About Christ University

Christ University, formerly Christ College (Autonomous) affiliated to Bangalore University was established in July 1969. It became the most preferred educational institution in the city of Bangalore within the first three decades. It has the rare distinction of being the first institution in Karnataka to be accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) UGC for quality education. In 2004, UGC conferred Autonomy on the Institution. In 2005, it became the first College in South India to be reaccredited with A+ by NAAC. UGC identified it as an Institution with Potential for Excellence in 2006. On July 22, 2008, a glorious day in the history of the institution, the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Union Government of India, under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 vide Notification No. F.9-34/2007-U.3(A), declared it a Deemed to be University, in the name and style of Christ University.

About the Department of English

The Department of English at Christ University integrates the study of literature with critical multi-disciplinary readings of society and culture. Students are encouraged to explore and create heterogeneous discourses ranging from aesthetic and creative ways of reading and writing to critical and self-reflexive interventions into the theoretical domain. The department takes pride in a balanced, integral approach to traditional forms of literature and contemporary debates in English Studies. As a synergetic team of teachers, our varied expertise lies in classical and contemporary literatures, Literary Theory, Postcolonial Studies, ELT, Linguistics, Media and Film Theory, Gender and Cultural Studies.

The National Seminar provides a common platform to students, teachers, subject experts, researchers and activists from all over India for deliberations on contemporary issues of immediate relevance in English Studies and related domains. Our National Seminars over the past decade have addressed concerns ranging from art and aesthetics (Backstage Passes), subjectivities (Thinking Subjectivities), multiple discourses and narratives of India (Reading Indies), learner-centered approaches in English Language Teaching to our last National Seminar on reviewing 100 years of Indian Cinema (Mayabazaar- Feb 2014).

Patron, Organizing Committee & Advisory Board

Patron
Fr. Col. Rev. Thomas C. Mathew, Vice- Chancellor, Christ University

Chief Advisor
Dr. John Joseph Kennedy, Dean, Humanities and Social Sciences & HoD of English, Christ University

Advisory Board
• Dr. M. Dasan, Former Registrar & Head, Department of Studies in English, Kannur University
• Dr. R. Indira, Former Director, Centre for Women’s Studies & Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Mysore, Lead Researcher & Consultant (Gender and Development, Sustainable Livelihoods & Forest Dependent Communities)
• Dr. Ravichandra P. Chittampalli, Professor, Dept of Studies in English, University of Mysore
• Dr. S. Siraj Ahmed, Associate Professor and Coordinator, Dept of P.G. Studies & Research in English Sahyadri Arts College, Shimoga
• Dr. S. Armstrong, Professor & Head, Department of English, Chairperson, School of English and Foreign Languages, University of Madras

Organizing Committee
Sushma V. Murthy (Convener)
Biju I.P.
Bhavani.S
Shobana P. Mathews
Daniel Gnanaraj

Concept Note

‘Narrating Centres and Peripheries: Minority Discourses in India’, a National Seminar organized by the Department of English, Christ University, integrates the varied encounters of Indian academicians and researchers with issues of marginalisation in India. This seminar aims to address the pluralism of our subaltern narratives as a nation, issues of caste and gender, the status of religious, linguistic and political minorities, native cultures, indigenous narratives and numerous identities that are otherwise relegated to abjection and thereby to the periphery of an assumed cohesive central social order. Minority Discourses continue to underline social and cultural pluralism in the face of contemporary liberal democratic societies that homogenize citizenship while simultaneously upholding and practising dominant master narratives privileging the majority. There is a need to problematize the status of minorities, and also the concept of ‘centres’ and ‘peripheries’ and narrative spaces that emerge from the resistance to such categories. The seminar aims to negotiate with these narratives vis-a-vis the following contemporary debates:

1. The expansive and enabling approach to Minority Discourses as a space of collective consciousness that strengthens both articulation and activism of empowerment for each of the communities in mutual recognition of the experience of insubordination and dominance.

2. A close understanding of the specificities of oppression influencing different minority communities in a bid to give voice to the heterogeneous complexity of concerns and varied densities of reaction and retaliation against dominant practices.

3. How do individuals belonging to minorities engage in the process of social categorization as active subjects?
Themes and Concepts for Deliberation:
1. Caste
2. Gender
3. Ethnicity & Race
4. Linguistic Minorities
5. Disability & Age
6. Diasporic & Immigrant Communities
7. Socially & Spatially Excluded – Constructions of Madness, Crime & social depravity
8. Native & Indigenous People

Sub-themes:
1. Social Categorization & Mobility
2. Adaptation
3. Interethnic relations
4. Attitudes towards the majority
5. Minorities & Spatial Identities
6. Self-identification

Scope for Presentations: Minority Narratives
1. Literature
2. Art & Aesthetics
3. Folk traditions
4. Popular Culture
5. History
6. Law & Public Policy
7. Media
8. Ethnography
9. Linguistics
10. Education

Guidelines for Submission of Papers and Full-length Scripts for Performances
1. Papers: We invite papers of about 3,500 words on the topic of the seminar based on one or more of the themes and narratives listed. An abstract of about 250 to 300 words with a set of keywords should be mailed as per the timeline listed.

Publication: Plans are on the anvil to publish select papers in a book on “Understanding Minority Discourses in India” with an ISBN No.

II. Performances: We also invite troupes from various institutions to stage performances based on a full-length original script exploring one or more of the themes and narratives listed.
Guidelines for performances:
1. The performance could be a play (Street/Proscenium)/
   a musical performance based on folk/indigenous tradition/, a tableau/a mime
2. No. of Participants: 5 to 15 members depending on the narrative
3. Allotted time: 15-45 minutes
4. Participants are requested to respect the decorum of the stage. Both script and performance should be free from non-secular and objectionable content of any kind.
5. Participants should make arrangements for the necessary props.

Timeline for Submission of Papers and Full-length Scripts for Performances
Submission of First Draft of Paper/Script:
with abstract: 5 Dec 2014
Communication regarding acceptance of papers/ scripts: 15 Dec 2014

Submission of Revised Papers/Scripts and last date for registration (paper presenters & performers): 31 Dec 2014

Email for submissions:
majoritydiscourses@seminar.christuniversity.in

Registration Details:
Faculty Members & Professionals:
Rs. 1,500 (without accommodation)
Rs. 1,800 (with accommodation)

Students and Research Scholars:
Rs. 500 (without accommodation)
Rs. 800 (with accommodation)
*Amount for Registration includes seminar kit, lunch and tea for both days of the seminar

Spot Registrations are open for non-presenters up to 2 PM on 12 Jan 2015.

Payment: DD drawn in favour of ‘Christ University’ payable at Bangalore.

For further queries/clarifications contact:
Dr. Sushma V. Murthy
(Convener)
9880369547
(Between 6 and 8 PM)
sushma.v.murthy@christuniversity.in

Mr. Daniel Gnanaraj
(Core Committee Member)
9358307973
(Between 6 and 8 PM)
daniel.gnanaraj@christuniversity.in

http://minoritydiscoursesinindia.blogspot.in
minoritydiscourses@seminar.christuniversity.in