

CONFERENCE REPORT

SURPASSING BOUNDARIES TO CREATE/CRITIQUE IDENTITIES: A PRAXIS OF 'FEMALE'

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
PURBASTHALI COLLEGE
JUNE 29-30, 2020



Purbasthali College

(Affiliated to University of Burdwan)

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

International e-Conference

on

SURPASSING BOUNDARIES TO RE-CREATE WOMEN'S IDENTITIES: A FEMINIST PRAXIS

Date: June 29-30, 2020

Time: 10.00am IST

Registration

Link: <https://forms.gle/fnKgoNVoku4FPrAL8>

Last date: June
27, 2020

E-certificate will
be provided

Dr. Soumya M. Ghosh

Convener

Assistant Professor (English)

Dr. Bibhas Chandra Saha

Chairperson

Principal

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INTRODUCTION

A Two-day International e-Conference on “Surpassing Boundaries to Create/Critique Identities: A Praxis of ‘Female’” was organized by the Department of English on June 29-30, 2020 from 5 p.m. IST (GMT + 5.30). The event aimed at addressing the sexual politics surfaced in the society and how the stereotypical representations of women were deconstructed along with issues of politics of gender, sexuality, transnational solidarity, political activism, among others. The programme was part of the institute’s endeavour to go beyond the confined spaces in the time of the pandemic to embrace the world and connect with the global audience to continue the academic activity. The e-conference was streamed live in the YouTube platform so that viewers of all over the world could access the event.

PARTICIPATION

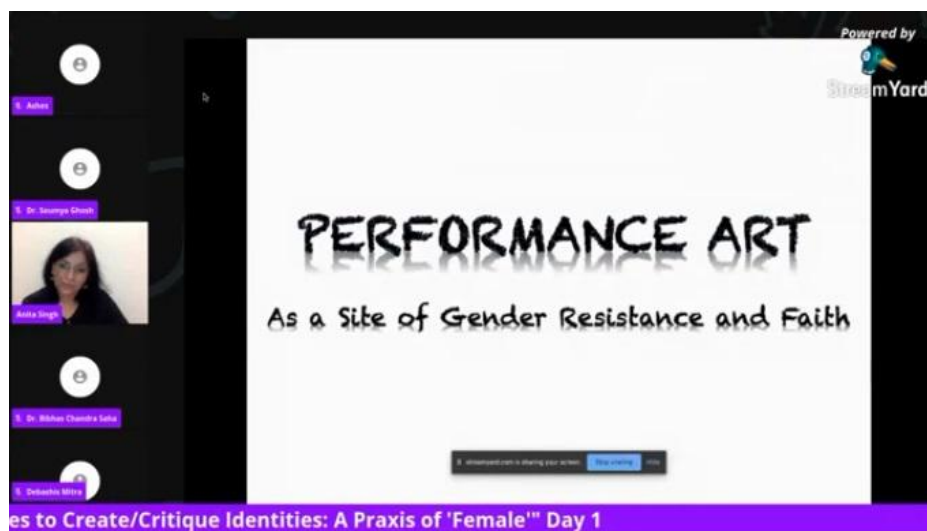
The e-conference witnessed three thousand four hundred and four views in which delegates including academicians, faculty members, research scholars, UG and PG students from six countries— including India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Azerbaijan, Norway, and Saudi Arabia— participated. Participants from various parts of India, like West Bengal, Telangana, Assam, Kerala, Varanasi, Nagaland, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Punjab, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Sikkim, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, attended the event. Eight hundred and seventy six delegates registered for the event and two hundred and forty one participants submitted the Feedback Form circulated during the event. Nine abstracts were submitted among which six were selected for presentation in the e-conference.

INAUGURAL SESSION



The event started with the convener cum host, Dr. Soumya Mohan Ghosh, welcoming the dignitaries on screen and introducing the theme of the e-conference. Mrs. Pratyusha Ghosh, faculty of the Department of Sanskrit, Purbasthali College, was requested to formally inaugurate the event with a song. After that the Principal cum Chairperson of the e-conference, Dr. Bibhas Chandra Saha, welcomed the guests and delivered the Chairperson's Speech. He extended a warm welcome to all the resource persons and the viewers and expressed his gratitude to the guests for gracing the occasion. The inaugural session ended with the Convener's Speech in which Dr. Soumya Mohan Ghosh remarked that women in literature were mostly constructed as a sexualized object in the dominant patriarchal discourse. The category of woman was a fictional construction, developed, and naturalized over the ages through the writing of the male authors. He also continued that women fit into the category of either a desexualized goddess or an over sexualized whore. It was very recently and sometimes intermittently that these stereotypes were challenged and the boundaries meant for containing were surpassed, but it was not always received cordially. He concluded that the e-conference strived to address some of those issues in the duration of two days.

SESSION 1- KEYNOTE ADDRESS



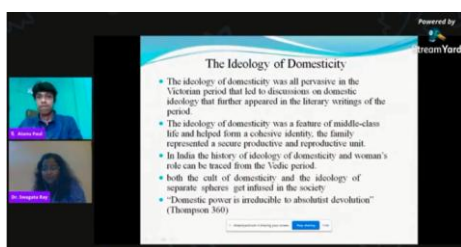
After the end of the inaugural session, the first session began in which the Keynote Address was given by Prof. Anita Singh, Professor, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India. The title of her address was “Performance Art as a Site of Gender Resistance and Faith”. Prof. Singh stated that theatre was a very contentious space where the once excluded women took hold of the powerful medium and sought to redress the age-old neglect, stereotyping, gender bias, and sexism. Her presentation demonstrated how the proliferation of women’s voices broke the barriers and posed resistance against gender based oppressions. The session ended with a brief discussion and question-answer session.

SESSION 2- TECHNICAL SESSION I

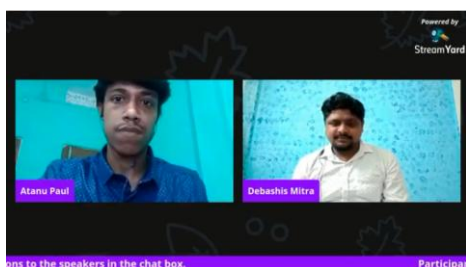


Soon after the first session, the first technical session started. This session was chaired by Mr. Atanu Kr. Paul, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of English, JMS College Munger.

In this session, three paper presenters presented their researches.



The first presenter, Dr. Swagata Ray, Associate Professor, Geethanjali College of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad, India, presented a paper titled “Narratives of Domesticity and The Politics of Private Spheres”.



The second presenter, Mr. Debashis Mitra, Assistant Professor, Government Engineering College, Daman, DNH & DD, India, presented his paper on “‘Unsex me here’- Decolonizing Sex and Detexturing ‘me’ (Female Body): A Queer Reading”.



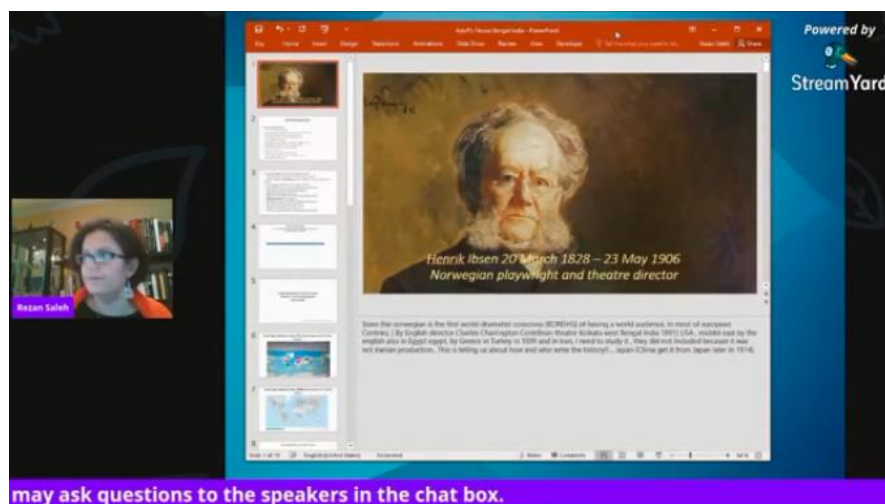
The third presenter, Dr. Partha Sarathi Mandal, Assistant Professor, Manbhum Mahavidyalaya, Purulia, India, presented his paper on “Finding a Voice :A Study in the Folk -Songs written by Anonymous Women Writers”.

SESSION 3- PLENARY SESSION I



The second day of the e-conference started with the first Plenary Address by Dr. Pinaki De, Associate Professor, Department of English, Raja Peary Mohan College, Uttarpara, West Bengal, India. The title of his talk was "Drawing themselves: Women Comics Creators and their Art". He highlighted that the comics industry with its association of strong masculine protagonists, superheroes, and the presupposition of young male consumers was a male dominated genre, where women had to fight their way through the misogyny, male bias, and sexism. His presentation revealed how the women were able to draw themselves and present an alternate vision. The session ended with a brief discussion and question-answer session.

SESSION 4- PLENARY SESSION II



After the end of the first Plenary Session, second Plenary Session started in which the speaker was Mrs. Rezan Saleh, a theatre scientist, multicultural concept developer, and an international cultural researcher, who was working as a Guest Researcher at the Center for Ibsen Studies at the University of Oslo (Norway). The title of her talk was “Inter-culturalism in *A Doll's House* in a Political Cultural Perspective: A Case Study”. She stressed on the global impact of Ibsen’s landmark play *A Doll's House*. Her presentation gave an insight on the influence of Nora Helmer in different cultures across the globe. The session ended with a brief discussion and question-answer session.

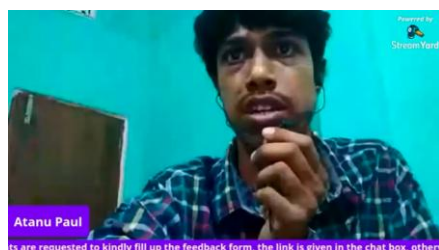
SESSION 5- TECHNICAL SESSION II



Soon after the two Plenary Sessions, the second technical session started. This session was chaired by Dr. Swagata Ray, Associate Professor, Geethanjali College of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad, India. In this session, three paper presenters presented their researches.



The first presenter, Ms. Yasmina Melikova, Research Scholar, Institute of Philosophy, National Academy of Sciences, Azerbaijan, presented a paper titled “Gender, Identity, and the Stage: A Study of the Modern Stage”.



The second presenter, Mr. Atanu Kr. Paul, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of English, J.M.S. College, Munger, Bihar, India, presented his paper on “Exiting the Exoskeleton of Gendered Space: A Study of Major Woman Characters in Monica Ali’s *Brick Lane*”.



The last presenter, Ms. Srijita Roy, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Kultali Dr. B. R. Ambedkar College, West Bengal, India, presented her paper on “Portrayal of Women Characters in the Novels of Suchitra Bhattacharya”.

SESSION 6- VALEDICTORY



The session marked the closure of the e-conference after engaging discussions in the two days. The formal Vote of Thanks was proposed by the Convener, Dr. Soumya Mohan Ghosh, in which he thanked all the guests, speakers, paper presenters, and all the viewers for their participation, and officially declared the e-conference closed.

ANNEXURE 1

E-CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Day 1 June 29, 2020 17.00 hours (IST)

Platform: YouTube

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pQ4_vmzH_I

- 17:00–17:10 hours (IST) Inaugural Song
- 17:10–17:15 hours (IST) Welcome Address by the Principal, Purbasthali College
- 17:15–17:20 hours (IST) Convener's Address
- 17:20–18:05 hours (IST) Keynote Address by Prof. Anita Singh, Professor, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India
- 18:05–18:20 hours (IST) Brief Interactive session
- 18:20–19:05 hours (IST) Technical Session -1
Session Chair: Mr. Atanu Kr. Paul, Assistant Professor & Head, J.M.S. College, Munger, Bihar, India
 - Dr. Swagata Ray, Associate Professor, Geethanjali College of Engg. & Tech., Hyderabad, India
 - Mr. Debashis Mitra, Assistant Professor, Government Engineering College, Daman, DNH & DD, India
 - Dr. Partha Sarathi Mandal, Assistant Professor, Manbhum Mahavidyalaya, Purulia, India
- 19:05-19:15 hours (IST) Brief Interactive session

Day 2 June 30, 2020 17.00 hours (IST)

Platform: YouTube

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLQUaIOk_i8

- 17:00-17:45 hours (IST) Plenary Talk- 1 by Dr. Pinaki De, Graphic Designer and Illustrator, and Associate Professor, R. P. M. College, West Bengal, India
- 17:45 -17:55 hours (IST) Brief Interactive session

- 17:55 -18:40 hours (IST) Plenary Talk- 2 by Mrs. Rezan Saleh, Theatre Scientist and Researcher, Centre for Ibsen Studies, University of Oslo, Norway
 - 18:40 -18:50 hours (IST) Brief Interactive session
 - 18:50 -19:25 hours (IST) Technical Session -2
Session Chair: Dr. Swagata Ray, Associate Professor, Geethanjali College of Engg. & Tech., Hyderabad, India
 - Ms. Yasmina Melikova, Research Scholar, Institute of Philosophy, National Academy of Sciences, Azerbaijan
 - Mr. Atanu Kr. Paul Assistant Professor & Head, J.M.S. College, Munger, Bihar, India
 - Ms. Srijita Roy, Assistant Professor, Kultali Dr. B. R. Ambedkar College, West Bengal, India
 - 19:25 -19:35 hours (IST) Brief Interactive session
 - 19:35 -19:40 hours (IST) Valedictory Session
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