

CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

on

CULTURE, ARTS AND SOCIO-POLITICAL MOVEMENTS IN SOUTH ASIA: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES

March 19-22, 2014

Organised by

South Asia Studies Centre and Department of Urdu and Persian

University of Rajasthan, Jaipur

in collaboration with

Comparative Literature Association of India

Concept Note

A distinctly definable conglomeration of nations, broadly called South Asia, has emerged as a major site of critical inquiry in the recent past. It has engaged serious academic attention in the areas of society, polity, and economy; arts, culture, and philosophy, to name some of the more important ones. The individual identity of each nation within this geographical region is as remarkable as the collective identity of the nations put together in a larger frame of references. Considerable amounts of shared historical predicaments, common political cultures, approximating social formations, comparable cultural institutions, and nearly identical expressions in the domains of art, literature and philosophy render it into an eminently viable field of inquiry, which the current interest and the remarkable growth of scholarship in this area have amply shown. Furthermore, as South Asia has had a unique history of negotiating multiplicities and pluralities, it is on the one hand a significant site of difference for Europe to engage with, and on the other, a postcolonial imperative calling for interdisciplinary inquiries into a variety of markers that distinguish this region.

In order to develop a broader discourse on South Asia as a space of multiple configurations, the conference proposes to engage with issues relating to diverse aspects of culture, arts, and socio-political movements. These will include discussions on the evolution of South Asian nations through pre-colonial and colonial times, as also post-colonial and neo-colonial phases, configurations of tradition and ethnicity, religious and secular movements and movements of resistance and affirmation. Focusing on literary and cultural texts produced by nationalist and reformist movements, sufi and bhakti traditions, tribal, dalit and women's interventions, to identify some of them, efforts will be made to trace the points of intersection between society and culture during the phases of their development. It may also be posited that since the exponential economic growth, technological advancements, and broadening political bases in the age of globalization have curiously impacted the domains of art, literature and culture in South Asia, these aspects may also be examined in a broader context. In addition, issues relating to ideological constructions and philosophical debates, growth of knowledge systems, as well as conditions contributing to the writing of personal narratives, literary texts, treatises, and such other subjects of contemporary relevance will be undertaken for closer examination. All these issues may be examined with reference to the tools and techniques of comparative studies. Keeping close to the areas mentioned above, Abstracts may be developed for submission on the following sub-themes:

Sub Themes

- The Idea of Nation in Relation to Culture
- Nationalist and sub-nationalist movements and state formation
- Protest Movements and Arts
- The Problematic of Ideology and Art Forms
- Polity-economy-culture-arts-literature interface
- Religious/Philosophical Movements: Interface with Literature
- Non-Violence as a Creed and South Asia
- Tribal and Dalit Literary Aesthetics
- Art and Counter Discourse
- Socio-political movements and fragmentation of composite culture

- Ecology and Literary Production
- New Media and Socio-cultural Formations
- Arts/Literary Movements and Social Change
- Area Studies as a mode of social knowledge and reinforcing regional identities
- Literary and Cultural Relationship Between India, its Neighbouring Countries and the World
- Any other topic directly related to broad theme of the conference

Other Relevant Details

- Abstracts of about 300 words in English 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 Karori Singh, Director, South Asia Studies Centre, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur 302004 (email id: sasc1110@gmail.com, Mobile: 09413109972)

- Apart from English, papers may also be presented in Hindi, or Urdu which must be mentioned at the time of submission of Abstract.
- All presentations must be completed within 18-20 minutes.
- There will also be a workshop session on Comparative Methodology for which pre-registration is required.
- Registration fees shall be applicable as follows:

Outstation participants	Rs. 2500/=
Local Participants:	Rs. 1500/=
Research scholars:	Rs. 1500/=
Students:	Rs. 1000/=
Foreign participants:	US \$ 200/=

Important Dates

- Submission of abstracts: December 31, 2013
- Communication of acceptance: January 15, 2014
- Completion of registration: February 07, 2014

Contacts

- Professor Karori Singh, Director, South Asia Studies Centre, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur 302004 (email id: sasc1110@gmail.com, Mobile: 09413109972)
- Dr. Shashi Upadhyay, South Asia Studies Centre, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, 302004 (email id: upshashi@rediffmail.com, Mobile: 09982276710)
- Dr. Surayya Khanam, Head, Department of Urdu and Persian, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur 302001 (email id: surayyakhanam@yahoo.com, Mobile: 09214018768)
- Professor Chandra Mohan, General Secretary, Comparative Literature Association of India (CLAI), C-93 (GF) Inder Puri, New Delhi-110012 (email id: c.mohan.7@hotmail.com, Mobile: 09810683143)