

International Conference on Interrogating Disability Studies: Literature, Culture, Performance

Call for Papers

Though the roots of neglect and discrimination against persons with disabilities can be historically traced, the voices of this critical segment of society have largely remained unproblemitized in academic discourses. The traditional medical and welfare-based approaches have often overlooked the significant impact of disability on the socio-cultural and psychological lives of persons with disabilities both as individuals and groups. Further, till recently, most academic discussions relating to disability paradigms have tended to revolve around legal provisions, support systems etc.

While acknowledging the significance of such discussions, this international conference proposes to explore multiple disability dimensions from the perspectives of the stakeholders and academics with particular reference to its representation in literature, culture and performance. Though a recent research area in academic domains, disability is fast gaining ground as a discipline not just for understanding the lived experiences and socio-cultural predicaments of this large segment of society, but also as a lens to engage with hitherto rather unnoticed processes and trends affecting such a hidden marginalization in our 'civilized' society.

As Shelley Tremain in her introduction to "Foucault and the Government of Disability" observes, "Academics who conduct their work under the rubric of disability studies have begun to problematize the foundational assumptions of many disciplines and fields of inquiry as well as the methodologies that they employ, the criteria of evaluation to which they appeal and the epistemological and social positioning of the researchers and theorists invested in them." The evolution of disability studies as an academically engaging area, has significantly gained from more overt expressions of those who have closely encountered disability and from the narrative of rights-based approach to disability.

The conference shall bring together disability studies scholars, critics, as well as writers with/on disability on a single platform along with disability rights champions and role models. Further, it aims to engage with disability in a holistic manner. An attempt shall also be made to have on board international disability studies theorists, representatives of INGOs, performers with disability as well as lifetime achievers. The sessions will include, but not be limited to:

Historical perspectives to disability;

Disability movements and disability studies theories;

Representation of disability in various genres of literature such as fiction, short stories and poetry;

Disability and performing arts such as drama and films;

Rights-based movements and their significance in disability studies;

Disability and gender;

Interactions with writers with disabilities/translators of disability texts;

Best practices relating to persons with disabilities in higher education;

Disability and pedagogy;

Inclusion of disability in curriculum.

Papers are invited on the above themes/any other, related to the broad areas of the conference. The abstracts of around 300 words may be sent to disabilitycon.engdu@gmail.com

Important dates

Last date for submission of abstracts: 21st December, 2017.

Notification of accepted papers: 15th January, 2018.

Submission of working papers: 31st January, 2018.

Conference: 21st-23rd February, 2018.

All attempts will be made to publish the conference proceedings.

Prof. Anil K. Aneja.

Conference Convener,

Conference Committee:

Prof. Anil K. Aneja (Conference Convener);

Prof. Christel Devadawson (Head, Department of English);

Prof. Raj Kumar;

Dr. Anjana Sharma;

Dr. Nidhi Vats;

Dr. Haris Qadeer;

Dr. Swetha Antony