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SWAMI VIVEKANANDA UNIVERSITY
— Welcomes you to the —

2 DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

**Transactions: History, Culture and Identity
in Australia and India**

Organised by
Department of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies
in collaboration with Centre for Australian Studies

31ST JAN - 01ST FEB, 2025

Key Speakers

			
PROF. BILL GENSCHERT Professor of Asian South South	PROF. PAUL SHARADA Associate of Anthropology	PROF. MICHAEL GIFFORD Professor of Anthropology	PROF. PRADEEP KUMAR Associate Professor, English
			
PROF. RAVI NARAYAN MANDAPAT Associate Professor	DR. MICHELLE CAREY Associate Professor	DR. AMIT SAMKAR MISHRA Associate Professor	DR. ANANDH PRASAD BHATIA Associate Professor
			
DR. VINOD KUMAR CHAKRAVARTY Associate Professor	DR. SANKAR SENAPATI Associate Professor		

Mode: Blended

Conference Date: 31st January and 1st February, 2025

Conference Time: 11:00 AM to 05:00 PM

**Venue: Hall 2, Meghnad Saha Block, Swami Vivekananda University,
Barrackpore.**

Mission

The mission of the two-day international conference, “Transactions: History, Culture and Identity in Australia and India,” is to foster a multidisciplinary platform for scholars, researchers, and practitioners to exchange innovative ideas and research findings. By exploring the intricate historical and cultural connections between Australia and India, the conference aims to illuminate shared identities, mutual influences, and collaborative opportunities. Through academic dialogue and knowledge dissemination, the conference seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of the transactional dynamics shaping the histories and cultures of these two diverse nations, while promoting intellectual collaboration at a global level.

Vision

The vision of the conference is to establish a globally recognized forum for intellectual engagement on the interplay of history, culture, and identity between Australia and India. By addressing emerging themes in cultural studies and fostering cross-cultural partnerships, the event aspires to bridge academic and cultural divides. It envisions strengthening transnational bonds and cultivating a deeper appreciation of shared histories, cultural narratives, and identities, ultimately paving the way for sustainable academic and cultural cooperation between the two nations.

Concept Note:

The international conference “Transactions: History, Culture and Identity in Australia and India” invites scholarly submissions that critically engage with the evolving dynamics of historical, cultural, and identity exchanges between these two nations. This two-day international conference aims to create an interdisciplinary platform where academics, scholars, researchers, and teachers and students can deliberate on themes of transnational interactions, transcultural negotiations, and the re-articulation of identities in the context of a globalized world.

Central to this conference is the interrogation of how postcolonial narratives and cultural transactions have shaped, and continue to influence, the historical and trajectories of Australia and India. Drawing inspiration from seminal works such as Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin's *The Empire Writes Back: Theory and Practice in Post-Colonial Literatures* (1989), this event seeks to extend the discussion on the legacies of colonialism and the construction of cultural identities beyond the conventional paradigms. Contributions are expected to explore how the theories of diaspora, hybridity, migration and third space apply to or diverge within the Australian and Indian contexts.

Submissions, by taking Australian and Indian texts into consideration, may address a wide range of topics including, but not limited to, historical intersections, literary commonality, ecological comparative studies, travel accounts, cultural hybridity, narrative formations, migration, and transnational memory. The conference also welcomes innovative methodological approaches that incorporate comparative analysis, critical theory, and interdisciplinary perspectives. In doing so, it endeavors to provide new insights into the ways in which historical transactions inform current cultural discourses and social identities.

We welcome papers that not only analyze historical and cultural intersections but also suggest pathways for future scholarly inquiry. Submissions should demonstrate a rigorous methodological approach and contribute to the broader discourse on cultural transactions. This conference looks forward to expand knowledge on a diverse range of voices and perspectives that together will enrich our understanding of the multifaceted relationship existing between Australia and India.

Speaker Details:

Prof. Bill Ashcroft

Prof. Bill Ashcroft is a renowned scholar and Emeritus Professor in the School of English, Media, and Performing Arts. A pioneering figure in post-colonial theory, he is celebrated as one of the founding exponents of this field. Prof. Ashcroft gained international recognition as the co-author of *The Empire Writes Back* (1989), the groundbreaking work that systematically established the study of post-colonial theory. This seminal text remains a cornerstone in the field, profoundly influencing literary and cultural studies worldwide. Over his illustrious career, Prof. Ashcroft has authored or co-authored 21 books, many of which have been translated into five languages, making his scholarship accessible to a global audience. His major works include *Post-Colonial Transformation* (2001), *Post-Colonial Futures* (2001), *Caliban's Voice* (2008), *Intimate Horizons* (2009), and *Utopianism in Postcolonial Literatures* (2016). These publications delve into various dimensions of post-colonial studies, including cultural transformation, future possibilities, the articulation of marginalized voices, and the utopian imagination within post-colonial literature. In addition to his influential books, Prof. Ashcroft has contributed over 200 chapters and papers to the academic discourse, enriching our understanding of post-colonialism and its intersection with other disciplines. His scholarship has been instrumental in expanding the scope of post-colonial theory, particularly in analyzing the ways in which colonized societies resist, adapt, and transform imperial influences. Prof. Ashcroft's contributions extend beyond writing. He serves on the editorial boards of ten prestigious international journals, reflecting his integral role in shaping contemporary literary and cultural scholarship. His guidance and editorial expertise have significantly influenced the development of post-colonial studies as an academic discipline. Throughout his career, Prof. Ashcroft has been recognized for his ability to bridge theoretical insights with practical implications. His work often emphasizes the transformative power of literature and culture in addressing the challenges of colonization and its aftermath. By examining the strategies through which colonized societies articulate identity, reclaim agency, and envision alternative futures, his research provides a vital lens for understanding global cultural dynamics. As an Emeritus Professor, Prof. Ashcroft's legacy endures through his extensive body of work, which continues to inspire scholars, students, and practitioners in the humanities. His pioneering contributions to post-colonial theory underscore the importance of understanding and addressing

the lasting impacts of colonialism, making his scholarship as relevant today as it was when he first began his academic journey.



Prof. Paul Sharrad

Paul Sharrad is a Senior Fellow in English at the University of Wollongong, New South Wales. Internationally renowned for his research in the field of postcolonial literary study and writing, he has made significant and sustained contributions to scholarship in this area, with a particular focus on Australian, Indian and Pacific writing. As a researcher, Paul's body of work is extensive and authoritative. He has authored three books on Indian English fiction, 67 book chapters and 71 journal articles, and co-edited countless other written works. He has delivered in excess of 100 conference papers internationally and been a visiting lecturer and fellow at universities in Europe, North America and Asia. His creative and innovative approach has attracted significant competitive grant funding and several prestigious appointments, including the National Library of Australia's Harold White Fellowship, supporting his research for a literary biography of Thomas Keneally AO. He has recently published his new book, *A Short History of Australian Literature*, published by Orient Blackswan.

Prof. Helen Pringle

Helen Pringle is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts, Design & Architecture, UNSW. Helen's research interests are in human rights and justice (with a focus on questions of sex and women's rights), and in political theory (with a focus on the 17th and 19th centuries). She is working on a project concerning the place of pornography within considerations of free speech, entitled 'Practising Pornography', and on a project concerning the regulation of religious speech. Helen is also involved in an international research project on ethnography, including a consideration of sexual slavery in early 20th century Queensland. She has more than 29 book chapters, 43 journal articles to her name. She has also delivered 9 conference presentations and published more than 10 conference papers.





Prof. Michael Griffiths

Michael R. Griffiths is Senior Lecturer in English Literatures at the University of Wollongong. He is the author of *The Distribution of Settlement: Appropriation and Refusal in Australian Literature and Culture* (UWAP 2018) and has published articles on Caribbean writers such as Derek Walcott and Edouard Glissant. He is a literary scholar whose work has focused principally on Indigenous, settler colonial and postcolonial literatures.

Prof. Pradeep Trikha

Pradeep Trikha is well-known as a translator, literary critic and academician. Prof. Trikha has several books and more than sixty papers, articles, and reviews on literature, culture and history. His book on Meera Bai *Meera vs Meera* (2021) is critically acclaimed. His other books are *Delphic Intimations: Interviews with Australian Creative Writers & Critics* (2006). *Celebrating Multiplicity in the Plays of Girish Karnad and Literature, Nation and Revolution: Celebrating the 150th year of 1857*. And the latest one is *Mediations on Memory: Aesthetics and Poetics of Forgetting*. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal on Art, Culture and Museum Studies*, *Objet-d-Art* and *Sukhadia University Journal of English Literary Studies*. He was a Professor and Head of the Department of English and the Director of International Students' Affairs at Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur. Presently, he is the Director, IQAC, JRN Vidyapeeth University (Deemed to be University), Udaipur.



Michelle Cahill



Michelle Cahill is an Indian Australian author of prize-winning fiction and three collections of poetry. She was awarded the KWS Hilary Mantel International Short Story Prize judged by Hilary Mantel. Her debut fiction, *Letter to Pessoa* won the UTS Glenda Adams Award for New Writing. *Vishvarūpa* was shortlisted in the Victorian Premier’s Literary Awards. Her recent work of fiction is *Daisy and Woolf*. She has been awarded residencies at Sangam House in Bangalore, Sanskriti Kendra, New Delhi, a Hawthornden Castle Fellowship and the Hedberg Residency at the University of Tasmania.

Dr. Samrat Sengupta



Dr. Samrat Sengupta is an Associate Professor of the Department of English, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University. His research interests include Experimental Bengali Literature. Gender studies, Post-structuralism, Memory Studies and Posthumanism. He has Guest edited a special issue of the International journal *Sanglap* on “Caste in Humanities”. His first Bengali monograph on *Pratibader Pathokrom* (Syllabi of Resistance) has been published in 2022. His co-edited volume on Bengali experimental writer Nabarun Bhattacharya titled

Nabarun Bhattacharya: Aesthetics and Politics in a World after Ethics has been published from Bloomsbury.

Dr. Anandarup Biswas

Anandarup Biswas is an Associate Professor in English literary studies in Shibpur Dinobundhoo College, affiliated to the University of Calcutta. He is also a guest faculty in the Department of English, Presidency University, Kolkata. A recipient of the Australia-India Council Fellowship, his doctoral research on the Australian writer Eric Rolls falls under the domain of environmental

humanities. His work on Eric Rolls is part of the forthcoming anthology, *Unsettling Environments: Indigenous Sovereignties, Settler Colonialism, Environmental Humanities* (University of Nebraska Press).



His other research interest lies in travel writing. His most recent monograph *Inveterate Walkers, Literary Minds: Bengal's Pilgrims and their Himalayan Journeys* has been published by Routledge as part of their series, Routledge Research in Travel Writing in 2025. His essay titled "Bengal's Encounter with the Himalaya: Mountaineering Beyond Conquest" has found a place in the anthology, *The Mountain and the Politics of Representation*, edited by Jenny and Martin Hall (Liverpool University Press, 2023). He has also published essays on Australian studies, environmental humanities, travel writing and Sherpa autobiographies.

Dr. Sibendu Chakraborty

Dr. Sibendu Chakraborty is working as an Assistant Professor (Department of English), Charuchandra College, Kolkata. Being awarded the Australian Studies Fellowship by Australia India Council in 2012, he did his research in Monash University, ANU, UWA, UNSW and UQ.



He was awarded the prestigious Haskell grant to present his paper at Brown University in 2012. He has many articles and essays in journal and books of national and international repute. He presented a research paper on Contemporary Australian Aboriginal Theatre at the EACLALS Triennial Conference held at Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Paris, 2023. He has coedited a book titled, *Theatre, Margins and Politics: An Introduction* that was published by Routledge in 2023. He is now working as a coeditor of a volume titled “Modern Indian Theatre: Text and Performance”.

Participants Details:

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Department	Institution	E-mail Id
1.	Anwesha Datta Gupta	PG student	Language, Literature and Cultural Studies	Swami Vivekananda University	
2.	Sneha	PG student	Language, Literature and Cultural Studies	Swami Vivekananda University	
3.	Divya Mishra	PG student	Language, Literature and Cultural Studies	Swami Vivekananda University	
4.	Ishika Bhattacharjee	PG student	Language, Literature and Cultural Studies	Swami Vivekananda University	
5.	Triyasa Das	PG student	Language, Literature	Swami Vivekananda	

			and Cultural Studies	University	
6.	Amrita Ghosh	PG student	Language, Literature and Cultural Studies	Swami Vivekananda University	
7.	Swarnali Chattopadhyay	PG student	Language, Literature and Cultural Studies	Swami Vivekananda University	
8.	Ahana Chatterjee	PG student	Language, Literature and Cultural Studies	Swami Vivekananda University	
9.	Sweta Samaddar	PG student	Language, Literature and Cultural Studies	Swami Vivekananda University	
10.	Aparupa Chakraborty	PG student	Language, Literature and Cultural Studies	Swami Vivekananda University	
11.	Purbasha Mondal	Assistant Professor	English	Saltora Netaji Centenary College	Mondal.purbasha111@gmail.com
12.	Reshma Gupta	Ph.D. Scholar	English	Jamia Millia Islamia	rg88518@gmail.com

Conference Committee:

The committee was formed three months prior to this conference. In the committee, Prof. Deb Narayan Bandyopadhyay, Chief Executive Director (Academics) and Director, Centre for Australian Studies, Swami Vivekananda University was requested to be the Mentor and Dr. Rituparna Chakraborty, Head, Department of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies and Deputy Director, Centre for Australian Studies, Swami Vivekananda University was the Convenor. Other members of this committee are as follows:

- Dr. Shubham Bhattacharjee (Assistant Professor, Department of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies, SVU)
- Dr. Madhumita Roy (Associate Professor, Department of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies, SVU)
- Dr. Tirna Sadhu (Assistant Professor, Department of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies, SVU)
- Ms. Shreyoshi Dhar (Assistant Professor, Department of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies, SVU)
- Ms. Natasha Verma Chatterjee (Assistant Professor, Department of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies, SVU)
- Mr. Agnidepto Datta (Assistant Professor, Department of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies, SVU)
- Mr. Debarshi Arathdar (Assistant Professor, Department of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies, SVU)
- Mr. Soumyarup Bhattacharjee (Assistant Professor, Department of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies, SVU)
- Mr. Sudipta Dutta (Assistant Professor, Department of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies, SVU)
- Mr. Anirban Banerjee

Conference Report on the *International Conference on Transactions: History, Culture and Identity in Australia and India*

"Transactions: History, Culture and Identity in Australia and India" is a two-day international conference designed to stimulate dynamic discussions on the multifaceted historical and cultural exchanges between the two nations. With a focus on uncovering shared narratives and evolving identities, the conference brought together a diverse array of distinguished speakers, researchers, and students from both Australia and India. The event featured an engaging program that included insightful keynote addresses, thought-provoking plenary sessions, and rigorous paper presentations, all aimed at exploring the complex multifacetedness of cultural and national identity. Organized by a dedicated team of academic professionals and supported by esteemed

collaborators such as IASA (ER) and Routledge, the conference provided an exceptional forum for critical dialogue and collaborative research. Participants were encouraged to delve into the rich historical ties and cultural transactions that continue to shape the contemporary landscapes of both countries, paving the way for future scholarly exchange and cross-cultural understanding.

Day 1: Welcome Address and Keynote Highlights

To mark the formal inauguration of the event, the esteemed guests came together to light the lamp.



Fig: Lighting of lamp ceremony marked the beginning

The guests were greeted with Uttariyas and university mementos.





Fig: Prof. Deb Narayan Bandyopadhyay delivering the welcome address

The inaugural session set the tone for the conference, beginning with a speech by Prof. Deb Narayan Bandyopadhyay, Former Vice-Chancellor of Bankura University and Chief Executive Director (Academics).and Director, Centre for Australian Studies, Swami Vivekananda University. Prof. Bandyopadhyay emphasized the need for revisiting the cultural and intellectual connection between Australia and India.

The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Swami Vivekananda University, Prof. (Dr.) Subrata Kumar Dey, followed with his inaugural address, highlighting the university's commitment to fostering global academic partnerships. Subsequent opening addresses by Hon'ble Registrar Prof. Pinakpani Nath, Hon'ble Chief Operating Officer Mr. Saurabh Adhikari, Hon'ble Director, School of Agriculture, Prof. Swapan Kumar Dutta, Hon'ble General Manager Mr. Subhasish Mazumder, and Hon'ble Deputy Registrar Mr. Tanmoy Mazumder further highlighted the significance of the conference in connecting scholars from diverse cultural and geographical backgrounds.



Fig: Prof. (Dr.) Subrata Kumar Dey delivering his inaugural address



Fig: Prof. Swapan Kumar Dutta delivering his inaugural speech

The first Keynote Address of the conference was delivered by Prof. Bill Ashcroft, a pioneering figure in postcolonial studies. Prof. Ashcroft discussed the interrelation between migration and transcultural identity. His lecture provided the perfect academic stimulus to initiate the proceedings.



Fig: Prof. Bill Ashcroft during his keynote address

The second keynote address of the day was delivered by Professor Paul Sharrad, University of Wollongong and he talked about the subtle and unique connections between Australian aboriginal artistic patterns and various Indian artforms.

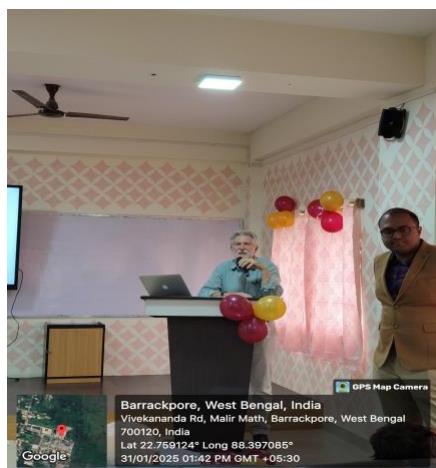


Fig: Prof. Paul Sharrad during his keynote address

The next session of the day was a working session where students and other delegates presented. The way they touched upon transcultural aspects in Australian and Indian literary as well as

cultural text was specially applauded by the guests. The session was promptly chaired by Mr. Debarshi Arathdar, Assistant Professor, Department of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies, Swami Vivekananda University.



Figures: Pictures from the Working Session

The day ended with an online session by Professor Helen Pringle, University of New South Wales as she delivered the third keynote address of the date. Her discussion on various aspects of postcolonial Australian literature was really thought-provoking.



Fig: Prof. Pringle during her online keynote address

Day 2: Expanding Dialogues and Diverse Perspectives

The second day commenced with an impactful Keynote Address by Prof. Michael Griffiths, whose deliberation titled “Resonances of the Transnational: Lionel Fogarty and the Sign” incorporated an unique methodological approach where, with structural and stylistics analyses, the connection between Australia and India was deeply felt, especially with references to Fogarty's poetic brilliance.

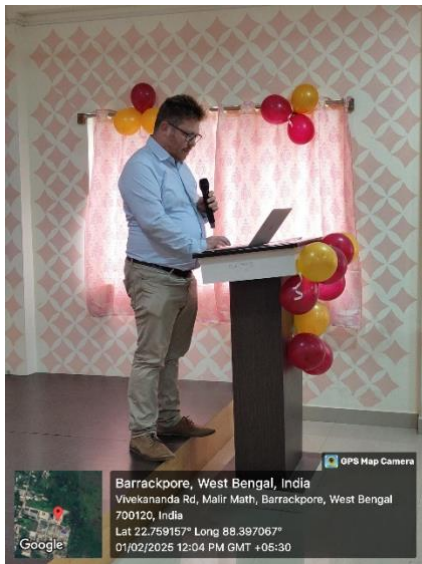


Fig: Prof. Griffiths presenting his ideas

Up next, it was the special plenary address by Dr. Samrat Sengupta who spoke on “Abandonment as Big History: Ecoprecarity in Australian Aboriginal and Bengali Dalit Poetry.” The commonality of experiences between the marginalized communities of the two countries was aptly explored by Dr. Sengupta.



Fig: Dr. Sengupta during his plenary lecture

Then, the audience present witnessed a historic moment as Swami Vivekananda University signed a Letter of Intent with the University of Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia. On behalf of Swami Vivekananda University, Hon'ble Vice-chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Subrata Kumar Dey and Chief Executive Director (Academics) Prof. (Dr.) Deb Narayan Bandopadhyay and Prof. Paul Sharrad and Prof. Michael Griffiths for University of Wollongong signed the official documents.



Figures: Letter of Intent signing ceremony



After a refreshing lunch break, the program resumed with a special plenary address by Dr. Anandarup Biswas. His talk on “The Ease and Unease of Belonging: Settler Past and the Writings of Eric Rolls” attempted to address the crucial juncture between the historical and the literary.



Fig: Dr. Biswas during his deliberation

Up next, it was Dr. Sibendu Chakraborty's turn to delivery his special plenary talk which was tilted as “Mapping the Role of Environmental Justice in Postcolonial Ecocriticism: Memory and Performance in Australian Aboriginal Theatre.” Touching upon theatre studies and ecocritical concern, Dr. Chakraborty added a new dimension to the conference.



Fig 6: Dr. Chakraborty during his talk

After Dr. Chakraborty's deliberation, the conference took a more interesting turn where Prof. Griffiths was in conversation with Michelle Cahill. Primarily, an elaborate book-talk on Cahill's recent publication *Daisy and Woolf*, Cahill also talked about her experience as Indian Australian author. The conversation was so intense that Michelle Cahill could not hold herself back from speaking a few words on colonial violence during 19th century across different



parts of Australia and India. Her pictorial depiction was applauded by all.

Fig: Prof. Michael Griffiths in conversation with author Michelle Cahill

Award Ceremony and Valedictory Session

Before heading on to the valedictory speech, the selected students were awarded for their praiseworthy research efforts. MA semester II student of Swami Vivekananda University, Anwesha Datta Gupta was awarded with the Routledge the Best Students' Paper. Apart from that, Aparupa Chakraborty, another MA semester II student of Swami Vivekananda University, and Sneha, MA semester IV student of Swami Vivekananda University jointly won the prestigious Routledge the Most Commendable Paper Award.

To finish things off with a befitting valedictory lecture, Prof. Pradeep Tripathi spoke on “History, Culture and Identity in Australia and India.” He summed up all the discussions made in the conference very eloquently. And finally, with closing remarks and the formal vote of thanks by Dr. Rituparna Chakraborty, Head, Department of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies, the event came to an end. All the dignitaries, organizers and students gathered for a few pictures and everybody bade adieu with warm smiles.



Fig: Routledge the Best Students' Paper awardee



Fig: Routledge the Most Commendable Paper awardee



Fig: The guests and the hosts posing for the camera

Fig: Prof. Trikha during his valedictory address



Fig: Dignitaries with the Department of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies

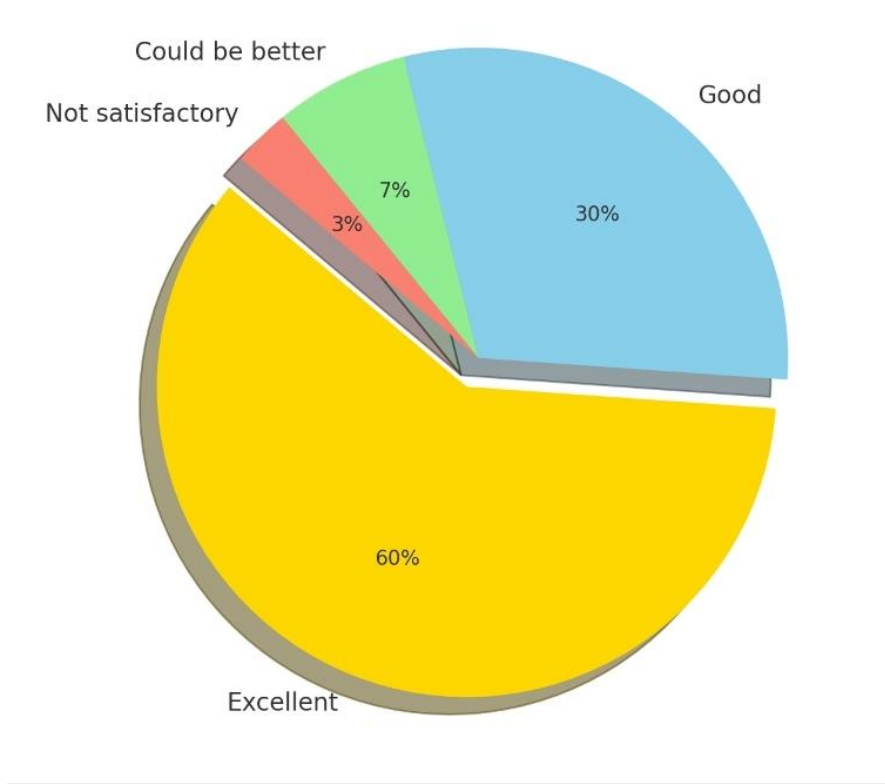
Paper Submission and Publication:

Total number of paper submitted for publication: 55 (from students, research scholars and faculty members)

Total number of paper published: 65

Publishing houses are being contacted.

Feedback:



Programme Outcome

The conference delivered clear and measurable outcomes, as summarized below:

Enhanced Academic Discourse:

- Fostered interdisciplinary dialogue on the historical, cultural, and identity transactions between Australia and India.
- Provided a platform for discussing postcolonial narratives, migration, and cultural hybridity with contributions from renowned scholars.

Knowledge Dissemination:

- Enabled participants to gain insights from keynote addresses and technical paper presentations that integrated critical theories and contemporary research.

Networking and Collaboration:

- Created opportunities for scholars, researchers, and practitioners to form sustainable academic networks.
- Facilitated collaborations that promise to extend research and dialogue beyond the conference.

Capacity Building:

- Engaged emerging academics through interactive sessions and discussion forums, equipping them with new research perspectives.
- Encouraged critical analysis and innovative approaches to understanding Indo-Australian cultural dynamics.

Impact on Future Research:

- Identified new research directions and gaps in the study of cultural transactions between the two nations.
- Set a foundation for ongoing scholarly exchange and future collaborative projects.

Publication Opportunities:

-Papers and discussions from the conference provided a robust foundation for future academic publications, ensuring the continuation of the dialogues initiated during the event.

Overall, the programme outcomes reflect a successful convergence of ideas and expertise, setting the stage for sustained academic inquiry into the interconnected histories and cultural identities of Australia and India.

Budget Report for the International Conference on**Outflow of Money**

1. **Travel Allowance**

- Flight Tickets for Speakers:
- Car Rent:
- **Total Travel Allowance:**

2. **Accommodation**

-

3. **Conference Fooding**

- **Day 1:**
- **Day 2:**
- Total Fooding Cost:**

4. **Conference Kit**

- Cost:

5. **Felicitatation Kit**

- Cost:

Total Outflow

- Travel Allowance:
- Accommodation:
- Conference Fooding:
- Conference Kit:
- Felicitatation Kit:
- **Grand Total:**

Certificate for the Participants:



Conclusion

In conclusion, the two-day international conference on “Transactions: History, Culture and Identity in Australia and India” proved to be a resounding success, effectively bridging scholarly discussions across continents. The event brought together distinguished experts and emerging scholars who engaged in robust debates, innovative research presentations, and collaborative discussions, all centered on the intricate historical and cultural ties between the two nations. The conference not only provided a dynamic platform for critical dialogue on transcultural and transnational identities but also laid the groundwork for future research and sustained academic partnerships.

Participants left with enriched perspectives on the evolving narratives that define both Australia and India, as well as with actionable insights into addressing contemporary cultural challenges. By integrating seminal theories with fresh, context-specific analyses, the conference has emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in understanding global literary and cultural transactions. The collective contributions have provided many significant inputs for new research directions and reinforced the role of cross-cultural academic exchange in shaping a more inclusive understanding of history and identity. Ultimately, the event has not only celebrated the shared socio-political and literary heritage of Australia and India but also inspired a forward-thinking vision for continued collaboration in the academic community.