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Call for Papers:

Researchers/Scholars, Academicians, and Social Activists are invited to submit abstracts for the seminar. An abstract of not more than 250 words is to be sent to The Organizing Secretary on or before 10th February 2016 by e.mail-nnseminar2016@gmail.com. Abstracts and Full Papers should be in MS Word Times New Roman Font 12 with double space. All abstracts will be peer reviewed and all papers will be subjected to anti-plagiarism check.

Registration Fee

Faculty Members: Rs. 1000
Students/Research Scholars Rs. 500
However, Faculty & students of Pondicherry University and the University of Madras are exempted from registration fee.

The participants can pay the Registration fee in cash on the first day of the seminar.

Travel and Accommodation

We hope that you will be able to take care of your travel and accommodation. However accommodation will be arranged for outstation paper presenters, if intimated in advance. Working lunch and local hospitality will be provided.

Last Date for sending abstracts:

10th February 2016 Confirmation of acceptance will be communicated by: 15th February 2016
Complete papers are to be sent by 22nd February 2016



Pondicherry University

Department of English

&

University of Madras

Department of English



Invitation and Call for Papers

Two Day International Seminar
on

***Multicultural India :
Inclusiveness & New Humanities***

25th & 26th February 2016

In Honour of **Prof. N. Natarajan**



Host Department

Established in 1986 in Pondicherry University on the salubrious East Coast of India, the Department continues to attract students and scholars from all over India for its M.A., and Ph.D., programmes since its inception. With its special focus on Comparative Literature, it has so far produced around 85 Ph.Ds besides a massive exodus of PGs. The Faculty of the Department with their diverse research interests and publications on topics of contemporary relevance remain at the forefront of innovative research and learning. The Department also caters to the language and communication needs of students from other departments, running special courses on language and communication skills and an add-on PG Diploma in Professional Communication in English. The Department runs a Research and Journal Alert Forum providing platform for students and Scholars to present their research findings and creative potentials.

Seminar

On 25th and 26th February 2016, the Department of English, Pondicherry University, Puducherry and the Department of English, University of Madras, Chennai propose to organize an International seminar on Multicultural India: Inclusiveness and New Humanities to mark the superannuation of Prof. N.Natarajan, Professor and Head, Department of English, Pondicherry University.

Objectives

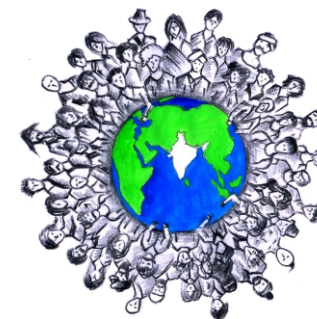
The specific objectives of the Seminar are to (1) analyze the ascendancy of cultural majoritarianism (2) think critically about cultural narratives that are tailored at the expense of the entitlement of every Indian citizen to have equal cultural space in India's democratic structure. (3) examine social exclusion, discriminations and various forms of inequalities. (4) explore more fully the study of Multiculturalism as represented through literature within the context of contemporary theory and more traditional discourses, and (5) validate a larger socio-cultural context and avenue for understanding the policy of inclusiveness in education, literature, society, etc.

Theme

Multiculturalism, as an alternate political agenda of the West, emerged first in the 1960s in response to the cultural demands of the traditionally oppressed groups. Multiculturalism can also be deliberated as an ideology that celebrates the diversity of cultures and accentuates the contributions of different cultural groups to society. In an era of Globalization, it has been argued that multiculturalism leads to cultural homogenization. There are counter arguments which contest the argument claiming that the cultural minorities are free, within the ambit of the law, to lead their own ways of life, are entitled to equal treatment and are in the near future to be integrated into the wider society. They also assert that Multiculturalism facilitates cultural integration.

Though some critics of Multiculturalism view it as a challenge for their dominant culture and nationhood, enthusiasts of Multiculturalism view it as a remedy for the growing menace of discord in the world. It is imperative today to understand multiculturalism in the context of the changing character of India with the rising tide of communalism and cultural intolerance, especially in the post 1970s. In a globalized India, thoughts and ideas of various cultural groups commingle in diverse ways irrespective of their linguistic roots. As academicians, we need New Humanities and the policy of inclusiveness in education, literature, society, etc. to extricate such knowledge admixtures. Establishing its firm roots both in English and the regional languages, new humanities should have an empowering agenda instead of merely recycling the western theoretical frameworks.

Neither an identity slot nor political assertiveness can automatically lead humanities to the task of empowering the culturally marginalized or excluded groups within and without the majoritarian culture. The new humanities in India will have to integrate the subaltern or marginalized communities in an intimate environment that is both intellectually empowering and emotionally enriching. The new humanities should apply the debates and values of multiculturalism in theory beyond the classroom into practice by evolving and using sensible strategies for prioritizing important values – including respect for differences, equality, and social justice.



Thrust areas for Discussion:

- **Western Multiculturalism and its contemporary relevance**
- **India as a Multilingual/multicultural Society**
- **Indian Pluralism and Cultural intolerance (post 1970s)**
- **Approaches to Multiculturalism, Identities, and Social Justice**
- **Building through Resistance: Cultures of Colonized groups**
- **Cultural Diversity in India and Culture-Quests in Literature and Film**
- **Diversity and Equal Protection under the Law- Religious Minorities, Women, Gays and Lesbians**
- **Issues of Difference in Education and Multicultural Environmental Discourse**
- **Multicultural art forms: Verbal and Visual Subcultures**
- **Multicultural Voices in Indian Literatures- English and Regional**
- **Philosophical Approaches to Multicultural India**
- **Rethinking multiculturalism and Cosmopolitan Spaces**
- **Inclusiveness in (New) Humanities**
- **Homogenization and the counter discourses**
- **Issue of Secularism**
- **Mythical metanarratives as democratizing process**
- **Multicultural states: rethinking difference and identity**
- **Dr.Ambedkar- Constitution- Multicultural relevance**
- **Any other relevant areas**