

CALL FOR PAPERS

Aliah University, Kolkata

Department of English

Two-Day International Seminar on Shakespeare

To Be Held on 10 & 11 January, 2017

Concept Note

Nature, Culture, and Shakespeare: Interrogating and Negotiating the Significations

The two terms Nature and Culture have a complex etymological history and multiple connotations which have constantly mutated to acquire newer hues. Keeping aside these layers of significations accumulated over centuries, we may take – for the purposes of this seminar – Nature to mean ‘what man has not made’ and Culture as human construct. The seminar intends scholars to explore the varied and complex ways of Shakespeare’s engagement with Nature, Culture and the relationship between the two. Is this relationship in Shakespeare’s oeuvre merely antithetical, hierarchical, gendered, or based on mutual harmony, interdependence and sustainability? Do his works endorse the legitimization by the Book of Genesis of the cultural control and exploitation of Nature through human intervention in the physical world, or is there a latent presence of the pre-Christian concept of Nature as the Great Goddess in his works? What new light does emanate from the great works, if we employ the principles of New Historicism that claim cultivation of land and culture to be fields of self fashioning? What politics is unveiled when Ecocriticism scrutinises Shakespeare? Or, to put the issue more directly, how Green is Shakespeare?

We do not, however, wish to keep the focus of the seminar confined to only Ecocritical concerns in Shakespeare’s works and we would certainly go beyond New Historicism in reading Shakespeare on this occasion. The lines of enquiry may extend into the creative and polemical adaptations of Shakespeare’s works into films, theatre, music, novels and even graphic novels.

The Two-Day International Seminar proposes to consider Nature, Culture, and Shakespeare in relation, but not limited, to the following areas:

1. Shakespeare’s dramas as sites of psychological production.
2. Renaissance refashioning to modern adaptations.
3. Shakespeare and Ecocriticism.
4. Music as culture; Music as Nature
5. Shakespeare and the courtly culture
6. Shakespeare and popular culture.
7. The Elizabethan world and nature in Shakespeare.

8. Nature, culture and alternative reality.
9. Nature of love and love in Nature.
10. Race and culture in Shakespeare

Venue: Aliah University, Park Circus Campus, 17 Gora Chand Road, Kolkata 700014, West Bengal. It is adjacent to Park Circus Maidan, National Medical College, Kolkata, and Lady Brabourne College, Kolkata. It will take about 30 minutes by cab from Howrah Railway Station, 15 minutes from Sealdah Railway Station and 40 minutes from Dum Dum International Airport to reach the campus.

An abstract **within 300 words** is invited on any of the above sub-themes in the following order:

- a) Title of the abstract,
- b) Author's name and Institutional affiliation,
- c) Email address
- d) Body of the abstract.

Please send your abstracts to the following addresses: sohelaziz2005@gmail.com, hasinawahida.wahida49@gmail.com, and safitune@gmail.com

Last date of submission of the abstracts: 25 December 2016. (Sunday). Acceptance will be **intimated by 28 December 2016 (Wednesday).**

Participants are expected to submit full papers on the day of presentation. Papers should be submitted in MLA style, 7th edition, Times New Roman, Font size 12, with double space. Word limit- 3000 words.

Registration fee: Faculty- 1000 INR [Without accommodation], Research Scholars: 500 INR, Students: 100 INR. (Payable at the Registration Desk, on the 1st day of the Seminar).

Those seeking accommodation should contact the organizers at the earliest so that they may arrange for the same. Outstation participants are to bear the expenses of accommodation and travel themselves.

[Registration fee includes: Tea/Coffee, Working Lunch on both the days, Seminar Kit, Participation/ Presentation Certificate]

Amzed Hossein

Professor & Head, Department of English.