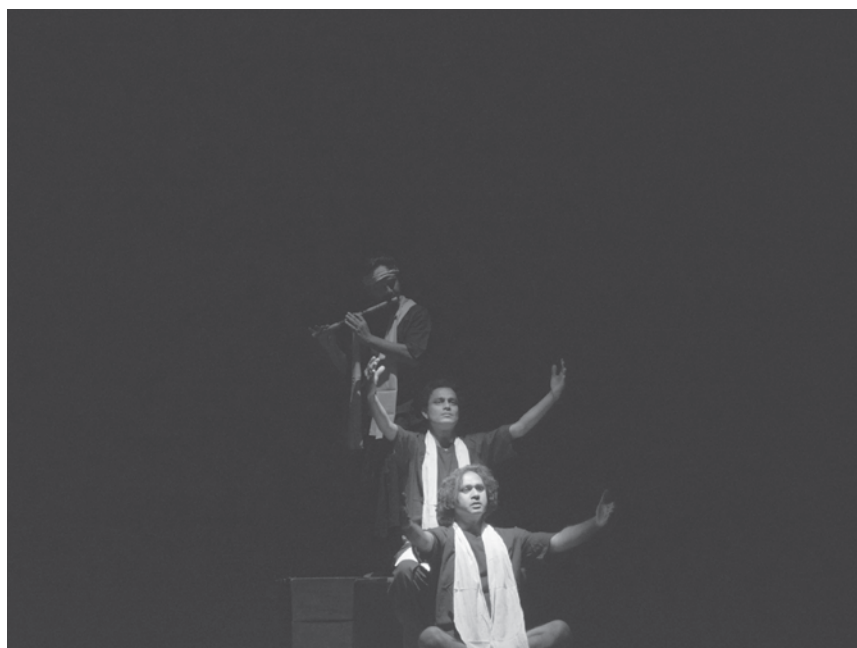
Zarana Maheshwari. The third paper of this session, titled "The 'Unity and Diversity' Problematic: Rethinking Comparative Literature in India", was presented by Ishani Dutta.

Professor Didier Coste chaired a parallel session on 'Reading Culture through Literary Texts'. Amar Ramesh Wayal's paper, 'Remembering Traditional Blackfoot World in James Welch's *Fools Crow* and Thomas King's *Medicine River*', explored the contours of native North American fiction. Sushant Kishore's paper titled 'At the Crossroads of the Body and Word: Interrogating Culture through a Performance Paradigm', emphasized the importance of performance texts which helps to elevate performance art as to the canonical status of word, tracing performatives of identity, culture, history and myth. Dattatreya Ghosh and Tias Basu also jointly presented a paper on 'The 'Folk' and the 'Classical''.

The tenth parallel session was on 'Identity, Language and Politics', and was chaired by Professor Vasant Sharma. Amrita Dasgupta presented a paper on 'Reflection of Bon Bibi in "Bidhoba Pally"'. Ananna Debnath then spoke on 'English as a Home Language Leads the Path of Endangering Bangla Language and Culture: A Critical Overview on the Parents of English Medium Students'. Hiren J. Patel's paper, 'Identity Formation through Language Standardisation: A Note on the Trajectory of Standardisation of Gujarati, 1820-1920', explored the politicisation of language through 'standardisation' and 'resistance'.

Professor Biswajit Roy chaired another session on 'Towards Comparative Indian Literature'. Abhijit Sadhukhan presented a paper on 'Comparative Methodology in Pre-Colonial (British) Bangla Literatures: A case study on Incarnation of Chaitanya Deva'. The next paper was presented by Sharadwat Manna, who in 'Bangla Sishu-Kishore Sahitya Gandhi-Nehru Rajnetic Dorshoner Abhighat', spoke about variations in children's literature in 19th century Bengal. Rakesh Kaibarty's paper, "Boitalik: Aalkaper Shilpo o Shilposatta Nipotthokahani", explored the genre of comic folk performance, Alkaap.

The next session was titled 'Transnational Space in a New World Order' and was chaired by Professor S P Shukla. The first presenter was Jati Shankar Mondol and his paper was titled 'Transnational Space in a New World Order.' He argued for the idea of 'transnation' moving beyond the normative categories of post-colonial perspectives. The next presenter was Gargi Bhattacharya whose paper was titled 'Decoding the Ancient Indian Literature: Problems of Textual Relations and Socio-Cultural Issues'.



A parallel session on 'Translation Studies and Comparative Literature' was chaired by Professor Somdatta Mandal. Anindita Basu presented her paper on 'Translating Cultures in the Age of Migration: the Importance of Translation and Comparative Literature Today'. Ria Roy Choudhury's paper was titled 'Translation as Retelling and Rewriting'; she spoke of translation as an act of rewriting and retelling which may be referred to as the means of keeping alive the history of a particular place through reiteration of past events in its oral form. Neeraj Kumar also presented his paper on 'Translation as a Mode of Bridging Cultural Gaps in Major Indian English Novel' in this session.

Pallavi Kiran focused on Gulzar's poetry in her paper "Pragmatic Frame for Comparing Poetry Translation". Dr. Sangita Saikia chaired the next parallel session. The first paper, titled 'Rabindranath and Comparative Studies' by Pallavi Deka Buzarboruah, was on Tagore's aesthetics and nature poetics which had a great deal of influence on the poetry, literature and songs of Assam. The next paper was presented by Asmaul Husna from Bangladesh.

She spoke on the importance of the national anthem of Bangladesh and how the people of Bangladesh consider Tagore's creations as transcending nationality, and how such works help to preserve culture in times of religious fanaticism.

The third day witnessed a special lecture by Professor Indra Nath Choudhuri. Professor Didier Coste delivered the valedictory address titled 'World Literature and Planetarity: Comparative Literature?' This was followed by a musical performance by Sangit Bhavana of Visva-Bharati and the certificate distribution ceremony.

Apart from the academic sessions, there were two major cultural events on the evenings of March 6 and 7, 2017. The Centre for Comparative Literature presented *Andha Yug* produced by Ebong Amra, an internationally acclaimed theatre group. This play was directed by Kallol Bhattacharya. Another important intervention was the Aalkap (a folk form of West Bengal) performance by New Ramkrishna Opera, Bolpur at the Audio Visual Room, Bhasha Bhavana, developed by the Centre for Comparative Literature.

Comparative Literature at Visva-Bharati

*An Update from the
Centre for Comparative Literature,
Visva-Bharati*

Nilanjana Bhattacharya

The Centre for Comparative Literature (CCL), Bhasha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, which was established in 2013, currently offers MA, MPhil and PhD degrees in Comparative Literature. Admissions for all these courses are usually open in May-June every year. Course structure, syllabus, specializations and other details can be found at the official website of Visva-Bharati. Language skills are strongly emphasized at CCL, and the opportunity of language learning is embedded in the MA course structure. Several skill-based optional courses are also included in the MA syllabus, which are expected to prepare students for the larger creative industry.

The small Centre has recently received a huge number of books as gift from the legendary translator-academic, Professor Manabendra Bandyopadhyay. The Manabendra Bandyopadhyay Gift Collection, presently housed at Bhasha Bhavana, contains more than one thousand books, including some very rare volumes. Research students are particularly encouraged to use this resource, in addition to other unique resources of Visva-Bharati.

To encourage dialogue with other departments, CCL organizes a monthly lecture series called 'Carca: Exercise in Comparativisms'. The lecture series is continuing since 2016, and this year the theme of the series is 'Modernism/Modernity'. Translation Studies is one of the major thrust areas of CCL. Since 2016, CCL has been working in collaboration with the Centre for Translation of Indian Literatures (CENTIL), Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, to translate and publish Rabindranath's Bangla writings into English. The first volume of the series, *Pracin Sahitya*: Annotated English Translation and Critical Essays, comprising Rabindranath Tagore's writings on ancient Indian literature, was published in 2017, and the second volume is expected to be published in 2019. CCL is also planning to organize a symposium on 'Comparative Literature: State of the Discipline in India'.

Translation Workshop at Visva-Bharati

A Report from the Centre for Comparative Literature, Visva-Bharati

Nilanjana Bhattacharya

The Centre for Comparative Literature (CCL), Bhasha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, in collaboration with the Centre for Translation of Indian Literatures (CENTIL), Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, organized a two-day Translation Workshop on March 16 and 17, 2018. The workshop was jointly coordinated by Dr Sayantan Dasgupta (CENTIL) and Dr Nilanjana Bhattacharya (CCL). This was the second workshop of the series that proposes to translate Rabindranath's so-far untranslated Bangla writings into English. In this series of workshops, unlike various other attempts which have been made so far of translating select essays, CCL and CENTIL decided to translate entire volumes of Rabindranath's works. The first workshop of the series, organized in 2016, translated Rabindranath's *Pracin Sahitya*, which was published in April 2017.

In the second Workshop, 13 translators gathered to translate Rabindranath Tagore's collection of essays called *Adhunik Sahitya* (Modern Literature) into English. Renowned scholars like Suniti Kumar Pathak, Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Rambahal Tiwari, Himadri Lahiri, Biswajit Ray, and Manabendra Mukhopadhyay were Resource Persons at the second workshop. The workshop was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor (Officiating) of Visva-Bharati, Professor Sabujkali Sen, who, in her inaugural address, discussed the importance of undertaking such translation projects. Both, the Chief Guest, Professor Alpana Roy, and the Guest of Honour, Professor Tapati Mukherjee, focused on the problems of translating Rabindranath in their addresses and reminded the translators of the difficulty of their mission.

Like the previous workshop, this one also saw a mixed group of translators, some veteran and some research scholars and students. Dr Ketaki Dutta, Dr Swati Ganguly, Dr Dipankar Roy, Dr Swagata Bhattacharya, Dr Nabanita Sengupta, Dr Soma Mukherjee, Dr Dheeman Bhattacharya, Smt. Sarani Roy, Smt. Supriya Banerjee, Smt Ishani Datta, and Smt Suparna Mondal were among the translators.

Keeping in mind the difficulty of translating such a text, CCL and CENTIL designed the structure of the workshop in a particular way. The workshop was divided into lecture sessions and translation sessions. The essays were circulated to the translators beforehand. The Resource Persons delivered lectures on various aspects of *Adhunik Sahitya*, modernism/modernity in Bangla literature and problems of translating *Adhunik Sahitya*. Each lecture was followed by lively discussion where the translators also participated. These sessions helped the translators in developing a better understanding of the text as well as issues at stake – a task essential for any translator.

The later sessions were devoted to translation, where the translators translated parts of the texts assigned to them, and also had the opportunity to discuss the translation-related problems with their fellow translators and resource persons. The last session of the workshop was a reading session, where the translators read out excerpts from what they had translated, which were then opened up for discussion, thus allowing the translators to get instant feedback from the audience. Besides Bangla and English, experts from Indo-Tibetan and Asamiya languages also attended the workshop, a move that would facilitate translation of *Adhunik Sahitya* in their respective languages. The volume, along with a few critical essays from the resource persons, is expected to be published in 2019.

Comparative Literature at Ambedkar University (Delhi)

Programme in Comparative Literature and Translation Studies: An Update

Radha Chakravarty

The joint research programme in Comparative Literature and Translation Studies (CLTS) is just over a year old, with its first intake of research scholars in August 2017. As part of the budding of a new university in the National Capital Region of Delhi, the programme too has envisioned a new path for preparing researchers and new formulations in the discipline of Comparative Literature. Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD) is the only university in Delhi, and one of the few in India, offering a dual track programme in both comparative analysis and translation studies.

The programmes were designed by the core faculty in Comparative Literature and Translation Studies in consultation with major practitioners in both fields. Eminent scholars such as Udaya Narayana Singh, T S Satyanath, E V Ramakrishnan, Milind Wakankar, Subha Chakraborty Dasgupta, Ashok Vajpeyi and K Satchidanandan helped the core group in preparing a dynamic curriculum and programme structure for a joint MPhil and PhD programme in CLTS.

The core courses in the disciplines focus on the genealogies of comparative thinking and translation theories in South Asia and train students in the various schools of comparative thought and hermeneutics from around the world. The programme also offers a range of electives, based on the existing faculty specializations, to expose students to current research in the field. Our electives include courses in Minor Literature, Perspectives in Translation and Reading Life Writing. The research programmes are flexible enough to accommodate practice-based dissertations including major translation work with scholarly commentary.



As befits a programme in Comparative Literature, our students work closely with original languages based on available supervision. Currently we offer supervision in Bengali, Hindi, Urdu, Marathi and a few north-eastern Indian languages such as Lamkang. Our first batch of students are experimenting with options of writing the regular dissertation and translation-based practical work or a combination of the two.

Apart from the research programmes, the faculty group offers open electives for the whole university at both the undergraduate and Masters levels to generate interest in Comparative Literature and translation studies. These open elective courses are taken by students from diverse disciplines such as history, psychology, education, gender studies, English and creative writing. Some of the popular elective courses offered by CLTS faculty include: Reading Autobiography, Literary Relations: Intertextuality, Poetry in the Indo-Islamic Millennium, Literatures of the Tribes of North-East India, Reading Fantasy and Philology for our Times.

In the first year of its existence, the programme has organized talks, lectures and events under the auspices of the School of Letters at AUD. Scholars of international repute such as Tejaswini Niranjana, Samik Bandyopadhyay and Hephzibah Israel have spoken at CLTS events. Our research scholars were key organizers of the Young Researchers' Conference 'Beyond the Icon: Ambedkar's Legacy for Our Times' in February 2018.

As part of future plans, the CLTS team is working towards developing a full-fledged Masters programme in Comparative Literature and Translation Studies allowing students to tailor-make their MA by choosing particular concentration in both or either disciplines. Both streams will focus in interface with the worlds of business, industry and international research including areas such as subtitling, audio-visual translation, machine translation, journalism and publishing. The programme also hopes to introduce certificate courses in key languages of study for Comparative Literature students in Delhi including Urdu, Punjabi and a few of the major European languages. The vision is to create a hub of language and literary learning in the heart of multilingual Delhi.

Comparative Literature at the Central University of Gujarat

*An update from the
Centre for Comparative Literature and Translation Studies,
Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar*

Balaji Ranganathan

The Centre for Comparative Literature and Translation Studies at the Central University of Gujarat has been at the forefront of examining and debating on the future trends within comparative Literature in the last few years. The centre has been focused with its activities and at present has reshaped and reoriented itself towards the larger debate of Indian Literatures and its context within Asia and Asian Studies. The thrust of the centre at present is on the larger geo-political definitions of examining Indian Comparative Literature as a confluence of many traditions within the larger Asian paradigm. This is to construct the larger orientation of the centre ahead as a premier research oriented Asian Studies Centre in the future. The thrust of the centre ahead is on the following:

- Asian Literatures
- Comparative Indian Literatures
- Translations
- Historiography
- Comparative art forms
- Linguistics and Languages
- Cultural forms
- Folklore

The students of the centre have worked on a large number of interdisciplinary areas ranging from Minority/Marginality issues, Performative Traditions, and Historiography to the larger dimensions of geopolitics and conflict within South Asia. The Centre recently organised a two-day workshop on "Trends in Literary Studies", February 12-13, 2018. It was a fruitful workshop where we had a large number of speakers who spoke on a wide array of areas detailed below reflecting the diversity of the centre.

Professor Ipshita Chanda (EFLU, Hyderabad) spoke on 'Comparative Literature and the Idea of Method', Professor Madhurita Choudhary (MSU, Baroda), on 'Introduction to Queer Studies', and Dr Shilpa Das (NID, Ahmedabad), on 'Literature at the Margins: Centring Feminist Disability Studies'. Professor Vanamala Vishwanatha (Azim Premji University, Bangalore) spoke on 'The Translation Scene in India Today: A Finger in the Pulse', Dr Sowmya Dechamma (UoH, Hyderabad), on 'Translation in the 'discovery' of a language: A case of Kodava', and Professor Sachin Ketkar (MSU, Baroda), on 'History of Translation in Marathi'.

Comparative Indian Literature at the University of Delhi

*An update from the
Department of Modern Indian Languages and Literary Studies*

Amitava Chakraborty



The Department of Modern Indian Languages & Literary Studies, University of Delhi, has a unique place in Indian academia as the only centre which offers multiple courses at various levels in different Indian languages while at the same time pursuing a comparative framework for research in Indian languages and English. The idea of Comparative Indian Literature was postulated by Professor R K Dasgupta, the founder professor of the department. Through later decades the idea and practice of Comparative Indian Literature has been nurtured by the department through its Masters' programmes, research degree programmes, seminar-workshop-symposia, publications and research projects. The department runs MA and MPhil programmes in Comparative Indian Literature and a DRS project with three major thrust areas: Comparative Indian Literature; Indian Folklore and Tribal-Lore; and Translation between Indian Languages.

Recent activities in the department:

1. The MA in Comparative Indian Literature syllabus has been revised in 2018. The thrust has been on initiating the students in understanding the spectrum of Indian literatures from a comparative perspective. Apart from introductions to various phases of Indian Literatures from a comparative perspective, the syllabus incorporates courses in the concept and practices of Comparative Indian Literature and recent developments in critical theories of literary studies.
2. The MPhil in Comparative Indian Literature syllabus has been revised in 2018. Apart from an introductory course on Research Methodology and specializations offered by faculty members, a course on contemporary literary theory is also being taught as part of the revised syllabus. The MPhil course continues to draw students from mono-lingual masters programmes, initiating them to Comparative Literature.
3. The Department played an important role in developing e-material for Comparative Literature under the E-PG Pathshala Programme of UGC and MHRD with Professor P C Pattanaik as the Principal Investigator.
4. The department is running the IIIrd phase of the DRS Programme under SAP of UGC.
5. A Departmental Research Forum has been established in 2017 as a platform of research students. Research scholars of the department present papers in monthly symposia organized by the Forum.

6. The tradition of weekly paper presentations by faculty members and research scholars has been revived in 2017.
7. Under the Special Lecture Series, scholars from various parts of India and foreign countries like Japan and Czechoslovakia have delivered lectures in the department.
8. A departmental website (<http://www.mil.du.ac.in/>) has been launched in 2018.
9. The following research projects have been completed by faculty members:
 - i. Dr Amitava Chakraborty: UGC Major Research Project on 'Globalisation and Indian Literary Studies: Perception, Infrastructure and Strategies'.
 - ii. Dr Amitava Chakraborty: ISHR Fellowship Project on 'Reconceptualizing the History of Oratory and Argumentation in Ancient India'.
 - iii. Dr Ravi Prakash Tekchandani: UGC Major Research Project on 'Sindhi Folk Culture and Folk Literature in India: A Study'.
 - iv. Dr D Uma Devi: UGC Major Research Project of UGC on 'Fakelore in Tamil Nadu: A Research on the Growth & Current Scenario'.
 - v. Dr K Premananthan: UGC Major Research Project on 'Writers, Writing and History'.
 - vi. Dr Rajendra Kumar Mehta: UGC Major Research Project on 'Thematic Survey of Post-Independence Gujarati, Marathi and Hindi Plays'.
10. Seminars and workshops organized in last three years:
 - i. National Seminar on Indian Theatre in Transit Modernity held during 17th -18th May, 2016.
 - ii. National Seminar on Oral Tradition and Community Identity held during 18-19th March, 2016.
 - iii. National Seminar in honor of late Professor R K Dasgupta on Literary Relations: India and the World held during 9th-10th March, 2017.
 - iv. National Seminar on Sindhi and other Indian Languages: Literary Interactions held on 13th January, 2018.

Comparative Literature at the University of Hyderabad

*An Update from the
Centre for Comparative Literature,
University of Hyderabad*

M T Ansari

The Centre for Comparative Literature (CCL), established in 1988, at the School of Humanities in the University of Hyderabad, envisages and encourages critical awareness of cultural and sociopolitical discourses. CCL currently offers MA (from 2011), MPhil and PhD programmes, with interdisciplinarity as its key approach. The postgraduate programme, which includes a dissertation in the fourth/last semester, has been steadily attracting students every year and the in-take has more than doubled. The three-semester MPhil programme involves course-work in the first semester with a dissertation to be submitted within a maximum of four semesters, while the PhD programme requires course-work over two semesters and a thesis to be submitted within a period of three to six years. Apart from offering a wide range of courses on the history of the discipline and the development of methodologies, with emphasis on literary texts, critical theory, translation studies and cultural studies, CCL programmes also encourage students to opt for courses from other disciplines in Humanities as well as Social Sciences in order to develop interdisciplinary approaches and comparative frameworks. Such an approach has given rich dividends, as exemplified by many CCL alumni. And CCL continues to maximize its academic potential by involving students/scholars in administrative discussions/decisions as well. Student representatives from all the programmes are also members of the Departmental Committee. CCL also has its own committees to address sexual harassment as well as other student grievances, apart from the mandatory School/University level mechanisms.

As part of the MPhil and PhD programmes, scholars from across the country (and often from outside) carry out research in a wide range of topics on various languages, diverse texts, different cultures and communities, thereby reflecting on and improvising the disciplinary thrust of Comparative Literature in India. Research scholars from CCL

are a regular presence in national and international conferences, workshops and summer/winter schools conducted within and outside the country, thereby engaging/enriching contemporary research trends. They have many publications to their credit, ranging from articles in national and international refereed journals to book-chapters to single-author books. Many CCL scholars are UGC JRF/NET-qualified and have been awardees of national and international fellowships as well as recipients of student-exchange programmes abroad. MPhil and PhD scholars also avail fellowship offered by the University. In a span of thirty years, 56 students have completed Masters, 113 scholars have completed MPhil and 41 scholars have completed PhD from CCL so far, which is quite admirable considering its given resources.

CCL currently has four permanent faculty positions, consisting of one Professor, one Associate Professor and two Assistant Professors, while one Associate Professor position has been advertised. The current faculty members are Prof MT Ansari, Dr J Bheemaiah and Dr Sowmya Dechamma, with many national/international publications and fellowships to their credit. The Centre is expecting more faculty positions and in the meanwhile functions with temporary and guest faculty. CCL has hosted eminent scholars like Prof CT Indra, Prof Udaya Kumar, Prof MV Narayanan, Prof Ipshita Chanda, Prof MSS Pandian, Prof Milind Wakankar, Prof Gauri Viswanathan and Prof EV Ramakrishnan as Visiting Faculty, delivering lectures, offering courses as well as critically engaging with the student community and their areas of interest. In addition, CCL regularly conducts talks/lectures by distinguished scholars in different fields of expertise relevant to the discipline throughout the year.

Apart from regular classroom endeavors, scholars/students of CCL organize RAW.CON,—Researchers at Work Conference since 2011—a national level students' conference which is the first of its kind in the country, with the support of CIIL, Sahitya Akademi, ICSSR, ICHR and other funding bodies, thereby ensuring platforms for academic exchanges. The three-day conference brings together students across the country along with invited resource persons to reflect on research papers on the concerned theme of each conference. The next RAW.CON is expected scholars have completed MPhil and 41 scholars have completed PhD from CCL so far, which is quite admirable considering its given resources.

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Comparative Indian Literature at the University of Calcutta

*An update from the
Department of Comparative Indian Language and Literature,
University of Calcutta*

Dipanwita Mondal

About the Department

The establishment of the Department of Comparative Indian Language and Literature (CILL), University of Calcutta, is the fruition of a legacy initiated by Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, who was the main force behind the Department of Indian Languages started in 1919 at this university. Mookerjee envisioned the study of multiple literatures in colonial India as a means of bridging the differences among languages, identities, and people. As a continuation of that legacy, the self-financed CILL course was introduced in 2005, commemorating the glorious 150 years of the University, with Bengali as the nodal department. The Government of West Bengal and the University of Calcutta have converted the self-financed course in CILL into a full-fledged department of the University in 2015. Here, Bangla serves as the basis of comparison; other Indian literatures composed in many languages, from ancient to contemporary times, being studied in comparison to that.

Thrust Area/s of the Department

- History of Indian Literature and Culture
- Classical and Pre-modern Indian Literature in Comparison with Bangla Literature
- Bangla and other Indian Prose and Fiction
- Comparative Study of Modern Indian Poetry and Drama
- Comparative Study of Indian Languages, Aesthetics, Stylistics and Modern Criticism
- Rabindranath Tagore and Indian Literature
- Bangla and other Indian Modern Literature
- Bangla and Hindi Literature
- Bangla and Sanskrit/ Pali Literature

Courses Offered:

Two-year regular MA course in Comparative Indian Language and Literature

Eligibility: BA (Hons) in any language or literature with knowledge of Bangla

Intake: 34

Departmental Seminar Library:

The departmental Seminar Library includes more than 400 books on Bangla and other Indian languages and literatures, most of which are donated by Professor Nalin Patel and Professor Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay.

Journal:

The Department publishes an annual journal titled *Journal of Comparative Indian Language and Literature*

Faculty Members:

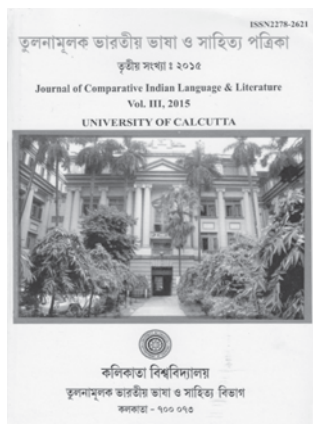
Professor: 1, Assistant Professor: 3, Guest Faculty: 10

Seminar/Conference/Workshop

- International Seminar on 'French and Indian Language and Literature', Speaker - Professor France Bhattacharya on December 8th, 2015
- International Seminar on 'Studying Indian Literature in China', Speaker - Professor Jiang Jingkui on January 4th, 2016
- National Seminar on 'Trailakyonath and 19th Century Comic Tradition', Speaker - Professor Nandini Bhattacharya on July 28th, 2016
- A seminar on 'Uttar-Purba Bharater Sahitya O Sanskriti', by Professor Soumen Sen and Mukti Choudhury on 22nd September, 2016
- A National Seminar on 'Bangla O Pratibeshi Sahitya: Sahishnutar Aadan Pradaan' in collaboration with Sivanath Shastri College, Kolkata, on January 19th, 2017
- A Two-Day National Seminar on 'The Context of Chaitanya Vaishnavism: Bhakti in Bharata' on 15th – 16th February 2018

Project:

A Research Project on 'South-East Asia: Colonial Beyond' has been undertaken by Dr Mrinmoy Pramanick, Assistant Professor, Department of Comparative Indian Language and Literature (CILL), CU, and is funded by the UGC-UPE Phase-II.



Comparative Literature at EFLU, Hyderabad

A report from the
Centre for Comparative Literature and India
Studies, English and Foreign Languages University,
Hyderabad

Rupesh Kotte

The Department of Comparative Literature and India Studies organized a three-day National Conference from 05 April 2017 to 07 April 2017 on '**Comparative Humanities: Re-configuring Humanities Across Cultures**'.

Professor Chandra Mohan, Professor Ananya Vajpeyi, Professor Vivek Dhareshwar, Professor E V Ramakrishnan and Professor Raghuramaraju were the key resources of the conference. There were three plenary sessions and ten paper presentation sessions for all the three days. Around forty presenters from various Universities and colleges across India participated and presented their papers under the session titles, 'Conceptualizing Asian Epistemology'; 'Comparative Science of Humanities'; 'Literature, Philosophy and Culture'; 'Oral Traditions and Performance'; 'Art, History and Literature'; 'Human Sciences of the East'; 'Conceptions of Human in Asian Cultures'; 'Aesthetics and Musicology'; 'Comparative Thought: What the West Knows from the East'; 'The Crisis of Humanities'.

The speaker for the first plenary session on the topic 'Reterritorializing the Relation between Major and Minor Literature: Deleuze, Guattari and Gandhi' was Professor A. Raghuramaraju and has been chaired by Professor Ananya Vajpeyi. The speaker argued that the western theories and episteme should be bent to accommodate the Indian or Eastern cultural, socio-political structures. He claimed that minor literatures are those constructed by minority within the major language and that the entire minor and major languages are rendered minor.

The speaker for the second plenary session on the topic 'The Saddle of Experience and the New Humanities' was Professor Vivek Dhareshwar and has been chaired by Professor E. V. Ramakrishnan. The speaker tried to question the authenticity and validity of fact by connecting Wittgensteinian idea of facts and Indian experiences about fact.

The speaker for the third plenary session on the topic 'Imagining 'Indic Humanities': What Sanskrit Can Teach Us' was Professor Ananya Vajpeyi and has been chaired by Professor Vivek Dhareshwar. Professor Vajpeyi attempted to draw comparisons between the contemporary activists like late Rohit Vemula, Kanhaya Kumar, Omar Khalid and the characters of Ekalavya, Shambooka and Satyakama Jabali.

The Valedictory address was delivered by Professor Dr D Venkat Rao on 'Critical Humanities and Epistemic Comparisons.' Professor Kailash C. Baral chaired the session. He tried to chronologically present the growth of western episteme and the development of mnemocultures.

The faculty, research scholars and students from the department and the school of literary studies took active part in the conference and the cultural evening organized by the conference committee on the second day of the conference attracted the audience and added flavor to the conference.

- The Department of Comparative Literature and India Studies, EFLU has begun an MA programme in Comparative Literature from the academic year 2017-18.
- The Department has organized a talk on '**The Politics of Global English in a Post-Postcolonial Era**' on 8th September, 2017 by Professor David Damrosch, Ernest Bernbaum Professor of Literature and Chair of the Department of Comparative Literature, Harvard University. Students from across various departments of the University participated in the talk. Research scholars and MA students of the department interacted and interviewed Professor Damrosch after the lecture. The focus of the interview was to ask Professor Damrosch questions regarding his concept of "World Literature". Questions were raised regarding the scope of World Literature and how the particular school related to National Literature, Comparative Literature, translation and the market. Professor Damrosch gave very



detailed answers to the questions that were posed. The central point of his defence of World Literature was translation. He elaborated upon the need for translation as well as the increasing number of translations. He was of the opinion that the necessity for World Literature was a result of an expanding market for translated literature. Interviewers also asked questions regarding the untranslatability of certain texts and their consequent exclusion from the body of World Literature. Professor Damrosch emphasized the need for knowledge of multiple languages, especially those which had not been translated. Professor Amith Kumar P V and Professor Ipshita Chanda facilitated the interaction session.

- As part of academic events, the Department organized a lecture series from December 11th – 13th, 2017 hosting two distinguished speakers, Professor Paget Henry of Brown University, USA and Professor Rekha Menon of Berklee College of Music, USA. The sessions deliberated on all aspects of the methodological interface between the humanities and social science, and visual expression in Post Colonial India. The titles of the two talks by Professor Paget Henry were “The Literatures of the Global South: Sri Aurobindo, Wilson Harris and V.S. Naipaul” and “Theorizing Subjectivity and the Methodological Interface between the Humanities and Social Sciences” and the title of the lecture delivered by Professor Rekha Menon was “Dressed in Moral Space: Perspectives of Visual Expression in Post-Colonial India”.
- The Department of Comparative Literature and India Studies, EFLU also organized a lecture on “An Impossible Discipline?: A Critical Approach to Literary Historiography in India” by Professor E V Ramakrishnan, Professor Emeritus at the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies at Central University of Gujarat on 28th February, 2018.
- The students from the Department of Comparative Literature and India studies, EFLU took part in the first meeting of ‘**Edward Said study circle**’ on 15th April, 2018 over skype. The study circle is an initiation by the Jamia Islamia Millia, Delhi and will be organizing regular talks and discussions on research alongside the focused areas of Edward Said. The first meeting had 30 participants, including Dr. Krishnan Unni and Mr. Saswata Bhattacharya, Deshbandhu College, DU, Mr. Jonathan Varghese, LSR College, DU, Professor Ipshita Chanda, EFLU (over Skype) and Dr. Anuradha Ghosh, JMI representing faculty and 25 research scholars (M.Phil., and PhD) and MA students. The next meeting was scheduled for May 13 May, 2018.
- The Department organised an academic workshop on “**Southern Global Epistemologies: Rethinking Comparative Literature,**” in collaboration with University of Birmingham and British Academy in December, 2018 in Hyderabad. The workshop is to be convened by Professor Rebecca Gould and Dr Emanuelle Santos from Birmingham University and Dr Sherin Basheer Saheera, EFLU. Professor Gould and Dr Santos are from the Department of Modern Languages at the University of Birmingham, and will be supported in the project by Professor Khadija von Zinnenburg Carroll (Chair of Global Art History at the University). It is said that Dr. Gould and Dr.Santos have been working to expand curricular offerings in a global direction, to incorporate recent advances in Postcolonial and Decolonial Studies, and to move the discipline of Comparative Literature beyond its traditional European focus. Dr Sherin, of the English and Foreign Languages University in Hyderabad, has been working with the South Asian branch of the International Comparative Literature Association to prepare the workshop from within India. The Department of Comparative Literature at EFLU will manage workshop logistics for the event. All scholars have their primary expertise in Comparative Literature and in a range of postcolonial cultures (Islamic, Latin American, African, and South Asian), each of which will uniquely enrich this collaboration.

The intellectual and pedagogical questions informing new curricular offerings are central to the “Southern Global Epistemologies” project. The project will also expand the remit of Gould’s European Research Council project on “Global Literary Theory,” which aims to introduce the suppressed and forgotten literatures of the Islamic world to contemporary literary theory. Early career participants from Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and South Asia will have their horizons extended as they are exposed to major research projects and publishing initiatives during their time in Hyderabad. The proposed sessions promise to be as transformative for Birmingham-based researchers as for the early career scholars, by enabling them to forge meaningful links across continents, geographies, epistemologies, and disciplines. The project emerges strongly and authentically from on-going development of Modern Languages at Birmingham, and from an exciting ambition among the team to produce major advances in the research agendas for Postcolonial Studies and Comparative Literature across the Global South and beyond.

Global Southern Epistemologies

The workshop on Global Southern Epistemologies was held in The English and Foreign Languages University Hyderabad, funded by the British Academy from December 12th- - 14, 2018. The Grant from British Academy was awarded to Prof. Rebecca Gould (Principal Investigator,) Dr. Sherin B.S. (The English and Foreign Languages University) and Dr. Emmanuelle Santos (University of Birmingham). This facilitated the participation of established academics and editors from the UK and India to meet early career researchers from the global south to discuss funding opportunities and publishing possibilities, with a larger focus on the concept of the global south. The workshop at EFLU considered the 'south' as a counter term for hegemonically constructed epistemologies in structures of caste, religion, race and regional hierarchies embedded in creating the national modern is challenged, as the internal integration, the national identity holds as its unifying factor, and the promises of the progress oriented/ developmental state prove vacuous. The post- Reformation standardization of modernity, and prioritization of geographies in universalizing knowledge sites are contested widely and rigorously, opening up remarkably wealthy and deep intellectual traditions in works like that of Frederick Starr's *Lost Enlightenment* on Central Asia's Golden Age. Similarly the question on the moral dilemma and ethics in political movements for social justice throws open in recent academic debates as that of Paul Gilroy's provocative analysis, *Darker than Blue: On the Moral Economies of Black Atlantic Culture* demand renewed understandings of the concepts of freedom, equality and political transactions. In this context, holding a writing workshop on the Global south undertakes the immense responsibility of negotiating and re-interpreting academic transactions.

- There were 31 ECRs from India and seven from the rest of the Global South. The Primary Investigator for the Grant was Prof. Rebecca Gould, University of Birmingham. Prof. Robert Young (NYU), Prof. Pablo Mukherjee (Warwick), Prof. Khadeeja Zinnenburg (Birmingham) and Dr. Emmanuelle Santos (Birmingham) included the speakers from the UK. They were joined by Prof. Udaya Kumar (Jawaharlal Nehru University), Prof. Kalyan Kumar (former Chairman, Lalit Kala Akademi), Prof. Chandra Mohan (Secretary, CLAI), Prof. Ipshita Chanda (EFLU) and Dr. Sherin B.S. (EFLU). Structurally, the Global Southern Epistemologies international workshop was laid out in two formats. The workshop sessions engaged with Early Career Research Scholars to aspire for larger visibility and readership as well as accessibility to resources for research. The public lectures, took up the political viability of categories like the 'postcolonial' and the 'decolonial' and extended the south as a domain of counter hegemonic endeavours. We proposed articulations of critical cosmopolitanisms beyond the epistemic consequences of colonialism and nationalism. This was not an epistemic schema of area studies, where the theory will be located in the north and the subjects to be studied are from the south. As opposed to the earlier canonical notions of the universal, we proposed to undertake a dialogue between diverse critical, ethical and political projects.



Comparative Literature at Jadavpur University

*An Update from the
Department of Comparative Literature,
Jadavpur University, Kolkata*

The Department of Comparative Literature at Jadavpur University was founded in 1964 and is the first Department of Comparative Literature in India. It offers a BA (Hons), an MA and MPhil course in Comparative Literature as well as a PhD (Arts). A certificate course in “Translation as a Skill” is also offered by the Centre for Translation of Indian Literatures (CENTIL), housed in the Department. Currently, the Department has 14 sanctioned posts and 25 registered PhD candidates.

The Department was given the status of Centre of Advanced Study (Phase 3) for five years, beginning 1 April 2016. Thrust areas of the Department within the CAS programme include the following: (a) Comparative Literature: Texts, Contexts, Methods, (b) Inter-literary Transactions: Indian and Asian Contexts, and (c) Interactions between Literature and other Knowledge Systems. A number of projects are currently being carried out as part of the CAS activities. These include “Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies through the Prism of the Border” (Sucheta Bhattacharya, Parthasarathi Bhaumik, Sujit Kumar Mandal and Kavita Panjabi), “Towards an Indian Comparative Literature: A History” (Sayantan Dasgupta), “Fictional and Discursive Writings of Muslim Literati in Bengal, 1911-2016” (Epsita Halder), “Buddhism in Children’s Literature in Bangla: An Annotated Anthology”: (Sumit Kumar Barua), “Translating Performance Texts: In Search of a Methodology” (Sujit Kumar Mandal), and “Comparative Literature: Texts, Contexts & Concepts” (Suchorita Chattopadhyay and Sayantan Dasgupta). Recent Visiting Professors include Professor Alessandro Portelli and Professor Tridip Suhrud.

Faculty members of the Department are also involved in many projects outside the ambit of the CAS. A number of them are involved in projects undertaken as part of the university’s UGC University with Potential for Excellence programme—Sayantan Dasgupta is Principal Investigator, Project Anuvad, Parthasarathi Bhaumik, Principal Investigator, Soundscapes of Kolkata, and Sujit Kumar Mandal, Principal Investigator, Project Palagaan.

The Department also houses the office of the Kolkata chapter of the Comparative Literature Association of India (CLAI). Most faculty members are members of CLAI, and many of them have attended congresses of the ICLA—the list includes Professor Kavita Panjabi, Professor Ipshita Chanda, Professor Suchorita Chattopadhyay, Professor Kunal Chattopadhyay, Professor Sucheta Bhattacharya and Dr Sayantan Dasgupta.

The Department also organizes an annual event, the Debrupa Bal National Students’ Seminar, in memory of a former student. Ten such seminars have been held so far. The most recent edition of the event was coordinated by Sayantan Dasgupta and Sucheta Bhattacharya on the theme: “Art and Conflict in the 20th Century”.

A number of conferences, seminars and workshops have been organized under the auspices of the CAS in recent years. Recently published books by faculty members include: (a) Kavita Panjabi, *Unclaimed Harvest: An Oral History of the Tebhaga Women’s Movement* (Zubaan Books, Delhi and Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, 2016), (b) Sayantan Dasgupta, ed. with Kavita Lama, *Call of the Hills: A Coursebook of Indian Nepali Literature in Translation* Volume 1 (revised second edition), (Jadavpur University Press: Kolkata, April 2016), (c) Sayantan Dasgupta, with Sieghild Bogumil, *Comparative Literature in Germany* (Jadavpur University, Kolkata, March 2017), and (d) Suchorita Chattopadhyay and Debashree Dattaray eds., *At the Crossroads of Culture and Literature* (Delhi: Primus, 2016).

The Department also publishes the *Jadavpur Journal of Comparative Literature*, fifty-four volumes of which have been published so far. Free-to-download electronic copies of older issues of *JJCL* are available at http://jjcl.jd-vu.ac.in/jjcl/display_a.php, which is a valuable resource for anybody doing Comparative Literature.

The Department also houses three centres—the Centre for Canadian Studies, the Centre for Studies in Latin American Literature and Culture, and the Centre for Translation of Indian Literatures.

Centre for Canadian Studies: Among the major efforts of the Centre for Canadian Studies in recent years was the three-day International Conference entitled “150 Years of “Solitude”: Narratives on Canada’s Conflicts and Reconciliations” held from 9 to 11 January, 2018, coordinated by Professor Suchorita Chattopadhyay (Coordinator, CCS) and Dr Debashree Dattaray (Deputy Coordinator, CCS). The conference was organized in collaboration with the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI – India Office).T

Notable guests this year included Ms Lata Pada (Choreographer and Dancer, Founder Member of Sampradaya Dance Academy, Member of the Order of Canada) and Dr. Julie B. Mehta (Department of English and Canadian Studies Programme, University College, University of Toronto). This year’s conference saw the second Victor J. Ramraj Memorial Prize for the best paper in Canadian Diaspora Studies being awarded by CCS, JU in collaboration with SICI to Ms. Debjani Chakraborty (MPhil Scholar, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences) for her paper titled “*“Politicized Remembrances: Exploring the Calibrations of Memory and Identity in Ondaatje’s oeuvre”*”, while the second Renate Eigenbrod Memorial Prize for the best paper in Canadian Indigenous Studies was awarded to Ms. Titir Chakraborty (M.A. Student, Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University) for her paper titled “*Swardhasarabarshe Canada: Atmaparichayer Sangrame Nari Andalaner Rooprekha*”.

The Centre for Canadian Studies also hosted Professor John G. Reid from Department of History and Atlantic Canada Studies Program, St. Mary’s University, Halifax, Canada and Vice-President of Shastri Indo- Canadian Institute, for a public lecture on “Reflections on the History of the Mikmaq, Maliseet, and Passamaquoddy” that was delivered on 31 August, 2018. Professor Reid delivered a second lecture on 1 September, 2018, on “Settlement and Immigration History on Atlantic Canada”.

Dr. Peter Keegan, University of Auckland, also delivered a lecture on “Maui Origin/ Culture of New Zealand”. CCS has further been enriched by the awards received by some of its students and faculty members. Ms. Ragini Chakraborty, MPhil scholar, Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University was awarded the Shastri Research Student Fellowship (MPhil) for 2017-2018. She was affiliated to the Department of Asian Studies, University of British Columbia and her academic affiliate was Professor Anne Murphy. Dr. Debashree Dattaray received the Shastri Mobility Grant 2017 – 2018 to spend three weeks at the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada (MISC), McGill University, Montreal, in March 2018 and her academic affiliate was Professor Elsbeth Heaman, Director, MISC.

Professor Suchorita Chattopadhyay, Coordinator, CCS, has very recently stepped down after completing her term as President, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute.

Centre for Studies in Latin American Literatures and Cultures:

The Centre for Studies in Latin American Literatures and Cultures (CSLALC) undertakes research and teaching related to Latin American literatures and cultures.

CSLALC organized an International Workshop, *Latin American and South Asian Cross-Cultural Transactions: From Text to Performance*, conducted by Professor Debra Castillo of Cornell University and scholars Rosalie Tamar Purvis and Debaroti Chakraborty of Cornell University and Jadavpur University respectively, from 8-11 January 2018. It was held in collaboration with Project Performance & Project Anuvad and UGC-UPE II Cultural Resources Programme.

The goal of the workshop was to understand the multiple nodes through which a ‘narrative’ may enter into the ‘performative’ realm in the context of conflicting, resonating and overlapping cross-cultural readings of Latin American and South Asian texts.

Two performance pieces were presented on the last day: *Woman After All....* that was the result of the workshop, and *Now that Separateness is Unassailable*, choreographed by Purvis and Chakraborty on the basis of a year-long collaboration based on the experience of crossing cultural barriers. This international workshop was the fifth of a series on South Asian and Latin American cross-border explorations organized by the CSLALC.

Centre for Translation of Indian Literatures: The Centre for Translation of Indian Literatures (CENTIL) seeks to enhance the archive of Indian literatures available in translation. It works particularly in the arena of marginalized Indian languages. It also works towards sensitizing society to the importance of translation and disseminating translator training.

CENTIL organized an “International Winter School on Literary Translation 2017”, in collaboration with the British Centre for Literary Translation (BCLT), University of East Anglia, and Writers’ Centre Norwich, January 30 and 31, 2017. It also organized a workshop as part of the “Writing Places” Project (with Writers’ Centre Norwich and BCLT, University of East Anglia), from October 2 to December 11, 2017.

Its most recent event was a Symposium on “Translation: Problems, Poetics and Politics” organized on September 24, 2018, in collaboration with the Sahitya Akademi and as part of Project Anuvad (UGC UPE2: Cultural Resources). Speakers included Sanjukta Dasgupta, Jatindra Kumar Nayak, Shivarama Padikkal, Gokul Sinha, Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Dr Nilanjana Bhattacharya and Indranil Acharya.

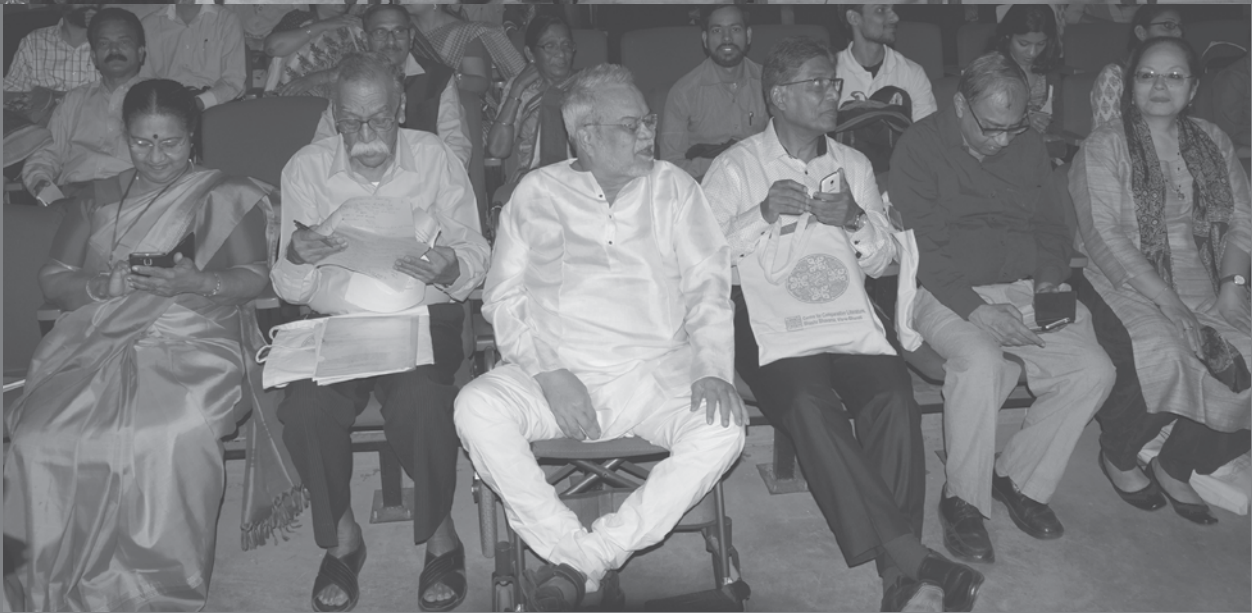
CENTIL has also been organizing a number of collaborative translation workshops. These include:

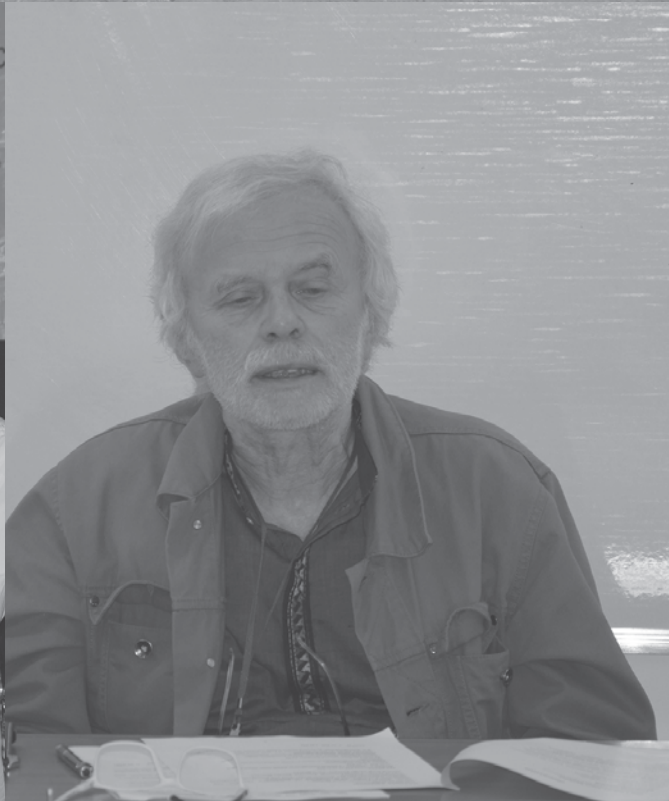
- (a) “National-Level Workshop for Literary Translation 2017” (CENTIL, Project Anuvad and Salesian College, Siliguri), June 27 to 29, 2017,
- (b) Translation Workshop on “Translating Rabindranath’s Essays on Sahitya” (*Adhunik Sahitya*), in collaboration with Centre for Comparative Literature, Visva-Bharati, March 16 and 17, 2018,
- (c) “Literary Translation: An Orientation Workshop” (in collaboration with CAS Phase 3, Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University), March 28, 2018,
- (d) “Literary Translation Workshop on Contemporary Indian Bhasha Literatures” (with Shri Shikshayatan College, Kolkata), August 25, 2017,
- (e) CAS III Workshop on “Comparative Literatures: Texts, Contexts and Concepts”, CAS III with CENTIL, August 29-31, 2017,
- (f) Workshop on “Contemporary Indian Nepali-Language Writings”, organized by the CENTIL under Project Anuvad, UGC-UPE 2: CR&SS on September 14, 2017 (for publication in *Bhashabandhan*),
- (g) “Translation: An Orientation Workshop for Nepali-Speaking Students of Jadavpur University”, November 3, 2017,
- (h) “Chandrika Preliminary Translation Workshop”, November 28, 2017 – December 20, 2017,
- (i) International Workshop on “Latin American and South Asian Cross Cultural Transactions: From Text to Performance”, (with CSLALC), January 11, 2018,
- (j) “Chandrika Translation Workshop II”, January 15, 2018 – January 21, 2018,
- (k) Translation Workshop on “Gandhi in Bangla Literature”, March 9, 2018, and
- (l) Seven-day UGC-sponsored state-level Translation Workshop on “Translating 19th Century Women’s Writing and Writing for Women” at the Bhawanipur Education Society College, December 5 to 11, 2016,
- (m) Translation Symposium on “Cities of Translators: Berlin-Kolkata” organized in collaboration with TOLEDO, November 15, 2018,
- (n) Symposium on Translation, organized in collaboration with the Sahitya Akademi, September 24, 2018.

CENTIL has been collaborating with various institutions such as the Sahitya Akademi, Writers’ Centre, Norwich, the British Centre for Literary Translation, University of East Anglia, Rabindra Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, the Centre for Comparative Literature, Visva-Bharati, Shri Shikshayatan College, Kolkata, Bhawanipur Education Society College, Kolkata, Utkal University, Vidyasagar University, and Adamas University. Dr Sayantan Dasgupta is Coordinator, CENTIL, while Shradhanjali Tamang is Joint Coordinator.



CLAI Biennial International Conference at Visva-Bharati, 2017





Indian Comparative Literature at Assam University

*A Report from the
Department of Indian Comparative Literature,
Assam University*

Suman Gun

The Department of Indian Comparative Literature of Assam University (A Central University) was established in 2014 with the aim of trying to set good standards of teaching and research from the beginning. The UGC-approved Department offers MA, MPhil and PhD programmes of study. The major focus of the teaching and research programmes in the department is on areas like Inter-Indian Relations, Bhakti Literature, Indian Regional Literature, History of Indian Literature & Culture, Epic Literature, Impact of Sanskrit & European literature on Literature of Indian Languages, etc. Professor Suman Gun has been reappointed as Head of the Department for three years from November 2017.



Comparative Literature in the 21st Century: Theory and Praxis

*A Symposium Report from
Jain University, Bengaluru*

Sreedevi Santhosh

The symposium titled 'Comparative Literature in the 21st Century: Theory and Praxis' organised on the 22nd of September served as a precursor to varieties of engagements with comparative literature programmes. It was organised under the aegis of Jain University and mediated by Dr Mythili P Rao (Director, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dean of languages, Jain University). Professor E V Ramakrishnan opened the symposium with the keynote address and was followed by Professor Chandra Mohan, Professor Ipshita Chanda and Dr Sushumna Kannan.

The theme of the symposium was set to Compare world views through literature/ literature(s)/ writings (derivative formulations to be critiqued) that are in circulation across the world that 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 the practice of comparative reading in the 21st century analogous to treading between translatability and untranslatability, universality and particularity, cosmopolitanism and localism?

The symposium opened with the welcome address delivered by the Pro-vice Chancellor of the University Professor Sandeep Shastri. He set the tone of the symposium through his reflections on 'texts', 'contexts', 'writing' and the 'world'. Professor E V Ramakrishnan, through his keynote address, began conversations around practises and engagement with comparing writings/literature in the Indian context, comparing world views, knowledge production vis-à-vis the act of writing in regional contexts with the advent of modernity. He analysed literary experiences across regions as trope to build on comparative experiences of literature in the regional context, through intervening Persian, Arabic, Sanskrit and varieties of cultural influences that moulded modern regional varieties of languages. It is simplistic therefore he noted to assume that homogenised, monolithic experiences are at work while comparing texts in regional contexts.

Professor E V Ramakrishnan formulated his arguments around translation as a significant comparative strategy, drawing on the translation of a Dutch novel called Akbar into Malayalam, translation being one of the focal points around which comparisons begin. He suggested that Comparative Literature in India needed to enquire more aggressively into the emergence of modern regional language varieties.

Professor Chandra Mohan, through his talk titled 'Comparative Literature: Multiple Rhythms', outlined how the trajectory of World Literature crosses paths with Comparative Literature, enlarging the scope of Comparative Literature. Drawing on Mathew Arnold, he illustrated what it is like to compare, Comparative Literature being the kernel of literary studies. Under the aegis of Comparative Literature the study of writings become progressively interdisciplinary and interliterary, he contended.

Drawing on Vishnu Nagar's Ishwar ki kahaniyan, Professor Ipshita Chanda reflected on the plurality of human existence. Through her paper titled 'Comparative Literature and the ethics of Plurality', she illustrated the usefulness of plurality, the very basis of the discipline of Comparative Literature. She proposed that according to the doctrine of अनेकान्तवाद, no reality, metaphysical or philosophical position can be true if asserted without conditions. According to her arguments the truth of our world is a common, co-constituted shared truth, unique and universal, relational and situational.

The symposium concluded with a session on Digital Humanities by Dr Sushumna Kannan. This session explored the politics of virtual society that claims to make the world's information 'universally accessible and useful'. 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 of the 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? Does it suggest violence of epistemology? The session on Digital Humanities attempted to evaluate these questions.



Workshop on Stylistics and Translation at Adamas University

A Report from Adamas University

Mukulika Duttagupta

A two-day workshop on “Stylistics and Translation” was held on the 20th and 21st February, 2018. It was jointly conducted by the Department of English Language and Literature and Department of Bengali Language and Literature. Dr Sayantan Dasgupta, Secretary, CLAI, and Coordinator of the Centre for Translation of Indian Literature, Jadavpur University, delivered the Keynote Address at the inaugural session of the workshop. In the Keynote Address, Dr Dasgupta introduced various aspects of translation. In the second half of the translation workshop the students received hands-on training in translating texts from Bengali to English, Hindi to English, English to Bengali and English to Hindi. Around 120 students from the School of Social Sciences, Adamas University, participated in the workshop with immense enthusiasm and interest. The students enjoyed the entire experience and learnt the basic nuances of translation through an interactive session with Dr Dasgupta following a reading session of the translated excerpts.

On the second day of the Workshop, Prof, Asoke Bhattacharya, Head of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Adamas University, delivered a lecture on the “Creative art of Translation”. Asoke Bhattacharya’s lecture was followed by an address by Professor Mahidas Bhattacharya, Director, School of Language and Linguistics, Jadavpur University. He spoke about the importance of Linguistics. He also introduced the concepts of stylistics and translation. He conducted interactive sessions with the students in order to give a clear understanding of the concepts of stylistics and the use of technology in the field of translation. At the end of the workshop, participants shared their experiences saying that they had thoroughly enjoyed the two-day workshop at Adamas University.



CLAI Participation in the ICLA International Conference (University of Vienna)

Chandra Mohan



CLAI members made a significant contribution to the proceedings of the ICLA International Conference held at the University of Vienna in July 2016. More than fifty six faculty members and research students from several central and state universities of India presented papers in different group sessions at the conference.

The most exciting news largely shared at the conference related to the grand victory of CLAI's two senior members Professor E.V. Ramakrishnan and Professor Ipshita Chanda who were elected as Executive Council Members of the International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA). Professor E.V. Ramakrishnan got the highest votes in his favor. Professor Ipshita Chanda was invited to participate in one of the three open sessions on Language: The Essence of Comparative Literature. Professor E.V. Ramakrishnan was invited to deliver a plenary address which was on the topic "From Reception to Resistance: the Many Languages of Indian Modernism."

ICLA organized four special group sessions and panels at the conference. The session on "South Asian Pathways: Language, Gender and Politics" attracted 25 presentations. Professor Chandra Mohan and Professor E.V. Ramakrishnan were the Coordinators of this group session. The various themes of the papers focused on issues involved in areas relating to 'Gender and Power in South Asian Fiction', 'The Confines of Creativity in the Subcontinent', 'Dialectics of History, Political Rhetoric of Nation(s)', 'Rewriting the Nation', 'Myths of Redemption Across Faith', 'Subversion in the Narratives of North East and North West', 'Comparative Study of South Asian Poetics', 'South Asian Politics and Tibetan Buddhism', 'Sufi and Bhakti Movements', 'Reconstructing Partition', 'Multiple Realities of South-Asian Life through Cinema', etc. Eminent scholars from different Indian universities who presented papers included: Jasbir Jain, E.V. Ramakrishnan, I.N. Choudhuri, Tutun Mukherjee, Sieghild Bogumil, Bandana Chakravarty, Mythili Rao, Supriya Agarwal, Ameena Ansari, Rajamtrikha Bhowmick, Manorama Trikha, Urmil Talwar, Asha Sundram, Ashraf Uddin Kazi and Mashrur S. Hussain (Bangladesh), Rachel Bari, Devika Narula, K.G. Sharma, Abhimanyu Singh Arha, Neekee Chatruvedi, Sayantan Dasgupta, Sangeeta Sharma, Soma Marik and Aratrika Ganguly. A volume of selected papers from this session is being published by a noted publisher and it is expected to be released at the forthcoming ICLA conference at Macau, July 2019.

The group session titled "The Many Languages of Communist Cultural Resistance" in India was another engaging and interesting session; it was coordinated by Professor Kunal Chattopadhyay. The session dealt with 'Narrative Fiction in Progressive Movements', 'Gender and Nation in fictional writing', 'Resisting the language of Tradition and bondage', 'Ideology, Culture and Poetic Language and Mapping the Politics of Gender in the Communist Women of Bengal'. The paper presenters included: Kunal Chattopadhyay, Soma Mukherjee, Safia Begum, Judhajit Sarkar, Soma Marik and S. Satish.

The session titled "Comparative Literature in India and the many Languages of Comparative Literature" was a special contribution made by young research scholars with Mr. Judhajit Sarkar as its Coordinator. The participants who presented their papers in this group were: Abhinava Chatterjee, Arnab Dutta, Francesca Orsini, Judhajit Sarkar, Radha Chakraborty, Soma Mukherjee and Surya Prasad Shukla.

The special group session titled 'The Marginalized Literatures and their Assertions in Multilingual Societies' was coordinated by Dr. Mythili Rao. Papers on the following topics were presented: 'The Status of Dalits in Multilingual India'; 'Marginalized Literature of Kashmiri Hindus in Exile'; 'Ambedkar's vision of Egalitarianism and Literature'; 'Study of Subaltern Woman Narrator'; 'Dialectics of Oppression, Starvation and Humiliation'; 'Re-positioning the Other'; 'Displacement of Adivasi's'; 'Study of Urdu and Chakma Poetry'; 'Black Faminism and Dalit Faminism'; 'Eco-Dalit Narrative'; 'Politics of Language: Silence as Resistance'; 'Margin, Culture and Identity: Canada and India'; 'Shifting Position of Language and Literature'; 'Tribal Narratives of India and Pakistan'; 'Voices from the Margins as Destabilizing Forces' and 'Folk Songs of Dogri and Ladakhi Literatures'. Participants who presented their papers in this group were: Mythili Rao, Jayshree Singh, Anita Shukla, Ranita Chakraborty, Neeraj Kumar, Aparna Lanjewar, Shashi Punjabi, Mashrur Shahid Hossain, Mahjabeen Neshat, Rahmat Jahan, Ashraf Kazi, Vinita Gupta, Zakia Firdaus, Riti Sharma, Vrinda Rajiv, Ramarani Lall and Garima Gupta. A volume of selected papers from the session would be brought out under the auspices of Jain University, Bengaluru.



Awards and Achievements

Professor Tapati Mukhopadhyay, Vice-president of CLAI, has been designated President, Sanskrit Sahitya Parishad, Kolkata, which was established in 1916. She was also made Council member and Library Secretary of Asiatic Society, Kolkata. She was awarded Banga Nari Samman by the Association for Protection of Human Rights in 2018.

Professor E V Ramakrishnan's *Malayala Novelinte Deshakalangal*, published in Malayalam by Mathrubhumi Books, 2017, has been selected for the VAIKHARI Award for 2018, given by the T. Bhaskaran Memorial Trust in Ernakulam.

Professor Indra Nath Choudhuri was awarded the Tagore Plaque by the Asiatic Society for his overall contribution to the field of literature. Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, Vardha, also gave him a national award for his contribution as a non-Hindi scholar to Hindi literature. He was also recognized as a distinguished National Scholar of Hindi and Indian literature through an award given to him by Sushma Swaraj.

Professor Harish Trivedi was honoured with presentation of a Festschrift containing learned essays contributed by eminent scholars and colleagues as a tribute to his scholarship. The volume is titled *India and the World: Postcolonialism, Translation and Indian Translation* and is edited by Ruth Vanita (Pencraft International, New Delhi).

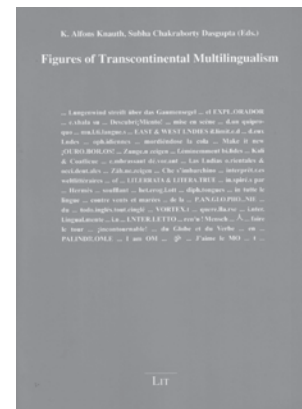
Professor Chandra Mohan was conferred with the Global Goodwill Ambassador honor by a prestigious international body (GGA Canada) for his outstanding humanitarian work in the education sector over a long duration of time, for mentoring students and solidly supporting the internationalization of Higher Education, in January 2018.

Book Notes on Publications by Members

Figures of Transcontinental Multilingualism. Eds. K Alfons Knauth and Subha Chakraborty Dasgupta. Zurich: LITVerlag, 2018. ISBN 978-3-643-90953-4

Figures of Transcontinental Multilingualism edited by K Alfons Knauth and Subha Chakraborty Dasgupta has recently been published by LITVerlag. The multilingual text is the fourth and last volume of an ICLA/AILC research committee on "Mapping Multilingualism in World Literature", chaired by Professor Alfons Knauth, who envisioned the project and involved many comparatists across the globe. The four volumes, in his words, open up a new series of critical studies called "poethik polyglott". A workshop of the research committee was held in India during the XIth International Conference of the Comparative Literature Association of India, held in Jadavpur University in 2013.

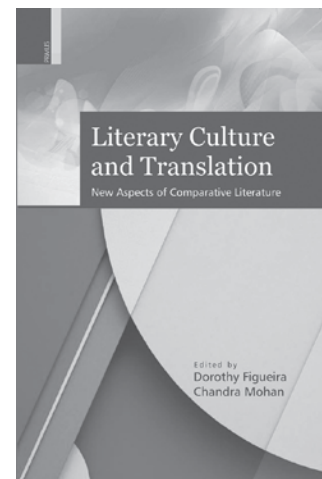
The volume reflects on outstanding figures and configurations of literary and cultural multilingualism in a transcontinental perspective. It begins with India and the American Indies and the "relation through words" in Luso-Afro-Indian, Anglo-Indian and Indo-European areas. The second focus is on the cross-cultural configuration of East and West introduced by a few striking Sino-European and Sino-American events in modern periods, including the early modern. A third focus concerns what is called the Buch-Roman, a verbo-visual object where the reader gets involved in a conflict with the divine author and his literary objects, the people of paper. And finally, there is an engagement with the universal figure of Ouroboros and ophidian multi-linguality. An overall issue of global survival is worked out in this volume through the essays on transcontinental multilingualism.



Literary Culture and Translation: New Aspects of Comparative Literature. Eds. Dorothy M Figueira and Chandra Mohan. Delhi: Primus Books, 2017. Pp. 325. Rs 950. ISBN 978-93-84082-51-2.

This is an exciting, new collection of essays related to Comparative Literature. It features 21 essays contributed by scholars from various parts of the world. Nineteen of them are new essays, while two of the essays had first appeared in *Aspects of Comparative Literature: Current Approaches*, a most influential anthology of critical essays edited by Chandra Mohan and published in 1989.

Literary Culture and Translation consists of four sections. The first section is called 'Aspects of Comparative Literature' and carries essays by Sisir Kumar Das, D W Fokkema, Jüri Talvet, and Haun Saussy. The second section, titled 'India and Elsewhere', carries contributions by Gerald E P Gillespie, Eugene Chen Eyoang, Dorothy M Figueira, Anne Tomiche, Sayantan Dasgupta, Ipshita Chanda and Subha Chakraborty Dasgupta. Section 3 ('General Translation Theory') features essays by Indra Nath Choudhuri, Jasbir Jain, E V Ramakrishnan, Anisur Rahman, Assumpta Camps and Sukrita Paul Kumar. The fourth section, on 'Case Studies', has contributions from Harish Trivedi, Ganesh Devy, Marc Maufort and Sieghil Bogumil-Nötz.



The essays in this anthology make an important contribution towards tracing and comparing trajectories of Comparative Literature from different countries, exploring the relationship of Comparative Literature with Translation Studies and further extending the boundaries of what constitutes Comparative Literature.

In Translation: Positions and Paradigms. Anisur Rahman. Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan, 2019. Pp. 248, Rs 775. ISBN 9789352874620.

In Translation: Positions and Paradigms is a collection of ten exciting essays on the relationship between translation and literary culture. The essays explore questions of authorship, language and translatability in new and innovative ways in the Indian context. With its focus on both texts and historical contexts, *In Translation* promises to open up new vistas in Translation Studies in India.

There are essays that explore the larger context of translation as embodied in the relationship between author, text, translator and reader, just as there are essays on generic issues like the



problem of translatability. Similarly, while this volume carries essays on historical contexts such as translation at the College of Fort William, it also boasts of painstakingly analytical essays on translations of Urdu ghazals by Meer and Ghalib. A few of the essays featured in this volume have been published elsewhere earlier; they are among the more visible and well-known essays on translation from contemporary India, but they have been revised substantially for this volume and deserve to be read afresh in the light of contemporary developments.

Exploring Identity, Space and Challenge of Resettlement. Sangeeta Sharma and Tejinder Kaur. Jaipur: Shri Guru Gobind Singh Centre for Sikh Studies, University of Rajasthan, 2016. Pp. 140. Rs 250. ISBN 978-93-5258-961-6.

Divided into three parts, this slim volume is a valuable addition to the archive of Partition Studies. It deserves to be disseminated as widely as possible as it promises to promote a more holistic understanding of Partition, an event which still casts its shadow on contemporary South Asia. It is reminiscent of the epic ***The Other Side of Silence***, which brought Partition oral narratives to bear on our understanding of Partition.

Exploring Identity, Space and Challenge of Resettlement is based on interviews conducted with Sikh migrants uprooted by Partition who settled in Jaipur. It also uses interviews with Sindhi migrants and those who had witnessed the influx of Sikh migrants into Jaipur. The authors analyse the migrant experience in terms of the rural-urban divide, class divide, profession, period of migration and gender. The second part of this volume features the narratives gleaned from the Sikh migrants. The narratives provide poignant insights into the lives of the people who got caught up in the madness of Partition and rebuilt their lives from scratch in a new host society. The third part of this book carries extracts from legal documents related to Partition and resettlement.

Rereading Tagore, Amiya Dev. New Delhi: Niyogi Books, 2018. ISBN 978-93-86906-30-4

Rereading Tagore is a collection of fourteen essays by Amiya Dev, who, in the past few years has been discovering again and again how deeply Rabindranath is embedded in his consciousness. Engrossed with modern poets, he had taken the legacy of Rabindranath for granted, but then his words were lying in wait for him, and at a moment of closeness with death they caught him unawares, came upon him with the force of an epiphany. It is the depth of personal experience fused with a fine analysis that makes this book so special for one and all.

The author insists that the book is meant for those who do not read Bangla, and so he translates copiously, trying to take the reader as far as possible into the poetic universe of Rabindranath. The essays gathered here were written in different periods for different occasions in the last decade or so, but he makes each of them contemporary, rereading them in the context of some of the burning issues of the times. We are reminded that classics remain relevant to all times as we read his essays. Although the text has chapters on Rabindranath's plays, novels, travelogues and essays, the core is constituted of a deep contemplation of his songs that open up new horizons of experience and understanding for the reader. But there are others too, such as the one on his conversation with the world of the Sikhs, and then on his visions of the 'East' and again on the relation between the individual and the universe.

The text will be of interest to students of comparative literature for the rich web of intertextuality within which the former teacher of the subject locates the texts of Rabindranath, going back to several key texts of Indian and Asian literature on the one hand, and to the masters of European literature on the other. They open up the world of literature in all its majesty and strength, affirming the validity of spending years in the company of books, of comparative literature. The book will surely encourage a rereading of Tagore on our part.

--Subha Chakraborty Dasgupta

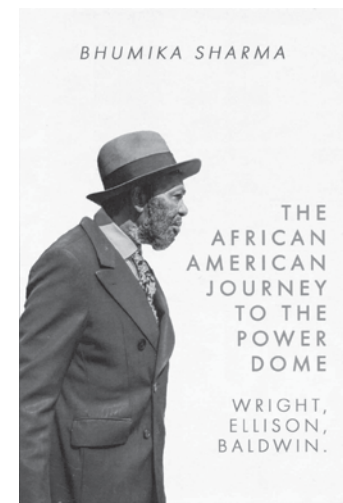
Nabaneeta 79: A Tribute. Eds. Dilip Kumar Chakravarty et al. Kolkata: Karigar. 2017. Pp. 248. Rs 375. ISBN 978-9381640-86-9.

Nabaneeta: 79 is a collection of a variety of pieces contributed by scholars, creative writers and students to celebrate the 79th birthday of Nabaneeta Dev Sen, well-known scholar and creative writer. It has critical essays and reminiscences as well as one of Dev Sen's short stories in translation. Contributors include Jasodhara Bagchi, Tutun Mukherjee, Indranath Chaudhuri, Amiya Dev, Swapan Majumdar, Sankha Ghosh, Sourin Bhattacharya, Sanjukta Dasgupta, Suchorita Chattopadhyay, Alokeranjan Dasgupta, Mridula Garg, Sheila Lahiri Chaudhuri, Tapan Raychaudhuri, Dipankar Chakravorty, Kavita Panjabi, Mini Krishnan, Ipshita Chanda, Seemantini Gupta, Satish Kumar, Arnab Dutta and Judhajit Sarkar. The volume includes various kinds of contributions—there are critical essays, reminiscences of Nabaneeta Dev Sen contributed by her friends, colleagues and students, and a translation of one of her short stories. It also carries an exhaustive bibliography of the prolific Nabaneeta Dev Sen's publications. A fitting tribute indeed to a much respected scholar, a much admired creative writer, and a much loved teacher.



The African American Journey to the Power Dome: Wright, Ellison, Baldwin. Bhumiika Sharma. London: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2018. Pp. 195, £61.99. ISBN-13:978-1-5275-1394-5.

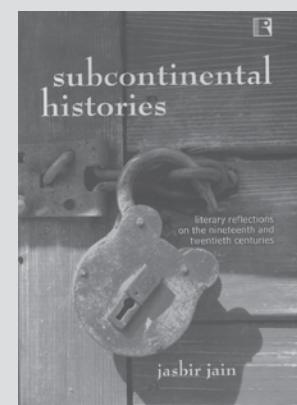
This book presents an historical tale interwoven with the aesthetic underpinnings of many marvellous African American authors. With an underlying proposition of how the fictional journey of African American protagonists parallels the African American progression from self-negation to self-assertion, the book portrays African American odyssey from socio-political rags to the new realm of power. To be specific, African American journey from the wild 'plantation' field to the dome of 'White House' reinterprets the 'American Dream.' Hence, navigating the fiction of three literary stalwarts namely Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison and James Baldwin, the book brings out various emotional and ideological patterns that configure the African American account of social ascent marked with their historic-cultural metamorphosis. The book enfolds a wide range of critical analysis of African American literature and applies both historical and comparative approaches to bring out the cross-cultural elements of American world.



Subcontinental Histories: Literary Reflections on the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.

Jasbir Jain. Jaipur & Delhi: Rawat Publications, 2018. ISBN: 978-81-316-0928-6

This book is an exploration of the historical events of the last two centuries, interpreted through literary texts – fiction, poetry and drama – works which move away from the immediacy of history to analyze it in retrospect. A number of writers and thinkers have been discussed – Jotiba Phule, H.V. Derozio, Rabindranath Tagore, Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay, Mahatma Gandhi, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Pash, Kamila Shamsie, Girish Karnad, Shahid Nadeem, Badal Sircar, Intizar Hussain, Sadat Hasan Manto, Attia Hossain, I. Allan Sealy, Nadeem Aslam, Githa Hariharan and Mumtaz Shahnawaz. There are sixteen essays in all. Documents such as letters, speeches and newspaper articles offer a different view of reality when freed from the immediacy of the expression. Beginning with India's past and the many causalities of ideas and ideologies on the way to freedom, the present volume goes on to look at the aftermath of divisive nationalisms leading to the partition of the country, before moving to the many manifestations of terror in India and its neighbouring countries, the race for nuclear weapons and environmental concerns.



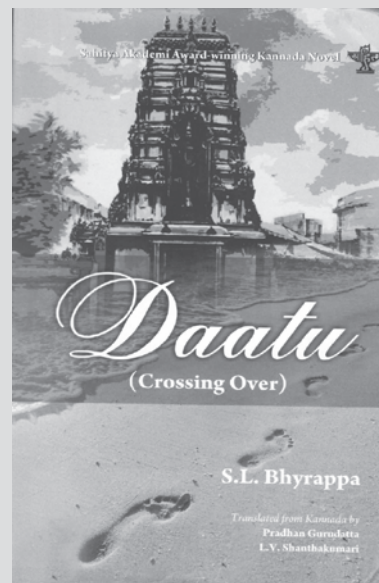
--Somdatta Mandal

Daatu (Crossing Over), S.L. Bhyrappa. Tr. Pradhan Gurudatta and L.V. Shanthakumari. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2017. ISBN: 978-81-260-5388-9. Pp. 558, Rs 450.

Pradhan Gurudatta and L.V. Shanthakumari's English translation makes S.L. Bhyrappa's *Daatu* (Crossing Over) accessible to readers who have no access to Kannada. *Daatu*, which won the Sahitya Akademi award, is a scintillating take on the complexities of the caste system in India. *Daatu* is set in rural Karnataka and ingeniously brings to the forefront the fact that the oppressor-oppressed cycle is ever-changing.

Through various twists and turns, the narrative takes us through the experiences of its characters, primarily Satyabhama and Srinivasa. It is set in a small village called Tirumalapura in Tumkur district of Karnataka. Satyabhama's (the daughter of a Brahmin priest named Venkataramanappa) decision to marry Srinivasa (a non-Brahmin, son of MLA Melegiri Gowda) not only leaves their families but also their village topsy-turvy.

--Ishani Dutta



About PLSI

The 50- volume, 35,000- page People's Linguistic Survey of India (PLSI), launched in 2010, provides an overview of the extant and vanishing languages of India, as evolved till 2014, and as perceived by their speakers. The volumes chronicle the evolution of these languages in all their socio-political and linguistic dimensions, and encapsulate the worldview of their speakers.

Conducted by 3500 volunteers, including 2000 language experts, social historians, translators and the staff of Baroda-based Bhasha Research and Publication Centre, the survey has identified 780 languages in India. Of all these languages 480 are spoken by tribal and nomadic people, while about 80 are coastal languages. Arunachal Pradesh is the state with the highest number of languages, with as many as 66 languages spoken there, while West Bengal has the highest number of scripts, nine, and around 38 languages. The first six volumes were released at the Global Languages Conference-Bhasha Vasudha in Vadodara on January 7, 2012. Thirty five volumes have been published till date.

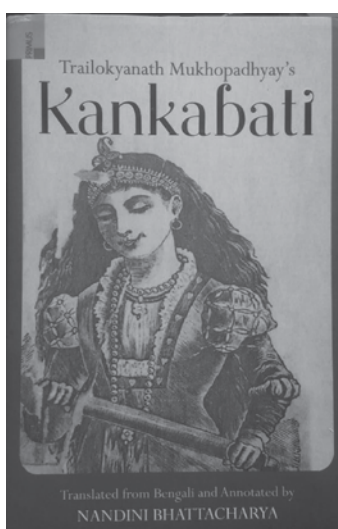
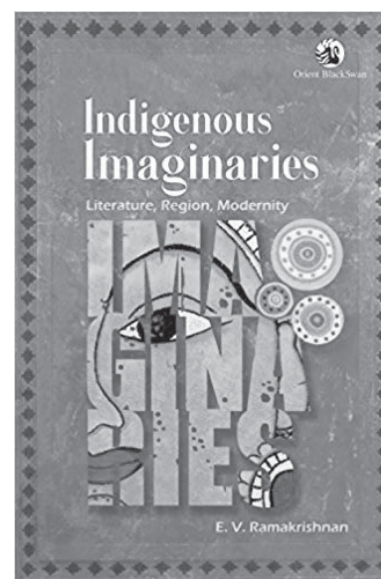
The States Series records the languages spoken across the states of India. The National Series documents the languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The latter also includes Indian languages in the Diaspora, international languages in India, sign language(s), and language census, survey and policy.

Indranil Acharya

Indigenous Imaginaries: Literature, Region, Modernity. E V Ramakrishnan. Orient Blackswan, 2017. Pp. 276. Rs775.

This is an impressive anthology of critical essays on various aspects of Indian literature. The volume is divided thematically into three sections--“Configuring Contested Epistemologies: The Literary across Cultures”, “Reading as Recovery: Textual Worlding of the Singular” and “Colonialism to Comparatism: Translating/Historicising the Other”. The essays compel one to inculcate new outlooks towards literary historiography, the need to regionalize the concept of ‘Indian Literature’ and relationship between Comparative Literature, Translation Studies and Indian literatures.

The anthology probes different aspects of the relationship between the indigenous and the so-called modern and argues for the need to emphasize the kshetra in attempting to understand the complex dynamics of modernity, indigeneity and nation in India. The essays plead for a massive reorganization of epistemological structures in India. The first section takes up theoretical questions related to modernity, nation, multilingualism, secularism, globalization and dissent in the context of Indian literature. The second section has essays that present close readings of a number of key texts by writers such as Rabindranath Tagore, Vaikom Muhammad Basheer, Mahasweta Devi, Amitav Ghosh, Anand, Jean Arasanayagam and Agha Shahid Ali. The third section deals with different aspects of literary history and translation.

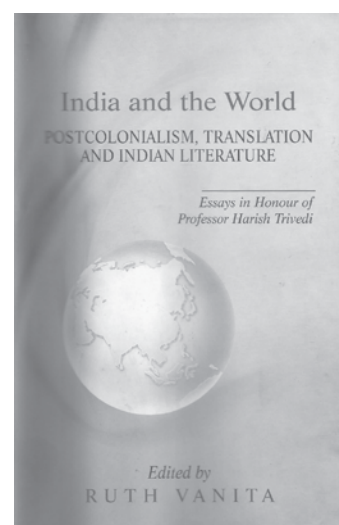


Kankabati. Trailokyanath Mukhopadhyay. Tr. Nandini Bhattacharya. Delhi: Primus Books, 2016. Pp. 205, Rs 1,495. ISBN 978-93-84092-03-0.

Trailokyanath Mukhopadhyay (1847-1919) is perhaps one of the most important nineteenth and early twentieth century Bangla writers, and one who is perhaps yet to get due recognition. This academically oriented English translation of what is perhaps Trailokyanath's most important work promises to make his contribution more visible. Trailokyanath's imaginative use of fantasy to highlight social and political realities comes through effectively in this work.

Kankabati has been termed a 'modern fairy tale' It centres around Kankabati, a little girl in the village of Kusumghati in nineteenth-century Bengal. It is a tale of love between Kankabati and Khetu, but it is a very useful testimony of contemporary nineteenth century realities in Bengal. Trailokyanath uses the dream sequence in his narrative and merges the dream world and the real world, a strategy that allows him to comment on social mores in a vein that seems humorous, but that is no less thought-provoking.

India and the World: Postcolonialism, Translation and Literature by Ruth Vanita, a collection of essays, honours Prof. Harish Trivedi, by surveying the three fields to which he has made signal contributions – criticism of Indian literature, translation, and postcolonial studies. Eminent scholars, some of whom have shaped these fields, look back on the work of a lifetime, and a couple of younger scholars follow in their wake. The interconnectedness of the three fields emerges in some essays, while in others they retain their independent boundaries. Contested questions are discussed, as some scholars emphasize the centrality of pleasure to reading, while others insist on the need for literature to mould the reader in particular ways. This volume demonstrates the transnational scale of literary conversations about India (the contributors are connected to more than a dozen countries by birth, residence and work), and also the continuing vigour of several methodologies, from postcolonial neo-Marxism to Asian theories of poetics and rhetoric to close reading and historicism.

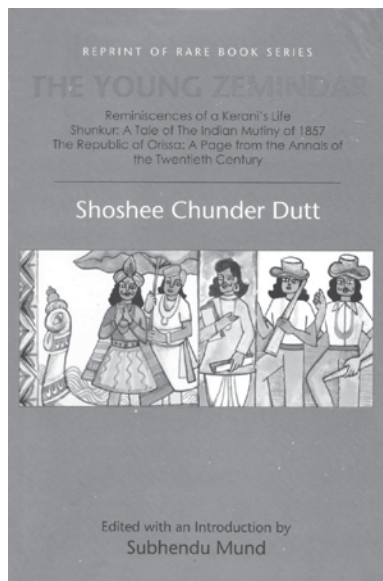
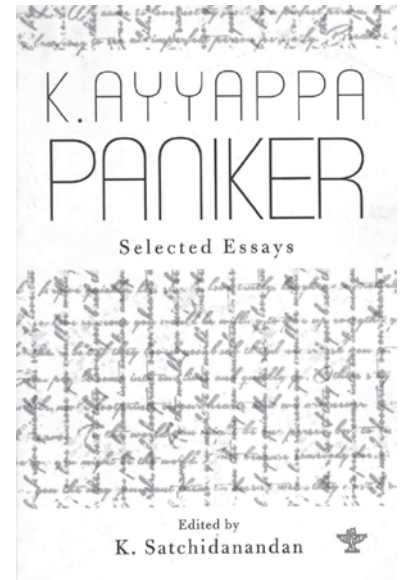


Focus on Recent Books from Sahitya Akademi

K Ayyappa Paniker: Selected Essays. Ed. K Satchidanandan. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2017. Pp. 252. Rs 250. ISBN 978-81-260-4755-0.

K Ayyappa Paniker (1930-2006) was one of the most important comparatists of his times. Not only was he an influential modern Malayali poet, he was also an editor, translator and critic. Sahitya Akademi has just published this selection of critical essays written by him on a variety of topics. Some of the essays in this collection were written in English; many others have been translated from Malayalam. There are essays on the arts, literature and aesthetics, as there are essays on some of the most influential writers from the Malayalam language. Among the writers the essays in this anthology focus on are Kumaran Asan, Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai and C V Raman Pillai. The essays traverse a wide range and focus on Indian literature as well as Western literature. Among the most thought-provoking essays is "Ancient Indian Aesthetics: Contemporary Relevance", which seeks to explore whether or not it is possible to go back to the ancient Indian tradition to do literary criticism today. Included in this anthology are pathbreaking essays such as "Medieval Indian Literature" and "The Postcolonial Experience in Indian Literature".

The volume also carries a select bibliography of Ayyappa Paniker's critical writings and an insightful introduction.



The Young Zemindar. Shoshee Chunder Dutt. Ed. Subhendu Mund. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2017. Pp. 612. Rs 600. ISBN 978-81-260-4618-8.

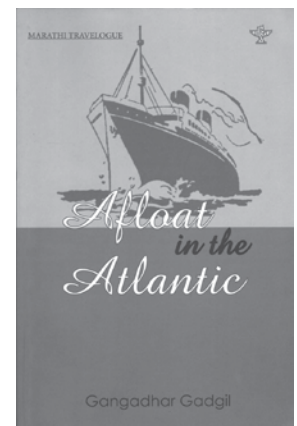
In this magnificent volume, Sahitya Akademi presents reprints of four works of fiction by Shoshee Chunder Dutt (1824-1885). Shoshee Chunder Dutt was one of the most important early writers of Indian English literature. Chronologically, only Dean Mahomet and Khyas Chunder Dutt predate him as Indian English writers.

The Young Zemindar, *Reminiscences of a Kerani's Life*, *Shunkur: A Tale of the Indian Mutiny 1857*, and *The Republic of Orissa: A Page from the Annals of the Twentieth Century* are the four works gathered by Subhendu Mund in this volume. Shoshee Chunder Dutt was a contemporary of Henry Louis Vivian Derozio, Kashi Prosad Ghosh and Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, and his writings offer very important testimony to the history of his times. The dynamics of colonialism, the politics of resistance, and the fantasy of independence are all themes that work their way into his fiction. Dutt's works are sometimes set in an imagined future, where he can give full play to the dream of independence as in *The Republic of Orissa*, where the ruling British army is decimated and an independent republic of Orissa is born.

The volume comes with a scholarly introduction by Subhendu Mund, who very effectively contextualizes Dutt's writings in the light of the colonial context that engendered them.

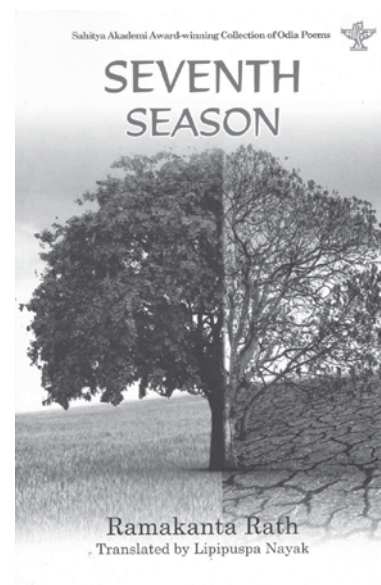
Afloat in the Atlantic. Gangadhar Gadgil. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2018. Pp. 169. Rs 150. ISBN 978-93-8798901-6.

This is an English translation of Gangadhar Gadgil's Marathi travelogue. It covers his experiences in Italy, France, the USA and Japan. Like most successful travelogues, it is much more than an informative account. The attempts to understand the foreign in terms of the familiar make this an important work for understanding cross-cultural transactions.



Seventh Season. Ramakanta Rath. Tr. Lipipuspa Nayak. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2018. Pp. 120. Rs 120. ISBN 978-93-87989-51-1.

This is a collection of poems by Ramakanta Rath, celebrated Odia poet. Love and death are the predominant themes in these poems. The poet revels in exploring the many aspects of death and its inevitability. The cremation ground, the abandoned paddy field and stains of blood are just some of the telling images he uses as he ruminates about the ephemerality of life.



Anthology of Bengali Short Stories. Ed. Sunil Gangopadhyay. Tr. Ed. Sanjukta Dasgupta. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2016. Pp. 520. Rs 350. ISBN 978-81-260-4254-8.

This anthology features 32 Bangla short stories in English translation. The translations emerge from a Sahitya Akademi translation workshop. The editor's preface highlights the translation process, while Sunil Gangopadhyay's introduction highlights the importance of the stories selected for this anthology. The collection offers a comprehensive idea of the contemporary Bangla short story. For anybody who wants to understand what has been happening in the realms of the Bangla short story, this book is a must read.



Emotion, Expression and Aesthetics. Ed. Ipshita Chanda. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2018. Pp. 158. Rs 140. ISBN 978-93-87989-15-3. Ed. Ipshita Chanda. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2018. Pp. 158. Rs 140. ISBN 978-93-87989-15-3.

This collection of critical essays emerges from a Sahitya Akademi seminar organized at Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, in 2016. It features seven essays on various aspects of aesthetics and creativity by scholars from different parts of the country. There are, among others, essays on the biography in Indian literature, Rabindranath Tagore's letters, contemporary Malayalam literature and the writings of Saadat Hasan Manto and Ismat Chughtai.

In Memoriam: Vasant K Sharma

Vasant Sharma (1948-2018)

Former Treasurer, CLAI

Professor Vasant Sharma taught English Literature at the Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, University of Delhi from 1970 to 2013. He was invited to deliver lectures at several reputed institutions and prepared study materials for the School of Open Learning, University of Delhi. He published papers and delivered talks in various national and international conferences, and was a life member of IACS, CLAI and Fortell. He was a popular contributor to the English Teachers Group and other websites, and published several satirical pieces on social and political issues in *The New Indian Express*.

-- Sarvachetan Katoch



A Personal Tribute

Vasant Sharma was a rare human being, someone who could aptly be called a noble soul -- except that he would have laughed at such a description and come up instantly with an apt quotation on nobility or soul or both. He was modest to a fault and always self-effacing, so that few could fathom how very well read he was. He continued with cheerful dignity to subscribe to the norms of the old scholarly culture in which one read just what one pleased, by any author who took one's passing fancy. His observation of the everyday human comedy was acute, and his genial wit and sense of fun were never asleep for long. He went out of his way quietly to help anyone and everyone out of the sheer goodness of his heart; we can all recall his little nameless



acts of warmth and generosity. He had a wide circle of friends and admirers or rather, several large circles.

I first met Vasant in August 1969 when he was an M.A. student at Hindu College in Delhi and had come to a neighbouring college to attend a public lecture of mine. With his phenomenal memory, he still remembered what I had then said far better than I could. When we met next after a few days, he had already read a couple of the books I had mentioned and talked perceptively about them. During the Emergency he was, incredibly, arrested and put in jail; perhaps no one as utterly innocent suffered that fate in those dark and lawless times. It was a fearless teacher of his, Dr Sheila Uttam Singh, Principal of I. P. College, who exercised her wide influence to have him released after a few months. Over the years it was above all our common attraction to Comparative Literature that brought Vasant and me and a core group of about a dozen other English-teaching friends together on all kinds of occasions. In 1984, when Sisir Kumar Das organized a major conference on Comparative Literature in DU, Vasant and I spent several frantic hours one afternoon in the MIL Department trying to coax an ancient cyclostyling machine to work so that we could produce a booklet of all the abstracts. Later, we attended numerous Comp Lit conferences together year after year in campuses all over India where Vasant was a laconically lively presence, for each merry evening he could be trusted to make the most acute and entertaining comments on the day's proceedings.

Recently he had undergone major surgery but said he was beginning to feel well again; he certainly walked as briskly as ever and had the same gleam in his eye. The heart-attack which followed was sudden and unforeseen. Vasant is gone far too soon, but will be long remembered and cherished as a happy helpful colleague, a cheerful humorist, and a dear friend.

-- Harish Trivedi

Proceedings of ICLA Congress, Paris 2013

Anne Tomiche

Le Comparatisme comme approche critique/Comparative Literature as a Critical Approach is the title of the series of 6 volumes published in the wake of the ICLA 20th Congress, held in Sorbonne Université in July 2013 (the volumes are published by Classiques Garnier, in both French and English -- https://www.classiques-garnier.com/editions/index.php?option=com_virtuemart&page=shop.product_details&flypage=flypage_garnier.tpl&product_id=3086&vmccchk=1&Itemid=1).

The volumes gather a selection of the papers delivered during the Congress as well as a number of invited contributions delivered over the course of the three-year seminar that followed the Congress (also at the Sorbonne). The volumes are both thematically and chronologically organized. Volume one (*Facing the Past*) deals with classical and early-modern periods and addresses issues concerning the specificity of a comparative approach of “the past”. Volume two focuses on the relations between literature and the other arts as well as between literature and the social sciences. Volume three (*Objects, Methods, Practices*) articulates theoretical questions regarding the specificity of comparative methods and objects with more practical concerns about comparative practices. Volume four is dedicated to translation, translations studies and, more broadly, literary and cultural transfers. Volume five (*Local and Global*) investigates literary and cultural circulations on both local and global scales. Finally, volume six focuses on the relations between literature on the one hand, science, technology and knowledge on the other.

Taken as a whole these volumes testify to the evolutions of the discipline of Comparative Literature and to the importance to think of the discipline in its plurality, as many different ways of theorizing and practicing comparatism.



XXII CONGRESS OF ICLA (MACAU)

The XXII Congress of the International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA) will be held at the University of Macau, from July 29 - Aug 02, 2019. The details of the congress are available at <http://icla2019.medmeeting.org/8045?lang=en>.

The main theme of the 2019 Congress will be: **Literature of the World and the Future of Comparative Literature** with the following sub-themes:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Conversations across Differences | 10. Internationalization of Chinese Literary Studies |
| 2. Diverse Languages of Comparison | 11. Immigrant Literature |
| 3. Literary, Cultural, and Temporal (Un)Translatability | 12. Circulation of Information in East Asia: Journalism, Fiction, and Electronic Textuality |
| 4. The Multiple Histories of Comparative Literature | 13. The "Sinophone" as a Counterdiscourse |
| 5. Canons, Genres, and Media | 14. Memoir Literature in East Asia in the Modern Period |
| 6. Interdisciplinarity in Comparative Literature | 15. The Obsession With International Literary Prizes: For Whom Is the Reward Important? |
| 7. Theorizing the Literary across Cultures | |
| 8. World Literature and China | |
| 9. Global Humanities from an Eastern Perspective | |

The date for submission of individual as well as panel proposals is **01 March 2019**.

Proposals

Proposals can be of two kinds:

Individual proposals to be arranged by the organizing committee into groups as Congress sessions, and **Panel proposals** that are composed of at least 4 speakers, and a large group of panel presentations on one theme can be arranged as several linked panels on several days. Those who propose panels should be responsible for contacting speakers and organizing the panel or panels in groups.

Method for submission of abstract

Proposals have to be submitted online at icla2019.medmeeting.org.

For submission of abstracts, registration at the icla site is required. Abstracts are required to be of a maximum 1000 words with a few keywords. Select bibliography has to be provided, which is exclusive of the 1000 words. Original abstract must be uploaded in doc/docx/rar/pdf/zip format with a maximum size of 5 MB.

Registration Fees

The details of registration fees for the congress is given below: -

	Early Bird	Regular	Late
	(by 31 Dec 18)	(by 31 May 19)	(After 31 May 19)
Professional	HKD 1,300	HKD 1,400	HKD 1,500
Student	HKD 650	HKD 700	HKD 750

Note:-

1. All registration fees are payable in Hong Kong Dollar (HKD) only.
2. All registration fees include welcome reception, daily transportation from Official Hotel to Congress Venue, coffee breaks and access to all the technical sessions.
3. Only online payment will be accepted, which is available to settle at the user portal - <http://icla2019.medmeeting.org/UserEN/Info/8045>. For alternative, please contact the Conference Secretariat.
4. To enjoy the student rate, a copy of student ID is required.

Cancellation Policy:

Unfortunately, all registration fees are **non-refundable** and **non-transferable**.

XIV CLAI BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

*Call for Papers for UGC-Sponsored International Conference
to be organised by
Comparative Literature Association of India
in collaboration with
Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Hyderabad)
and supported by
Nation Council of Promotion of Urdu Literature (NCPUL), and
Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi*

Studying South Asian Narratives Through Pluralist and Dialogic Frames

Concept Note

The CLAI Biennial International Conference takes up the theme of the ICLA standing research committee on South Asian Literature and Culture, aiming to consolidate the conversation on the methods of literary and artistic research in and study of the plural culture of South Asia, with the emphasis on narrative as an expressive and appropriative mode. As comparatists, our focus in this meeting is not on themes or content of individual narratives or a pair of narratives. We seek to encourage the study of difference and otherness, the rationale of the comparative approach, by using linguistic and cultural pluralism as frames for reading of and research on, narratives in south Asian languages.

Histories of various forms of contact (trade, travel, pilgrimage, conquest, colonization) characterise the geopolitical space known as “south Asia”, revealing it as a field which can be fruitfully understood only through a comparative method. Epistemological, ontological and philosophical pluralism provide frames for the comparative method, as pluralism acknowledges the existence and foundational equality of different ways of thinking, being and knowing.

The philosophy of pluralism in India can be traced to the *anekantvad* theory available in the Bhagwatisutra of Mahavira, which emerged in Jainism in the 1st millennium CE, from debates between scholars of Jain, Buddhist and Hindu schools of philosophies. Thus coexistence and dialogue is a tradition of the plural society of South Asia. The ‘pan-Indian’ religious movement made eloquent by the cultural production of the Bhakti, Sufi and Sant poets and composers rose from and addressed a plural society.

Anekant as an idea defines pluralism as manifoldness and non-absolutism; and opens out a view of the “other” not as other to themselves, but just as much “self” as we are to ourselves. Therefore, the relation we have with the world of the living being is not one between subject and objectified world, but between subjects who have the full equal subject-hood. This makes pluralism a conceptual tool to understand difference and otherness not from an individual/subjective or scientific/objective perspective, but from the view that the human being is a being in respect of her existence together with the world. Her living engagement in this world, of which literature and art are singular, unique manifestations, is the result of an inter-subjective relation.

European philosophers of dialogue, phenomenologists like Merleau Ponty or existentialists like Martin Buber, of pluralism, like Isaiah Berlin, and literary culture, like Bakhtin, provide fruitful re-conceptualisation of the fundamental relations that characterise human being in the world, and language as the medium of that being. They introduce ideas of inter-subjectivity, horizon, sedimentation and signification as conceptual tools to understand plurality and reflect upon dialogue as a way of encountering and engaging with alterity.

The plural culture of South Asia is partitioned, in the “post” colonial era by geopolitical, i.e. ‘national’ boundaries, creating a misleading illusion of national homogenization wrought through the false claims of a single uniform language, culture and religion, discounting the inherent plurality of society itself. The increased espousal of identity

politics has led to the hardening of epistemological and political positions towards fundamentalism, seriously challenging the values of pluralism in thought and action. The dialogic relation conceptualises human relations to the world as I-Thou, rather than an I-It relation with her world (Martin Buber). The brief of our discipline is to understand human existence through the inter-subjective medium of language, the balance of mutuality and alterity structure the interpretive framework for comparative literature. Literature and art located, produced and received in a plural culture invite readings that are inherently comparative in transcending the absolutist or the fixed or the given perspective, in favour of situational, existential and ethical encounter in which the relation with the other is dialogic, transcending the boundary of the ego to open ourselves to the manifold of the world. Literature and art foreground a pluralist conceptualisation of and a dialogic relation to the other. Thus the materials for addressing diversity are already exists in the literature and the arts, which are born from a plural ethos and thrive in it. Our focus, as scholars of literature, located in and trying to study a plural culture, will be to re-imagine our world through plurality and dialogue. The narrative as a literary phenomenon, situated within a historical conjuncture and in the broad field of the arts, provides the ground of our exploration.

We invite participants to explore pluralism and the philosophy of dialogue as the philosophical basis for the foundational impulse and the ethical relevance of comparative literature not only in South Asia, but across the world.

Subthemes (texts necessarily from South Asia as literary field)

- Multilingualism and the narrative
- Pluri-lingualism as literary phenomenon
- Cross-cultural literary and artistic transactions
- Dialogic reading
- “Boundaries” v/s “horizons” in a dialogic framework
- Interrogating Binaries from a pluralist perspective
- Inter-textuality as Literary Dialogue
- Dialogism and translation theory
- Art as dialogue

Other Relevant Details

- Abstracts of about 300 words in Times New Roman (12 point, single space), along with the presenter's designation, affiliation, and email id, mentioned at the end of the Abstract, may be sent to :

Professor Syed Mohammad Haseebuddin Quadri

Head, Department of English

Maulana Azad National Urdu University

Gachibowli, Hyderabad-500032

Mobile: 9492197720

Email: syedmohammedhaseebuddinquadri@gmail.com

syedhaseebuddins@yahoo.com

Apart from English, papers may also be presented in Hindi, or Urdu which must be mentioned at the time of submission of Abstract.

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