

MIDNAPORE COLLEGE

(AUTONOMOUS)

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MIDNAPORE, PASCHIM MEDINIPUR, WEST BENGAL, INDIA



ORGANISED BY

Departments of

ENGLISH, BENGALI & HINDI

AUGUST
25
2022

One Day National
Seminar On
**CARTOGRAPHY OF
CULTURAL
MARGINALITY :
SITUATING DALIT
WRITINGS IN INDIA**

CALL FOR PAPERS :

The caste system is one of the most brutal forms of hierarchical social organization and caste-based discrimination affects over 250 million people in South Asia and across the globe. Dalits, that is, the “former Untouchables” are on the lowest rung of the Hindu social structure and South Asian society. Despite some increased legal protections in caste-affected countries within and without South Asia, the Dalit community continues to face indignities ranging from daily humiliations, to extreme poverty and servitude, to violence and murder. As of 2020, every 10 minutes a crime is committed against a Dalit and every day 8 Dalit women are subjected to rape in India. Crimes against the Dalits include murder, lynching, massacre, suicide, social ostracization, economic exploitation, and sexual abuse. Dalits still remain socially excluded from the benefits that accrued to a large number of many communities. The social and economic disparities have deteriorated over years. Dalits are chronically excluded from economic, cultural and political benefits. The ambit explains that the dearth of opportunities plaguing the socially excluded communities is in its worst possible from the social institution of ‘Caste’. According to the Census of India (2011) Dalits constitute 16.7 percent of Indian population, yet their socio-economic and political status sets apart from the other upper castes and backward classes. Caste discrimination against Dalits is strongly pronounced. India has been independent for the last sixty seven years and Dalits still are living below the line of poverty with impoverished conditions. Faced with the atrocities within the Hindu social order, at the very outset Dalits in India face a challenge whether to remain within the Hindu folds or convert to Buddhism or to any other religion For the Dalit community, the entrenched caste system sanctions a massive denial of

citizenship and fundamental rights which others enjoy under the constitutions of countries in South Asia. Dalit literature plays a crucial role in the process of recovering the cultural memory of the Dalit past and in uncovering the social-cultural subjugation of Dalits. It is during this transformative period of Dalit social, cultural and political upsurge for social equality and political rights that Dalit literature as genre has emerged in India. The struggle of Dalit Indians is inspired by Ambedkar and his vision of liberation from the caste-based oppression and the struggle of Afro-Americans is inspired by King and his vision of liberation from the race-based oppression. The greatest similarity between Dalit and Black struggles is their aim that is to strive for social equality. It means Ambedkar is right in saying that every caste is a nation in itself in India. Social integration precedes national integration. Hence, Ambedkar visualised sociocultural revolution as the primary condition for a political revolution that binds all communities in the society into one strong, and vibrant democratic nation on equal footing. Dalit thinkers like Phuley and Ambedkar laid the groundwork in modern India for a more inclusive society. They conceptualised the social narrative to redefine social borders. It is said that the civil rights movement of Afro-Americans in America made an impact over Dalit movement in India particularly after Ambedkar and produced a radical movement known as Dalit Panthers movement in the 1970s on the lines of the movement led by Black Panthers Party of America.

The proposed one day seminar will explore critical issues faced by the Dalit community, with a focus on the intersecting nature of gender, religion, and caste-based discrimination. This broad theme is based upon the following issues that participants might be interested in specifically exploring (in the broader context described above). However, abstracts welcomed for this conference include, but are not restricted to:

- Dalit Literature, Alternative History and Historiography
- Dalit Literature and Mass Media
- Dalit Literature, Identity and the Question of Ethics in Aesthetic Representation Dalit's Emancipation and Empowerment
- Dalits and Neo-liberal Politics
- Dalit Literature and Human Struggle
- Dalit Literature and Women
- Dalit Literature and Youth
- Dalit Literature and Environment
- Dalit Studies and the Non-human/Post-human
- Dalit Literature and Caste-based Identity Politics
- Dalit Writings and Politics of Canon-formation
- Dalits and Biopolitics
- Dalits and Globalization
- Dalits Caste Atrocities
- Diasporic Casteism, Global Brahmanism
- Anticasteism, Antiracism, Anticolonialism
- Dalit Writings and Condition, Elevation, Emigration and Destiny of the Coloured People

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

Manoranjan Byapari, Eminent Writer

Sharanakumar Limbale, Eminent Writer

Manohar Mouli Biswas, Eminent Writer

Jayprakash Kardam, Eminent Writer

SCHEDULE

Date of Seminar	: 25 August 2022.
Last Date of Submission of abstract (250-300 words)	: 05 August 2022.
Acceptance of Abstracts	: 10 August 2022.
Registration	: 10 August—15 August 2022.

PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

- Abstracts of proposed papers (**Language - English, Bengali & Hindi**) carrying a short bio-note of the Presenter should be sent to the email id - deptofenglishmid@gmail.com by **August 05, 2022**.

All abstracts and papers shall be arranged in M.S. Word Format as:

- Title of paper: Bold, font size 14.
- Names of Author(s): First Name, Last Name.
- Keywords: Four to five words.
- Font size 12.
- Line space: 1.5 space.
- Margins: 1 inch on all sides.
- Word count: 250-300 words for abstract and full paper should not exceed 2500-3000 words.
- Participants should follow MLA handbook 8th edition.

The select papers will be published free of cost in a book with ISBN.

Research Papers without registration fees will not be accepted.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS

No accommodation will be provided. However, our conference team will provide all sorts of assistance to arrange paid accommodation on prior request.

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