



A National Level Students' Webinar on

Interrogating Literary Theory

Organized by
Department of English
Sikkim university

Speakers

Keynote Speaker :



Prof. Irshad Ghulam Ahmed
Professor, Department of English
Sikkim University

Plenary Speakers :



Prof. Paromita Chakravarti,
Department of English
Jadavpur University



Prof. Sachin C. Ketkar
Department of English
The Maharaja Sayajirao
University of Baroda



Dr Ram Bhawan Yadava
Assistant Professor,
Department of English
Sikkim University

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Literary Theory provides a conceptual framework to comprehend the potential meaning of a literary text. These theories formed lenses which readers, especially in the latter half of the twentieth century, have rigorously used to read and analyse texts hoping to unpack the complexities underlying them. Theories enable readers to have newer perspectives on approaching a text pointing out themes and patterns in a writer's work. Hence, literary theory forms the backbone of literary studies telling us how to read what we read.

This webinar will interrogate the relevance and importance of literary theory in studying literature today. It will re-evaluate the paradigms of textual engagement and will question the heavy reliance of literary studies on theory and the consequent theory fatigue. The webinar will question whether using literary theory as tool of textual interpretation take away the innocent pleasure of reading and appreciating creative works? Are Literary Theories pretentious impediments in appreciating literature? Should Art be read and enjoyed for art's sake? Are theories superfluous and are not essentially inevitable as scholarly works on literature make them appear?

It will further interrogate how a text comes to life through reading? What kind of reading can bridge the gap between the reader and the writer? Does the habit of reading a text using rational and critical devices of theories to reveal its meaning (already presumed to be present in the text), as is taught in the courses of literary education, the only justified way of reading and understanding a text? Or are literary theories redundant burdens unnecessarily complicating the bliss of readerly experience?

Concept Note

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The present webinar invites scholarly articles from graduate and post-graduate students and research scholars for presentation on the themes that questions and re-evaluates the relevance of literary theory in reading and understanding literature in contemporary times. The topics for presentation can be based on, but not restricted to the following sub-themes:

- Relevance of literary theory today.
- Impact of over-indulge of literary theory.
- Risk/ bliss of reading literature without the aid of literary theory.
- Literary theory versus pleasure of reading a text.
- 'After theory', 'Post-theory', 'Revision theory'.
- Future of literary theory in India.
- Use of literary theory in reading vernacular literary texts.
- The (in)applicability of using western literary theory in reading Indian literature.
- The necessity of reviving indigenous critical tradition for reading Indian literary texts.

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Important Dates

Submission of Abstracts (250 words): 1st October, 2020

Acceptance of Abstract: 4th October, 2020

Webinar Dates: 16th & 17th October, 2020

Abstracts to be mailed to: qlitcrit2020@gmail.com

Registration is FREE

Registration for the Webinar will begin from 5th
October, 2020.

To register click on the following link:
<https://forms.gle/uJ7YdZNoDAPbmRZRA>

Convenors :

Ms. Saswati Saha,
Assistant Professor, Department of English, Sikkim University
&

Dr Parvinder Kaur,
Assistant Professor, Department of English, Sikkim University