



दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय  
University of Delhi



## **International Conference**

titled

# **MAPPING DISABILITY IN 20TH CENTURY LITERATURE AND CULTURE**

organized by

**Department of English, University of Delhi**

in collaboration with

**Indian Council of Social Science Research & Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled**

**Date: 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> October, 2024**

**Venue: Conference Centre, University of Delhi (Main Campus), Delhi.-110007**

### CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**DAY 1- Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2024**

**9:30-10:30 AM                      REGISTRATION**

**10:30-11:20 AM                    INAUGURAL SESSION**

**CHIEF GUEST:** Prof. Yogesh Singh, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi.

**GUEST OF HONOUR:** Dr. Vikas Gupta, Registrar, University of Delhi.

**11:15-11:45 AM                    TEA**

**11:45 AM-1:00 PM                PLENARY I: KEYNOTE ADDRESSES**

**CHAIR:** Prof. Christel Devadawson, Department of English, University of Delhi

**1. “We make holocausts”: Precarious Embodiment in Contemporary Novels of Disability and Indigeneity**

-Prof. David T. Mitchell, Department of English, Columbian College of Arts & Sciences, George Washington University.

**2. The Crip Camp Yet to Come: Crossing Borders with Queer/Crip Theory**

-Prof. Robert McRuer, Department of English, Columbian College of Arts & Sciences, George Washington University.

**1:00-2:00 PM            LUNCH**

**2:00-3:45 PM            PARALLEL SESSIONS I & II**

**PARALLEL I- Reimagining Disability in Western Representations**

CHAIR: Dr. Yogesh Dubey, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Delhi

**1. Contextualizing Intellectual Disability in American Literature with a Special Reference to *Of Mice and Men* (1937)**

-Dr. Achingliu Kamei, Associate Professor, ARSD College, University of Delhi

**2. Completeness of Broken Images: Reading TS Eliot’s ‘The Wasteland’ from Disability Perspectives**

-Dr. Jyothsna Phanija, Assistant Professor, ARSD College, University of Delhi

**3. “In all things save sight they were strong and able . . .”: Disability as “Schizophrenic Sublime” in H. G. Wells’s *The Country of the Blind***

- Dr. Sunil Kumar, Assistant Professor of English, Central University of South Bihar, Gaya, Bihar (India).

**4. Ecological Disablism in Samuel Beckett’s “The Lost Ones”(1970)**

-Ms. Nilanjana Bhattacharya, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal, India

5. **Disability and the Avant-garde: Challenging Norms through Experimental Literature in William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* (1929) and *As I Lay Dying* (1930)**

–Ms. Josephine Christina Pasangha, Research Scholar, St. Mary's College (Autonomous), Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu

–Dr. A. Josephine Alangara Betsy, Associate Professor of English, St. Mary's College (Autonomous), Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu

**PARALLEL II- Indian Perspectives on Disability**

CHAIR: Prof. Raj Kumar, Department of English, University of Delhi

1. **Silent Sufferers: Disabled Women's Portrayal in *Subah* and *Vision* by Rabindranath Tagore**

–Dr. Preeti M. Gacche, Associate Professor, Department of English, Aryabhata College, University of Delhi

2. **The Representation of Disability in Indian English Literature: A Study on Sushmita Bagchi's *Children of a Better God***

–Dr. B. Patra, Associate Professor, Department of English, BBAU (Central University), Lucknow, U.P.

3. **“PRAISE BE TO THE SPARROW!”: Disability and Cultural Religiosity in Mizo Literature**

–Ms. Roding Puii, Ph.D. Research scholar, Department of English and Culture Studies, Mizoram University

4. **20<sup>th</sup> Century Indian Eugenics: Scientific Colonial Discourse and its Postcolonial Representations**

–Ms. Senjuti Basu, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, BITS Pilani (Hyderabad Campus).

**5. The Problem of Supercrip: A Reading of Sunil Gangopadhyay's Early Kakababu Novels**

– Ms. Shamayita Sen, Poet & Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of English, University of Delhi

**3:45-4:00 PM            HIGH TEA**

**4:00-5:30 PM            PARALLEL SESSIONS III, IV & V**

**PARALLEL III- Reconstructing Disability Narratives**

CHAIR: Dr. Varun Gulati, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Delhi

**1. Shifting Frames: The Evolution of Disability Representation in Mainstream Cinema**

– Dr. Anand Mishra, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Satyawati College (Evening), University of Delhi.

**2. From Livestock to Lives: Disability Caused by Zoonosis and its Representation in Popular Culture**

–Ms. Aparna Patnaik, Writer & Lecturer of English Language and Literature.

**3. Rewriting Disability: Autobiography, Eugenics, and the Rise of the Disability Rights Movement**

–Ms. Kirti Verma, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of English, University of Delhi

**4. BI(ac/ea)kness in Disability: The Intersectionality of Race and Disability**

–Ms. Isha Smriti, Postgraduate Student, Department of English, Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi.

## **PARALLEL IV- Exploring Mental Disability: Media, Trauma, and Literary Perspectives**

CHAIR: Prof. Ujjwal Jana, Department of English, University of Delhi.

### **1. Mind and Margins: Intellectual Disability in American Literature Between the Wars**

– Dr. Gunjan Kumari, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Shivaji College, University of Delhi.

### **2. Tales of Trauma and Disability in Partition Narratives: A study of Sunil Gangopadhyay's *Arjun***

– Dr. Debosmita Paul, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Shivaji College, University of Delhi.

### **3. The 'Modern' Narrative: Narrating disability, illness and the self through contemporary life-narratives**

– Mr. Naveen Panicker, Assistant Professor, Department of English, St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi

### **4. No Longer Human: Disability, Existentialism, and the Social Absurdity of Post-War Japan**

–Ms. Diksha Bhatnagar, M.A. in Comparative Indian Literature, Department of Modern Indian Languages, University of Delhi.

–Ms. Ramanjit Kaur, M.A. in English, Department of English, University of Delhi.

## **PARALLEL V- Representations of Disability in Indian Cinema**

CHAIR: Dr. Satveer Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Delhi

### **1. Evolution of Disability: A Critical Analysis of Tamil Films Between 1970s and 2000**

–Mr. N. Ramesh Kumar, NFPWD-SRF, School of English and Foreign Languages, The Gandhigram Rural Institute-DTBU, Gandhigram, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu.

–Prof. S. Balasundari, School of English and Foreign Languages, The Gandhigram Rural Institute-DTBU, Gandhigram, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu.

**2. Materiality and Disability Aesthetics: A Posthumanist Reading of Priyadarshan’s *Thalavattam* (1986) and Bharatan’s *Keli* (1991)**

–Ms. Amrutha S. L., Ph.D. Research Scholar, School of Social Sciences and Languages, VIT Chennai.

–Ms. Harishma A. Gireesh, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Humanities and Social Science, National Institute of Technology, Warangal.

**3. “Their Ears Have Eyelids”: Blindness, Sound, and Materiality in Bollywood Films of 20th Century**

–Mr. Sayan Roy, Independent Research Scholar & M.A. from the Centre of English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

**4. Visual Discourse on Disability: Deciphering Nadigar Thilagam Shivaji Ganeshan’s *Deiva Magan* (1969) and *Baaga Pirivinai* (1959)**

–Mr. Kathiresan G, M.A. in English, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu

**7:30-10:00 PM      CONFERENCE DINNER**

**(ONLY FOR PRESENTERS & INVITED GUESTS)**

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**DAY 2- Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2024**

**10:00-11:15 AM      PLENARY SESSION II**

CHAIR: Prof. Anil K. Aneja, Head, Department of English, University of Delhi

**1. Embodied Existence : Interwar Poetics and Disability**

–Prof. Aparna Bose Lawnjewar, Head, Department of English Literature, English & Foreign Language University, Hyderabad.

**2. Disability and Devaluation: The need for (SRV) Social Role Valorization in India**

–Prof. Ranu Uniyal Pant, Department of English and Modern European Languages, University of Lucknow

**3. Culture, Norms, and Disability: Reflections on Literary and Cultural Narratives**

–Dr. Vivek Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Banaras Hindu University

**11:15-11:30 AM      TEA**

**11:30 AM-12:45 PM      PLENARY SESSION III**

CHAIR: Prof. Anjana Sharma, Department of English, University of Delhi

**1. Fragmented Bodies, Fragmented Selves: Disability and Identity in Kafka's Universe**

–Prof. Anil K. Aneja, Head, Department of English, University of Delhi.

**2. Disability, 'Fiction For Girls,' and the Reluctant Twentieth Century**

–Prof. Christel R. Devadawson, Department of English, University of Delhi.

**3. Representing Disabilities in Odia Fiction**

–Prof. Raj Kumar, Department of English, University of Delhi.

**12:45-1:45 PM      LUNCH**

## **1:45-3:30 PM PARALLEL SESSIONS- VI, VII & VIII**

### **PARALLEL VI- Evolving Representations of Disability in Visual Mediums**

CHAIR: Dr. Nidhi Vats, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Delhi

#### **1. Filming the 'gap': Cinema and disability narratives**

–Dr. Kamayani Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Aryabhata College, University of Delhi

#### **2. Revolutionizing Disability Representation: David Freeman's *Creeps* and the Birth of Disability Theatre**

–Dr. Betty Elsa Jacob, Assistant Professor, Department of English, CMS College Kottayam, Kerala

#### **3. No Pity, Just Punchlines: Analysing Disability and Humour in John Callahan's *Cartoons***

–Ms. Anukriti Bajpai, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, University of Delhi.

#### **4. Superheroes and Disability: A Critical Analysis of Representation in Comic Books**

–Mr. Shashank Yadav, M.A. in English, Department of English, University of Delhi.

#### **5. From Sideshow to Screen: Reclaiming the "Freak" Narrative in Tod Browning's *Freaks* and David Lynch's *The Elephant Man***

–Ms. Soumya Chakraborty, Postgraduate student, Department of English, University of Delhi

### **PARALLEL VII- Wartime Trauma and Disability: Literary and Psychoanalytic Perspectives**

CHAIR: Prof. Subarno Chattarji, Department of English Literature, University of Delhi



1. **An Exegetical Study of Disability, War, and Religion in *The Bells of Nagasaki***

–Mr. Gokul S., Assistant Professor, Department of English, PGDAV college, University of Delhi.

2. **Narratives of Scars: The Interplay of War, Memory, and Disability in Michael Ondaatje's Writing**

–Ms. Nilakshi Moran, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Satyawati College (Eve.), University of Delhi.

3. **Biopolitical Formations of Disability: A Wartime Genealogy**

–Ms. Anshula Upadhyay, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Shivaji College, University of Delhi.

4. **Bearing Scars: Representations of Physical and Mental Disorder of Post-War in Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse Five***

–Ms. Saba Perween, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand.

5. **Warring Disability: A Reading of Wilfred Owen's Poems**

–Ms. Dipanjali Singh, M.Phil. in English, Department of English, University of Delhi.

**PARALLEL VIII- Lived Experiences of Disability**

CHAIR: Prof. Someshwar Sati, Department of English, Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi

1. **Reflections on Mental Health Issues and Disability in *The Bell Jar***

–Dr. Shubha Dwivedi, Associate Professor, Department of English, ARSD College, University of Delhi.

2. **Disability Life Writings in India: A Critical Discourse**

–Ms. Shilpa Gupta, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi. Shilpa Gupta

3. **Navigating Darkness: The Intersection of Identity and Disability in Tom Sullivan’s Autobiography, *If You Could See What I Hear***

–Ms. Aswathi Narayanan, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Alphonsa College, Pala.

4. **American Exceptionalism and Disability in Ron Kovic’s *Born on the Fourth of July***

–Mr. Sandeep Sedai, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Tezpur University, Assam.

5. **Disability, Identity, and Transformation: A Critical Study of Major HPS Ahluwalia’s Narrative in Relation to Marilyn J. Phillip’s Transformational Process**

–Ms. Bratita Sarkar, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, West Bengal

**3:30-4:30 PM VALEDICTORY SESSION**

**CHIEF GUEST:** Shri. Maninderjeet Singh Bitta, Former Cabinet Minister.

**GUEST OF HONOUR:** Shri. Sunit Tandon, Director, India Habitat Centre.

**GUEST OF HONOUR:** Shri. Girish Ranjan, Finance Officer, University of Delhi.

**VALEDICTORY SPEAKER:** Prof. Sharon L. Snyder, Department of Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois, Chicago.

**4:30 PM HIGH TEA**