Department of English

University of Delhi

INTERROGATING DISABILITY STUDIES: LITERATURE, CULTURE, PERFORMANCE

an International Conference organized in Collaboration with

ICSSR, Samarthanam Trust & Sahitya Akademi

8—10th March, 2018

Conference Centre, University of Delhi(North Campus)

DAY 1: 8th March, 2018

❖ 9:00—10:00 AM REGISTRATION

❖ 10:00—10:40 AM INAUGURATION

❖ 10:40—11:15 AM KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Keynote address: Prof. Nicholas Watson, Director, Department of Disability Studies, Glasgow University, UK- Disability, Culture and Oppression.

❖ 11:15—11:30 AM TEA/COFFEE

❖ 11:30 AM—1:30 PM PLENARY SESSION 1: DIVERSITY IN DISABILITY REPRESENTATIONS
Chair: **Prof. Christel Devadawson**, Head of the Department, Department of English, University of Delhi

Speakers:

1) **Prof. Anil K. Aneja**, Department of English, University of Delhi - *Contesting the Normative: Strategies of Disability Engagement in Representative Western Fiction.*

2) **Prof. Prakash Kona**, Department of English, EFLU, Hyderabad - *Jane Eyre: A Study in Mental Illness.*

3) **Dr. Smriti Singh**, Asst. Prof., Department of English, Maitreyi College, University of Delhi - *Representation of Disability in Indian mythology and world's Major Religious Scriptures.*

4) **Mr. Subrat Sahu**, Filmmaker and Journalist - *I Sing Therefore I Am.*

❖ 1:30—2:15 PM LUNCH

❖ 2:15—3:15 PM PLENARY SESSION 2: ENCOUNTER WITH THE WRITERS

Chair: **Prof. Raj Kumar**, Department of English, University of Delhi

Speakers:

1) **Ms. Malini Chib**, acclaimed writer whose autobiographical work *One Little Finger* was adapted into the film *Margarita With A Straw.*

2) **Ms. Kuli Kohli**, writer and a member of Blakenhall Writers' Group.(through Skype)
3) **Dr. Jyothsnaphanija**, Asst. prof., Department of English, ARSD College, University of Delhi.

❖ 3:15—3:30 PM TEA/COFFEE

❖ 3:30—5:30 PM PLENARY SESSION 3: INCLUSION THROUGH CULTURE: Presentation By *Samarthanam* Trust, Our Ngo Partner

Chair: **Dr. Haris Qadeer**, Asst. Prof., Department of English, University of Delhi

1) **Mr. Mahantesh G.K.**, Co-Founder & Managing Trustee, Samarthanam Trust—
*About Samarthanam And Working Towards Inclusion Through Culture And Sports.*

2) **Mr. Buse Gowda (Mayur)**, an acclaimed dancer with visual impairment.

3) Cultural Programme By *Samarthanam Trust*, Our Ngo Partner

**DAY 2: 9th March, 2018**

❖ 10:00—11:15 AM PLENARY SESSION 4: KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Chair: **Prof. Shormishtha Panja**, Department of English, University of Delhi


2) 10:45—11:15 AM **Dr. Shilpa Anand**, Asst. Prof., Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad - *Disability Studies in India.*
11:15—11:30 AM TEA/COFFEE

11:30 AM—1:30 PM DISABILITY AND VISUAL MEDIUMS

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

CONCURRENT SESSION 1: ENGAGEMENT WITH CINEMA

Chair: Ms. Amrita Bhalla, Associate Prof., Department of English, Jesus & Mary College, University of Delhi & Member, Steering Committee, DSC Prize for South Asian Writing.

1) Ms. Deeksha Vats & Mr. Rachit Raj, Research scholars, Department of English, University of Delhi- *Sexuality of the Physically Handicap: A voyage through Indian Cinema.*


3) Ms. Vini Bhati, Postgraduate student, Department of English, University of Delhi- *Disabled Body - Palace Or Prison?-From The Lens Of “Avant Garde” Cinema.*

4) Ms. Aishwarya Jha, Postgraduate student, Department of English, University of Delhi- *Enlightenment through Entertainment: Depiction of Disability in Films.*

5) Mr. Shubhayan Chakrabarti, Postgraduate student, Department of English, University of Delhi- *Ambivalence of Normality and Institutionalised Disablism in Film.*

CONCURRENT SESSION 2: VISUAL ARTS AND THEATRE
Chair: Prof. Sharon L. Snyder, Department of Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois, Chicago

1) Prof. Anil K Aneja, Department of English, University of Delhi & Ms. Shilpa BSL, Asst. Professor, Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management Studies, Affiliated to Guru Gobind Singh University- When Pictures Speak: Seeing Epilepsy in Comics - Epileptic and Absence.

2) Mr. Partha Bhattacharjee, Institute Fellow, English School of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT, Patna & Dr. Priyanka Tripathi, Asst. Prof. of English, IIT Patna- ‘Disease’ and Visual Rhetoric of Disability Comics and Autopathography in the Works of Alison Bechdel.

3) Dr. Asijit Datta, Asst. Prof. of English, The Heritage College, Calcutta University- Theatre of Disability and Contingency Awareness: Reading Deformed Language and Nervous Bodies in Beckett.

4) Ms. Paromita Patranobish, Asst. Prof., Department of English, Miranda House College, University of Delhi- Disabling the Anthropological Machine: Disability as Zone of Indistinction in Samuel Beckett’s Happy Days and Not I.

5) Ms. Saniya Puri, Postgraduate student, Department of English, University of Delhi- The representational politics in showcasing the ‘disabled’ as a site of violence and criminal activity.

❖ 1:30—2:15 PM LUNCH

❖ 2:15—3:15 PM PLENARY SESSION 5: DISABILITY MOVEMENTS AND THEIR IMPACT ON SOCIETY
Chair: **Prof. Anil K Aneja**, Department of English, University of Delhi

1) **Mr. AK Mittal**, Secretary General, World Blind Union & President, All India Confederation of the Blind.

2) **Mr. Sunish Gupta**, CEO, Easy Alliance, USA.

3) **Dr. Uma Tuli**, Founder & Managing Trustee, *Amar Jyoti* Trust.

4) **Ms. Souparnika A.**, Research Scholar, Institute of English, Kerala- *Apprehending Silence: Locating Deaf Social Movements in India*.

❖ 3:15—3:30 PM  TEA/COFFEE

❖ 3:30—5:30 PM  LITERARY REPRESENTATIONS OF DISABILITY

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

CONCURRENT SESSION 3: DISABILITY REPRESENTATION IN INDIAN TRADITION

Chair: **Dr. Swetha Antony**, Asst. Prof., Department of English, University of Delhi

1) **Lt. (Dr.) Shafia Saleem**, Asst. Prof., Department of English, Govt. Post Graduate College Rajouri, University of Jammu- *Representation of Disabilities in 'Clear Light of the Day' and 'Shame'*.

2) **Ms. Salini Sathyaseelan**, Research scholar, Department of English & Comparative Literature, Central University of Kerala - *The Humanimal in Animal’s People*. 
3) **Dr. Someshwar Sati**, Associate Prof., Department of English, Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi- *Disabling the Indian Short Story.*

4) **Ms. Kalyani Gandhi**, Research scholar, Department of English, University of Delhi- *EKALAVYA: Difference, Disability and Discouragement.*

5) **Ms. Aishwarya Chandran**, Research scholar, Department of Women's Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai- *Grotesque bodies: Women and disability in Hindu mythology.*

CONCURRENT SESSION 4: DISABILITY REPRESENTATION IN WESTERN LITERATURE

Chair: Dr. **Subarno Chatterji**, Associate Prof., Department of English, University of Delhi

1) **Ms. Ekabali Ghosh**, Postgraduate student, Department of English, Jadavpur University- *The Blind Subject: a disability reading of Samson Agonistes.*

2) **Dr. S. Varadharaj**, Asst. Prof., Department of English, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi- *Reader And Beyond: An Introspective Study in the Writings Of Michael Crichton.*

3) **Dr. Ratna Raman**, Associate Prof., Department of English, Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi- *'The Fifth Child' and 'Ben in the World’: Dystopias we inhabit.*

4) **Ms. Priyanka Arora**, Postgraduate student, Department of English, University of Delhi- *Analysis of the Intersecting Domains of Medicine and Society apropos Clubfoot in Literature across a Century.*

**DAY 3: 10th March, 2018**

- 10:00 AM—11:15 AM  PLENARY SESSION 6:
  
  Chair: **Dr. Anjana Sharma**, Associate Prof. Department of English, University of Delhi

  1) 10:00—10:45 AM Keynote Address: **Prof. David Mitchell**, Department of English, George Washington University, **Prof. Sharon L. Snyder**, Department of Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois, Chicago & **Mr. Cameron S. Mitchell**, Film-maker, CSM Productions-

  *Disposable Humanity: Disability and the Holocaust.*

  2) 10:45—11:15 AM—**Dr. Alok Sareen**, Renowned Psychiatrist & Mental Health activist- *From Medical Authority To Lived Experience: Negotiating Changing Landscapes In Mental Health Discourse.*

- 11:15—11:30 AM  TEA/COFFEE

- 11:30 AM—1:00 PM  CONCURRENT SESSIONS

  **CONCURRENT SESSION 5: DISABILITY AND OTHER MARGINALITIES**
Chair: **Dr. Tapan Basu**, Associate Prof., Department of English, University of Delhi

1) **Prof. Anita Ghai**, School of Human Studies, Ambedkar University - *Intersections Of Disability And Gender.*


3) **Ms. Ratika Malhotra**, B. Ed.(Mental Retardation), Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi - *Unacknowledged Predicaments Of The Third Gender In Disability.*


**CONCURRENT SESSION 6: PROVIDING SUPPORT & INCLUSION IN CURRICULUM**

Chair: **Dr. Nidhi Vats**, Asst. Prof. Department of English, University of Delhi

1) **Dr. Anupriya Chadda**, National Coordinator, Inclusive Education, *Samarthanam* Trust.

2) **Ms. Debarati Sen**, Junior Assistant, Office of the Registrar, Presidency University, Kolkata - *Transcending Barriers for the ‘Differently Abled’ Rules Appended by Higher Educational Institutes in Kolkata for Employees with Disability.*

3) **Dr. Bipin Tiwary**, Asst. Prof., Dept of Political Science and OSD, EOC, University of Delhi.
4) Dr. Annavaram, Asst. Prof., Dept of Sociology, Central University of Hyderabad.

5) Prof. Raj Dhruvrajan, Retd. Prof., Department of Economics, University of Manitoba, Canada.

❖ 1:00—2:00 PM LUNCH

❖ 2:00—3:30 PM PLENARY SESSION 7: DISABILITY & LIFE NARRATIVES

Chair: Prof. Prakash Kona, Department of English, EFLU, Hyderabad


4) Mr. Boopathi P., Asst. Prof., Department of English, Aligarh Muslim University - *Intersectionality Of Caste, Class And Gender: Some Reflections On Indian Disabled Life Narratives.*

5) Ms. Vinayana Khurana, Postgraduate student, Department of English, University of Delhi- *Inclusion of Disability in the Curriculum.*
3:30—4:00 PM VALEDICTORY

1) **Prof. Christel Devadawson**, Head of the Department, Department of English, University of Delhi.

2) Valedictory Speaker- **Prof. Malashri Lal**, Convenor of English, Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi.

3) Vote of Thanks- **Prof. Anil K. Aneja**, Conference Coordinator.

4:00 PM HIGH TEA