

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

TRAVEL WRITING

DISCIPLINE CENTRED ELECTIVE COURSE

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

IN ASSOCIATION WITH IQAC, KALINDI COLLEGE

DATE: 6TH APRIL 2019

RESOURCE PERSONS

DR. ARUP K. CHATTERJEE (OP JINDAL UNIV.)

'WRITING CITIES: INTRODUCTION TO TRAVEL WRITING & TRAVELOGY'

DR. ANTARA DUTTA (JDMC, DU)

'MEDIEVAL ISLAMIC JOURNEYS: ALBERUNI & IBN BATTUTA'

DR. MAYA JOSHI (LSR, DU)

'OF MAPS, MIGRATIONS, MISCEGENATION: VOLGA SE GANGA AS TRAVEL WRITING'

DR. ANJANA SHARMA (DEPT. OF ENGLISH, DU)

'A WOMAN OF OBSERVATION: GENDER, TRAVEL & ROMANTICISM IN MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT'S *LETTERS WRITTEN DURING A SHORT RESIDENCE IN SWEDEN, NORWAY AND DENMARK*'

DR. ANJANA NEIRA DEV (GARGI COLLEGE, DU)

'TRAVELING ACROSS TIME & SPACE: WILLIAM DALRYMPLE IN *THE CITY OF DJINNS*'

MS. MONICA ZUTSHI
CONVENER AND
TEACHER-IN-CHARGE

MS. TANU SHARMA
CO-CONVENER

DR. (MS.) ANULA MAURYA
PATRON AND PRINCIPAL

Report

Faculty Development Programme on DCE Optional Paper: *Travel Writing*

16th April, 2019

A one-day Faculty Development Programme on the newly introduced Discipline Centred Elective optional paper in the BA(H) English III year syllabus entitled **Travel Writing** was organized by the English Department, Kalindi College, University of Delhi in association with the IQAC on 6th April 2019. There were five eminent speakers who spoke on various aspects of the paper, addressing a gathering of 55 participants, all teachers from different institutions.

Of the participants, 14 were affiliated to Kalindi College, 31 to other colleges affiliated to University of Delhi, 2 were from Aligarh Muslim University, 2 from Kumaon University, 4 from Sharda University, and 1 participant each from IIT Delhi and Galgotia's University. All sessions were followed by perspicacious discussions about various aspects of Travel Writing in the texts under study, and how it intersected with diverse disciplines such as History, Historiography, Sociology, Philosophy, Religion, Cultural Studies, Postcolonialism, Nationalism, Cartography, etc.

The first session was on 'Writing Cities: Introduction to Travel Writing and Travelogy' where Dr. Arup K. Chatterjee poetically spoke about travel writing as a genre which looked at spaces within the consciousness as well as the spaces traversed outside. He also explained his hypothesis about travelogy.

Dr. Antara Datta took up the second session with her presentation entitled 'Medieval Islamic Journeys: Al Biruni and Ibn Battuta', in which she contextualized the two medieval travel writers. She argued for their writings being seen as part of a larger tradition of Islamic medieval writing of the Golden Era, characterized by the gathering knowledge within the medieval Islamic world of "Dar ul Islam" and the 'rihla' traditions, thus challenging the Western hegemonic perspective of seeing the medieval era as part of the dark ages.

In her presentation on Rahul Sankrityayan, 'Of Maps, Migrations, Miscegenation: *Volga se Ganga* as Travel Writing', Dr. Maya Joshi eloquently spoke of the independent, critical mind of the prolific, maverick writer who is best known as the Father of Travel Writing in Hindi Literature. She argued for the staunch cosmopolitan notions that Sankrityayan stood for, emphasizing the need to read the prescribed text within the larger context of his writings.

Dr. Anjana Sharma's paper 'A Woman of Observation: Gender, Travel and Romanticism in Mary Wollstonecraft's *Letters Written during a Short Residence in Sweden, Norway and Denmark*' impressed upon the audience the need to examine the context of Wollstonecraft's context, biographical as well as historical. She also encouraged teachers to adopt a more inquisitive strain of pedagogy, rather than simply teaching texts in an examination-oriented, instrumental manner.

In the last session of the day, Dr. Anjana Neira Dev in her presentation 'Traveling across Time and Space: William Dalrymple in *The City of Djinn*' offered a cross-textual study of Dalrymple's early and later books on the theme of travel with the main focus on *The City of Djinn* as a fascinating and informative book on the history of Delhi, its various shifting capitals, myths, and legends.

The Faculty Development Programme concluded with Dr. Anjana Neira Dev distributing certificates to all the participants.

Monica Zutshi

Convener, Faculty Development Programme and Teacher in charge, English Department

Details regarding affiliation of participants

Kalindi College- 14 Participants

Other DU Affiliated Colleges- 31, Jesus and Mary College (3), Shivaji College (3), Daulat Ram College (3), Deshbandhu College, Satyawati College Morning (4), Delhi College of Arts and Commerce (2), PGDAV College, ARSD College (2), Maharaja Agrasen College (2), Zakir Husain Delhi College Morning, Rajdhani College, Dayal Singh Evening College, Laskhmi Bai College, Aryabhata College, Maitreyi College, Shahid Bhagat Singh Evening College, Swami Shraddhanand College (2), Aryabhata College NCWEB Centre (2), Shyam Lal College

Aligarh Muslim University- 2

Kumaon University- 2

Galgotias University- 1

Sharda University- 4

IIT Delhi- 1