



Organised by
Department of English,
Sikkim University

The

POLITICS OF

REPRESENTATION

INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES

International Seminar

1-3 November, 2017

Singing Woman. Lucknow, 1870s

The term 'Representation' is a heavily loaded one; for it suggests a 'given' which the act of rendition duplicates in one way or the other. It is quite common to confuse the terms 'representation' and 'mimesis' as interchangeable notions, even though the two are not homologous. Representation entails a whole shift in focus from the author as the controlling agent to the scene of writing itself, including the social and historical forces that produce that scene, and the reader's imaginative faculty that comprehends and conjures the scene. It is 'representation' alone that can unfold itself in the reader's/ recipient's mind, and it is through her/ his active 'imaginings' alone that the intangible becomes an image. 'Representation' therefore remains both an act of 'performance', and not simply an act of reportage. As mimesis presupposes a given reality that is to be portrayed in one way or another, representation responds to a realm of bricolage that has to be deconstructed and reconstructed at the instance of subjectivity. 'Representation' becomes both a 'performance' and a 'predilection'; for it can preclude neither the 'accretion of Power' nor its exercise. The very act of representation thus involves a series of inclusions and exclusions, disrupting the homogeneity of correspondence and adopting the dictates of ideology. The discursal space devoted to the analysis of representation as a political act in the works of thinkers as

diverse as Judith Butler, Gayatri Chakraborty Spivak, Jacques Lacan, Michel Foucault, Giorgio Agamben, Gilles Deleuze, Slavoj Zizek and the ilk testifies to its contemporary relevance.

Against such a background, the Department of English, School of Languages and Literature, Sikkim University, Sikkim, wishes to organise a three-day international Seminar, inviting eminent speakers from India and abroad, as well as scholars and students, to mull over this politics of representation.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: PROF. SUKANTA CHAUDHURI
(Professor Emeritus, Jadavpur University)

Other Invited Speakers are:

Prof. Don Adams (*Florida Atlantic University*),
Prof. Anuradha D. Needham (*Oberlin College, Ohio*),
Prof. Sajal Nag (*Assam University*),
Prof. Saugata Bhaduri (*Jawaharlal Nehru University*),
Prof. Simi Malhotra (*Jamia Milia Islamia*),
Prof. Anita Singh (*Banaras Hindu University*),
Prof. Amit Bhattacharya (*Gour Banga University*)

Valedictory Address: Prof. Chandrakala Padia
(Banaras Hindu University, & Chairperson, IAS Shimla)

Call for Papers

We invite original research papers to discuss the politics of representation largely related but not exclusively limited to the following sub-themes:

1. Representation and Ideology
2. History, Historiography and Representation
3. Representation and Typecasting
4. Representation in Visual Culture
5. Third World Literary Representation
6. The Problematics of (mis)Representation
7. Space, Place, and Representation
8. Representation in Children's Literature
9. Gender, Sexuality and Representation
10. Representation and Ethnicity

About Sikkim University

Sikkim University is a Central University established in 2007 by an Act of Parliament and is fully funded by the University Grants Commission, New Delhi. At present the University has 32 academic departments organized under 6 Schools of Studies. Sikkim University is at present located in and around Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim, which borders on Bhutan, China and Nepal on its east, north and west respectively. Sikkim University is in the process of building a world-class campus on a plot of land measuring 300 acres at Yangyang in the South District of Sikkim and located 56 kilometers from Gangtok.

For 15-minute paper-presentations, abstracts of around 300 words and keywords should be sent via email to suengsem2017@gmail.com. Please use 12 point Times New Roman and avoid footnotes.

- *Deadline for abstract submission: 24 September 2017*
- *Selected presenters will be informed via email by 15th October, 2017.*

The final paper of 3000-5000 words, along with an abstract of about 500 words must be submitted by 25th October. The papers should be typed in 12 point Times New Roman, with 1.5 line spacing and justified alignment. MLA style of referencing is to be strictly followed. Selected Papers will be considered for publication in a volume with an ISBN number.

- Author information is to be provided on a separate sheet, including name, affiliation, contact address, paper title and author's bio-note.



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The registration fee for the three-day seminar:

	with accommodation	without accommodation
Teachers	INR 4000	INR 2200
Scholars	INR 2500	INR 1200

The fee, payable at the venue, will cover the stationery, lunch and tea/snacks during the seminar. No T.A./D.A. shall be paid to the participants. Participants seeking accommodation must inform the committee by 5 Oct. For further queries please contact

Dr. Rosy Chamling

Convenor, Seminar Organising Committee

Associate Professor, Department of English, Sikkim University

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Dr. Ram Bhawan Yadav

Organising Secretary, Seminar Organising Committee

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Sikkim University

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Nearest Railhead: New Jalpaiguri (NJP) 5 kms. from Siliguri

Nearest Airport: Bagdogra (IXB) 12kms. from Siliguri

Bus/Taxi service to Gangtok available from NJP, IXB & Siliguri



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