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Completion Report of Three Day International Conference on *Linking Latitude: Postcolonialism and After*



Organized by: Department of English, Swami Vivekananda University

Mode: Blended

Conference Date: 03.02.2024 to 05.02.2024

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

**Venue: Hall 01, Meghnad Saha Block, Swami Vivekananda University,
Barrackpore.**

Mission

The mission of the conference *"Linking Latitude: Postcolonialism and After"* was to foster a nuanced understanding of the enduring legacies of colonialism and their impact on contemporary societies. By convening scholars, students, activists, and cultural practitioners from diverse disciplines and backgrounds, the conference aimed to facilitate critical dialogue and interdisciplinary research on postcolonial theory. It sought to encourage participants to examine the interconnected histories of colonialism and their continuing influence on cultural, political, and social dynamics. A special focus was placed on exploring and celebrating the evolving multicultural relationships between India and Australia, providing a platform to analyze their shared histories, diasporic connections, and collaborative possibilities in a postcolonial context.

Vision

The vision of the conference was to create a transformative intellectual space that transcended geographical and cultural boundaries, encouraging participants to reimagine and critically reflect on the narratives of colonialism and multiculturalism. The event aspired to build a global community of thinkers and practitioners committed to examining the complexities of postcolonial identities while fostering mutual respect and appreciation for cultural diversity. By focusing on the multicultural relations between India and Australia, the conference envisioned a deepened understanding of how these nations' shared colonial pasts shaped their present connections. Through thought-provoking discussions, creative presentations, and collaborative exchanges, the conference sought to inspire actionable insights that could contribute to a more inclusive, equitable, and culturally rich global future.

Concept Note:

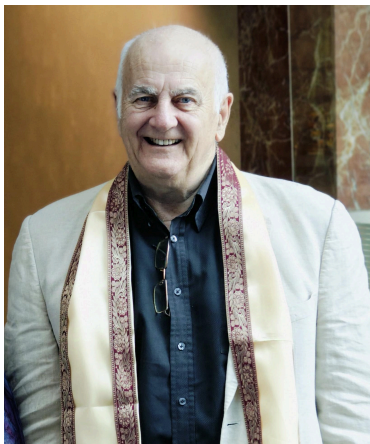
This international conference intends to bring together emerging insights from across the humanities and social sciences to highlight how postcolonial studies are being transformed by increasingly influential and radical approaches to nature, matter, subjectivity, human agency, politics, literature, and cultural practice. These include decolonial studies, political ontology, political ecology, indigeneity, posthumanism, transnationalism, and so on. It therefore demands

new ontological discourses that will reflexively situate our new intellectual challenges within the long histories of theoretical narratives. It is time now we had devised and developed interdisciplinary episteme to think through global, critical, transnational, and empirical phenomena that include city spaces and urbanisms in the Global North and South, food politics, colonial land use, cultural and cosmic representation in film, theatre, and poetry, nation building, the Anthropocene, materiality, pluriversality, cosmopolitan world views, etc Arif Dilrik therefore ironically quipped in *The Postcolonial Aura: Third World Criticism in the Age of Global Capitalism*: “Postcolonial begins ... when Third World intellectuals have arrived in First World academe...then perhaps it ends when every department has hired a postcolonialist”. Already there are multiple critical voices in this direction. There are dramatic suggestions that Postcolonialism is over and it has been replaced by new critical discourses. In 2007, PMLA published an Editor’s Column provocatively entitled “The End of Postcolonial Theory”. We may also refer to certain critical works, such as Hamid Dabashi’s *The Arab Spring: The End of Postcolonialism* (ZED Books, London, 2012), Jane Hiddleston’s *Writing After Postcolonialism* (Bloomsbury, 2017), or Patrick Chabal’s *The End of Conceit: Western Rationality after Postcolonialism* (ZED Books, London, 2012).

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. Pinaki Roy

Prof. Pinaki Roy is a distinguished academician and professor of English at Raiganj University. A scholar of multidisciplinary expertise, he holds Master of Arts degrees in both English and History. Prof. Roy completed his Ph.D. in English from the University of North Bengal and is currently pursuing a D.Litt. degree, underscoring his commitment to advanced scholarship. With a prolific career in research and publication, Prof. Roy has authored over 60 journal articles, contributed more than 40 book chapters, and presented six conference papers. He has also edited five books and is the sole author of three significant works, further solidifying his reputation as an authority in his field. Beyond his academic engagements, he serves as the Chairman of the



Academic Committee of *The Vidyasagar Academy*, contributing to the broader educational landscape. Prof. Roy's scholarly contributions and dedication to academia make him an inspiring figure in the domains of English and interdisciplinary studies.

Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta

Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta is a distinguished academic, poet, short story writer, critic, and translator. She is a Professor and Former Head of the Department of English, as well as Former Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Calcutta. A recipient of prestigious fellowships, including the Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship, Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Grant, Australia

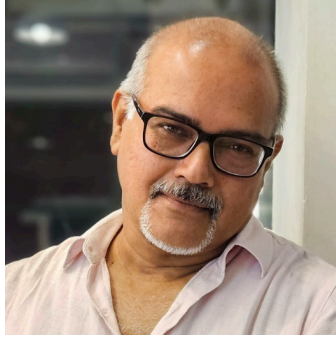


India Council Fellowship, and the Gender Studies Fellowship from the University of British Columbia, she has been widely recognized for her academic and creative contributions. Prof. Dasgupta has lectured and participated in conferences at universities across the USA, UK, Europe, Canada, and Australia. She served as the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize jury panel (2003–2005), during which she visited Melbourne and Malta. Her keynote address at the *Body and Identity* conference in Krakow, Poland, in 2014, and her lectures at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, in 2015, exemplify her engagement with global academia. In 2016, she was awarded

the Charles Wallace Trust UK Translator Fellowship to work on translations of Tagore's texts and his daughter Madhurilata's writings at the University of East Anglia, UK. Her prolific publications include critical works, poetry collections, translations, and edited volumes such as *The Novels of Huxley and Hemingway: A Study in Two Planes of Reality*, *Responses: Selected Essays, Snapshots, Media, Gender and Popular Culture in India*, and *Radical Rabindranath: Nation, Family and Gender in Tagore's Fiction and Films*. Her creative and scholarly works enrich the fields of literature, translation, and gender studies.

Prof. Niladri R. Chatterjee

Prof. Niladri R. Chatterjee (b. 1967) is a distinguished academic and Professor in the Department of English at the University of Kalyani, West Bengal. His doctoral research focused on the novelist Christopher Isherwood. A recipient of prestigious accolades, he has been awarded the Fulbright Scholarship, during which he studied at the University of Texas at Austin, and the



British Council-Charles Wallace Fellowship at the University of Cambridge. Prof. Chatterjee is the co-editor of *The Muffled Heart: Stories of the Disempowered Male* (2005) and *Naribhav: Androgyny and Female Impersonation in India* (2016). He has also translated the stories of the otherwise lesser known queer Bengali author Krishnagopal Mallick, *Entering the Maze: Queer Fiction of Krishnagopal Mallick* (2023). Actively engaged in scholarship, he has been contributing to international publications since 1995. A

passionate educator, he has been teaching a course in gender studies at Kalyani University since 2009 and curates discussions on his Facebook group, *New Gender Studies*. Since March 2020, he has extended his reach through his YouTube channel, sharing insights and fostering broader engagement with critical issues in literature and gender studies.

Prof. Sumit Chakrabarti

Prof. Sumit Chakrabarti is a distinguished academic and Professor in the Department of English at Presidency University, where he also served as the former Dean of Arts. He earned his Ph.D. from Jadavpur University in December 2008. From February 2009 to February 2011, he was a



Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Professor of Postcolonial Studies at the Department of British and Commonwealth Studies, University of Łódź, Poland. In 2009, Prof. Chakrabarti was an academic visitor sponsored by the United States Department of State at the Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society, University of Louisville, Kentucky. A prolific scholar, he has over 18 publications to his name in reputed journals and from

leading publishing houses, contributing significantly to his field of expertise.

Prof. S. Armstrong

Prof. S. Armstrong is a distinguished academic currently serving as a Professor in the Department of English at the University of Madras. With expertise in Canadian First Nations



Literatures and Cultural Studies, he has made significant contributions to his field. Prof. Armstrong has authored nine publications in reputed Indian and international journals and has presented papers at various national and international seminars. Additionally, he has organized and participated in two workshops/seminars, reflecting his active engagement in academic discourse and knowledge dissemination.

Prof. Subir Kumar Dhar

Prof. Subir Kumar Dhar is a renowned academic and scholar, currently serving as a Professor in the Department of English at Sister Nivedita University and as the



Director of the School of International Languages. Prior to this, he had a distinguished career of over 35 years at Rabindra Bharati University, where he also held notable positions such as Officiating Vice-Chancellor and Director of the School of Languages and Culture. Prof. Dhar's research interests encompass Semiotics, Hermeneutics, Postcolonialism, Translation Studies, Language Studies, Gelotology, and Popular Culture. He has contributed extensively to his fields of

expertise through impactful publications in numerous books and journals, solidifying his reputation as a thought leader in interdisciplinary literary and cultural studies.

Prof. Nandini Bhattacharya



Prof. Nandini Bhattacharya is a distinguished scholar and academic, currently serving as the Professor and Head of the Department of English and Cultural Studies at The University of Burdwan. Previously, she was invited to serve as the Professor and Head of the

Department of English and Culture Studies and Dean – School of Languages at the Central University of Jammu. She has also been associated with the Centre for Comparative Literature at the University of Hyderabad. Prof. Bhattacharya has been the recipient of numerous prestigious national and international research grants. She has an impressive body of work, having authored over six books and more than 20 journal articles and book chapters. A regular contributor to academic discourse, she has participated in over 25 seminars and conferences, establishing herself as a prominent voice in English and Cultural Studies.

Prof. Chandrava Chakravarty:

Prof. Chandrava Chakravarty is the Professor and Head of the Department of English at West Bengal State University. Her scholarly interests lie in exploring the intricate intersections of gender construction, identity, and nation-building as represented in both canonical and non-canonical texts. She is the author of *Gendering the Nation: Identity Politics and the English Stage of the Long Eighteenth Century* (2013), a critical work examining identity politics in literary and cultural contexts. Her recent academic contributions include the essay, 'The "King" in Rabindranath Tagore's Drama,' published in *The Politics and Reception of Rabindranath Tagore's Drama* (2015), and the forthcoming article, 'Connecting Hemispheres, Playing with Distance: Rammohan Roy, an Indian Transnationalist,' in *The Idea of Experience of Distance in the International Enlightenment*, edited by Kevin Cope. Prof. Chakravarty's work reflects a deep engagement with questions of cultural identity and the dynamics of global intellectual exchanges.



Prof. Amrit Sen:



Prof. Amrit Sen is a distinguished Professor in the Department of English at Visva-Bharati University. With over 25 publications to his name, including articles, book chapters, and edited volumes, Prof. Sen has made significant contributions to literary scholarship. His research focuses on Rabindranath Tagore, colonial and postcolonial studies, and the intersections of literature and cultural history. He has received several prestigious accolades, including the

Outstanding Thesis Award (2006) from the Government of India, a *Research Associateship* from the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla (2008), and the *UGC Postdoctoral Research Award* (2009–2011). Prof. Sen has also served as an editor for multiple critical projects, such as the *English Writings of Rabindranath Tagore* for the *New Chronological Rabindra Rachanavali* (published by the Government of India) and special Tagore issues of *Muse India* and *Rupkatha* (2009). His international recognition includes receiving a bursary to attend the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference (2011) and serving as a Research Fellow under the UKIERI Programme at the University of Edinburgh, focusing on *The Tagore Circle: The Indo-Scottish Continuum*. Currently, he is the Co-Editor of *The Visva-Bharati Quarterly*, the university's esteemed journal. Additionally, Prof. Sen's contributions to translation include his work on “The Smell is Highly Suspicious” in *Timeless Tales from Bengal: An Anthology of Bangla Children's and Young Adults' Stories*. His academic achievements and editorial expertise reflect his commitment to fostering interdisciplinary and cross-cultural dialogue in literary studies.

Prof. Saugata Bhaduri:



Prof. Saugata Bhaduri is a Professor at the Centre for English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), specializing in the literary and cultural history of colonial Bengal. His diverse research interests include contemporary literary and cultural theory with a focus on post-theoretical developments, popular culture in technologized mass media and folk forms, Western philosophy from the Middle Ages to the 19th century and its cultural implications, classical Indian philosophy and its aesthetic theories, as well as translation studies and comparative literature. Among his notable publications are *Polycoloniality: European Transactions with Bengal from the 13th Century to the 19th Century* (2020), *Polycolonial Angst: Representations of Spain in Early Modern English Drama* (2018), *'Gaming'* (2016), *'The Yayati Complex: A contra-oedipal take on myth and the unconscious'* (2013), and *'Colonial Contact, Translation, and the Case of Modern Bengali'* (2012). These works reflect his interdisciplinary approach, engaging with colonial histories, literary theory, digital culture, mythology, and translation. Prof.

Bhaduri's scholarship is distinguished by its critical engagement with both global and local cultural paradigms, examining intersections between philosophy, ideology, and literary production.

Participants Details:

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9.	Tapan Kumar Rana	S.A.C.T.	English	Garhbeta	ranatapankumar

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23.	Sudam Das	Ph.D. Scholar	English	Swami Vivekananda University	sudamdas86@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), Swami Vivekananda University was requested to be the Mentor and Dr. Rituparna Chakraborty, Head, Department of English was the Convenor. Other members of this committee are as follows:

- Dr. Subham Bhattacharjee (Asst. Prof., Department of English, SVU)
- Dr. Moupikta Mukherjee (Asst. Prof., Department of English, SVU)
- Dr. Tirna Sadhu (Asst. Prof., Department of English, SVU)
- Dr. Santanu Siuli (Asst. Prof., Department of English, SVU)
- Ms. Shreyoshi Dhar (Asst. Prof., Department of English, SVU)
- Ms. Natasha Verma Chatterjee (Asst. Prof., Department of English, SVU)
- Mr. Agnidepto Datta (Asst. Prof., Department of English, SVU)
- Mr. Debarshi Arathdar (Asst. Prof., Department of English, SVU)
- Mr. Anirban Banerjee

Seminar Report on the *International Conference on Linking Latitude: Postcolonialism and After*

The three-day *International conference on Linking Latitude: Postcolonialism and After*, was held with the aim of fostering critical dialogues on postcolonialism and multiculturalism, with a special focus on the evolving cultural ties between India and Australia. The conference featured a stellar lineup of distinguished speakers from both countries and an enthusiastic participation of scholars and students. Organized by the Department of English at Swami Vivekananda

University, the event offered an enriching experience through its keynote addresses, plenary sessions, and technical paper presentations.

Day 1: Inaugural Session and Keynote Highlights



Fig1: Prof. Deb Narayan Bandyopadhyay giving inaugural speech

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), Swami Vivekananda University. Prof. Bandyopadhyay emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and the need for revisiting postcolonial narratives to address contemporary issues.

The Honourable Vice-Chancellor of Swami Vivekananda University, Prof. Subrata Kumar Dey, followed with his address, highlighting the university's commitment to fostering global academic partnerships. Subsequent addresses by Honourable Registrar Prof. Pinakpani Nath, Honourable General Manager Mr. Subhasish Mazumder, and Deputy Registrar Mr. Tanmoy Mazumder further underscored the significance of the conference in connecting scholars from diverse cultural and geographical backgrounds.

Dr. Rituparna Chakraborty, Head of the Department of English, provided a thoughtful introduction to the conference, emphasizing its theme of exploring the intersections of

postcolonialism and multiculturalism. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Subham Bhattacharya.



Fig 2: Dr. Rituparna Chakraborty introducing the theme of the conference

The first Keynote Address of the conference was delivered by Prof. Bill Ashcroft, a pioneering figure in postcolonial studies. Prof. Ashcroft discussed the evolution of postcolonial theory and its relevance in understanding global cultural dynamics. His lecture provided the perfect academic stimulus to initiate the proceedings.

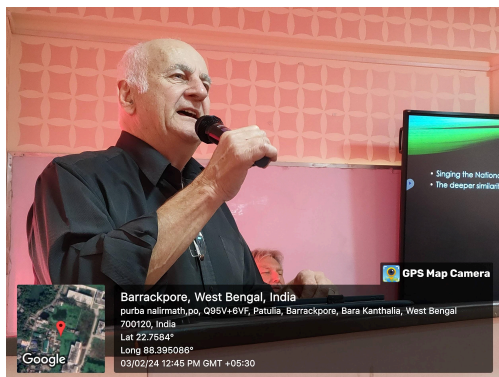


Fig 3: Prof. Bill Ashcroft giving his speech

The first Working Session, chaired by Dr. Jati Sankar Mondal, saw presentations from emerging scholars like Mr. Naba Krishna Barman and Mr. Manidip Chakraborty, who explored diverse dimensions of postcolonial thought. The second Working Session, chaired by Prof. Pinaki Roy, provided another platform for Ph.D. scholars to present their research.

The day ended on a high note with a Plenary Address by Prof. Amrit Sen, who delved into postcolonial narratives in literature. This was followed by another insightful Plenary Address by Prof. Pinaki Roy. Closing remarks by Dr. Rajesh Das wrapped up the first day, summarizing the rich discussions and setting the stage for the days ahead.

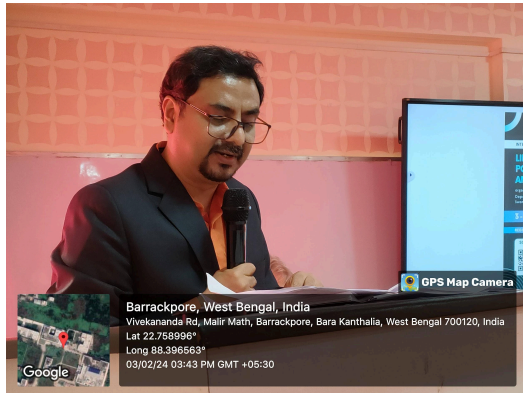


Fig 4: Prof. Amrit Sen delivering his plenary address

Day 2: Expanding Dialogues and Diverse Perspectives

The second day commenced with a Keynote Address by Prof. Paul Sharrad, who offered an engaging analysis of Australian literature and its postcolonial dimensions, highlighting parallels and contrasts with Indian postcolonial narratives.

Three Working Sessions followed, chaired by Dr. Sourav Banerjee, Prof. Pinaki Roy, and Dr. Tapu Biswas respectively. These sessions provided a platform for vibrant discussions as scholars presented papers on topics ranging from identity politics to the enduring effects of colonial education systems.

After a refreshing lunch break, the program resumed with a Keynote Address by Prof. Saugata Bhaduri, who discussed how European colonization of Bengal influenced the development of the

modern Bengali language. Prof. Bhaduri's lecture shed light on the linguistic dimensions of colonial impact and their enduring cultural ramifications.

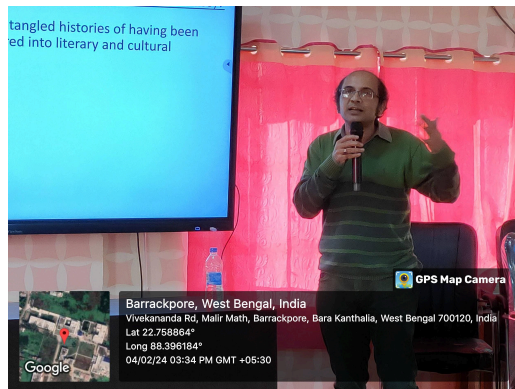


Fig 5: Prof. Saugata Bhaduri delivering keynote address

Prof. Niladri R. Chatterjee delivered a Plenary Address that offered a critical exploration of gender and sexuality within postcolonial frameworks. His talk was followed by an inspiring Keynote Address by Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta, who emphasized the importance of multicultural inclusivity in postcolonial studies.



Fig 6: Prof. Niladri Chatterjee in conversation with Prof. Bill Ashcroft

The day concluded with closing remarks by Prof. Deb Narayan Bandyopadhyay, who reflected on the day's discussions and emphasized the need for continued scholarly engagement with postcolonial issues.

Day 3: Culmination and Reflections

The third and final day began with a Keynote Address by Prof. Helen Pringle, who explored the intersections of law, ethics, and postcolonialism. Her insightful analysis set the stage for the day's intellectual exchanges.

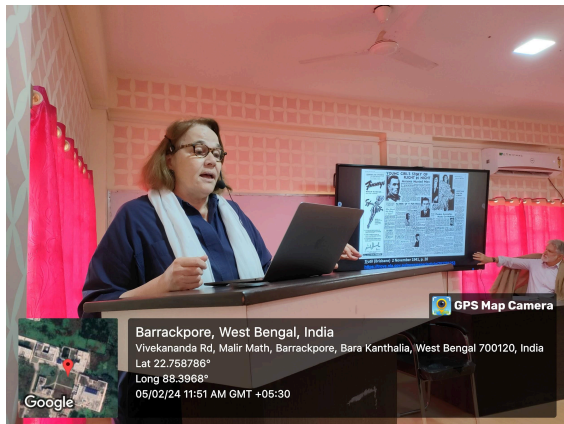


Fig 7: Prof. Helen Pringle delivering keynote address

The last Working Session of the conference, chaired by Dr. Rituparna Chakraborty, featured papers by researchers such as Ms. Samayeta Biswas, Ms. Aarfa, and Mr. Sudam Das, who brought fresh perspectives to the discourse on multiculturalism and colonial legacies. The day's academic engagements included three more Keynote Addresses, delivered by Prof. Sajalkumar Bhattacharya, Prof. Subir Dhar, and Prof. S. Armstrong, respectively. Each speaker contributed valuable insights into the multifaceted dimensions of postcolonial studies, from literary analysis to the socio-political implications of colonialism.

The final two Plenary Addresses were delivered by Prof. Chandrava Chakravarty and Prof. Sumit Chakrabarti, who reflected on the ways postcolonial theory can be applied to contemporary global challenges.

Valedictory Session and Closing

The conference concluded with a valedictory session led by Prof. Nandini Bhattacharya, who eloquently summarized the discussions and highlighted the conference's success in fostering a

rich exchange of ideas. Dr. Rituparna Chakraborty delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all speakers, participants, and organizers for their contributions.

The closing remarks were delivered by Honourable Chief Operating Officer Mr. Saurabh Adhikari. His speech on the postcolonial “hangover” and the urgent need to decolonize our minds was a fitting conclusion to the three-day event, leaving participants with much to ponder.

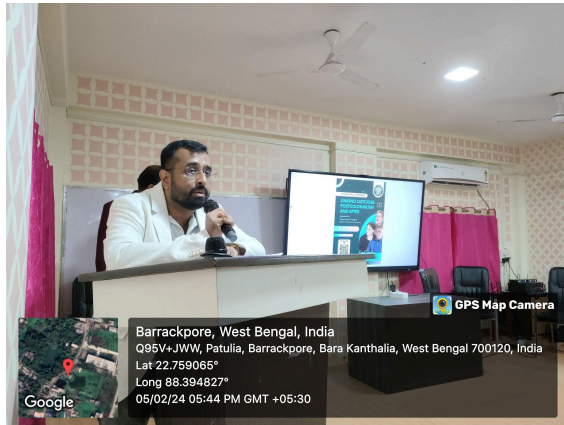


Fig 8: Hon’ble COO Mr. Saurabh Adhikari delivering closing remarks



Fig 9: Prof. Paul Sharrad sharing his views



Fig 10: Hon'ble Vice-chancellor Prof. Subrata Kr. Dey and Hon'ble Registrar Prof. Pinakpani Nath



Fig 11: Dignitaries from Australia with the organisers

Paper Submission and Publication:

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

Total number of paper published: 55

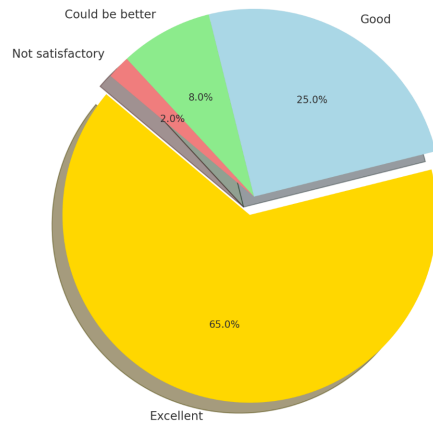
Publishing houses cooperating in this process:

- Aadi Publications, Jaipur, India
- Bloomsbury Publishing India
- The Book World

- Book Valley
- Supernova Publishers

Feedback:

Participant Feedback for "International Conference on Linking Latitude: Postcolonialism and After"



Index:

... Excellent

... Good

... Could be better

... Not Satisfactory

Programme Outcome

The three-day International Conference "*Linking Latitude: Postcolonialism and After*" yielded several impactful outcomes, highlighting its success as a global intellectual platform:

1. **Enhanced Understanding of Postcolonial Theory:** The conference facilitated a deeper comprehension of postcolonialism, exploring its relevance in addressing contemporary global challenges such as cultural displacement, identity politics, and the ongoing impact of colonial histories.

2. **Interdisciplinary Exchange:** Professors and scholars from diverse academic fields—literature, history, sociology, and cultural studies—engaged in productive dialogues, enriching the understanding of postcolonialism through multidisciplinary perspectives.
3. **Strengthened India-Australia Academic Ties:** The special focus on the shared colonial histories and multicultural connections between India and Australia strengthened cross-cultural academic relations. Contributions by distinguished Australian scholars like Prof. Bill Ashcroft, Prof. Helen Pringle, and Prof. Paul Sharra brought unique insights, fostering a comparative analysis of postcolonial narratives.
4. **Platform for Emerging Scholars:** The working sessions provided Ph.D. scholars with an invaluable opportunity to present their research and receive constructive feedback from leading experts in postcolonial studies. This encouraged young researchers to engage with critical discourses and refine their academic contributions.
5. **Exploration of Multicultural Dynamics:** Discussions during keynote and plenary sessions illuminated the complexities of multiculturalism in postcolonial contexts. By addressing the intersections of race, language, gender, and power, the conference promoted a broader appreciation of cultural diversity and inclusivity.
6. **Critical Insights into Decolonization:** The conference emphasized the need to "decolonize the mind," as highlighted in the valedictory speech. Participants were encouraged to challenge Eurocentric narratives and adopt a more inclusive approach to history, culture, and literature.
7. **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.
8. **Global Network Building:** The conference fostered the creation of a vibrant network of academics and researchers committed to advancing postcolonial and multicultural studies. This network is expected to result in collaborative research and future academic events.

Budget Report for the International Conference on Linking Latitude: Postcolonialism and After

Outflow of Money

1. Travel Allowance

- Flight Tickets for Speakers: ₹8,38,000
- Car Rent: ₹34,000

Total Travel Allowance: ₹8,72,000

2. Accommodation

- 5 Guests at O2 Hotel for 3 Nights: ₹30,000

3. Conference Fooding

- **Day 1:** ₹800 per plate × 26 guests = ₹20,800
- **Day 2:** ₹800 per plate × 33 guests = ₹26,400
- **Day 3:** ₹800 per plate × 26 guests = ₹20,800

Total Fooding Cost: ₹68,000

4. Conference Kit

- Cost: ₹16,500

5. Felicitation Kit

- Cost: ₹3,400

Total Outflow

- Travel Allowance: ₹8,72,000
- Accommodation: ₹30,000
- Conference Fooding: ₹68,000
- Conference Kit: ₹16,500
- Felicitation Kit: ₹3,400

Grand Total: ₹9,89,900

Certificate for the Participants:



Conclusion

The three-day International Conference "*Linking Latitude: Postcolonialism and After*" was a landmark event that brought together eminent scholars, researchers, and students from India, Australia, and beyond to critically engage with the enduring legacies of colonialism and the rich tapestry of multiculturalism. By fostering meaningful discussions across disciplinary and cultural boundaries, the conference successfully created a dynamic platform for intellectual exchange and collaboration.

From its inception, the conference set an ambitious goal of rethinking postcolonial narratives in the context of a rapidly globalizing world. The inaugural session, led by luminaries such as Prof. Deb Narayan Bandyopadhyay and Prof. Subrata Kumar Dey, underscored the significance of academic dialogue in addressing historical injustices and reimagining cultural relationships. Their remarks not only provided a strong foundation for the conference but also emphasized the need to critically evaluate the intersection of postcolonial theory and contemporary global challenges.

The series of keynote addresses by world-renowned scholars, including Prof. Bill Ashcroft, Prof. Helen Pringle, Prof. Paul Sharrad, and Prof. Saugata Bhaduri, among others, served as the intellectual cornerstone of the event. These addresses traversed a wide range of topics, from the theoretical evolution of postcolonial studies to practical considerations of identity, power, and resistance in multicultural societies. The unique perspectives brought by Australian scholars enriched the discussions and highlighted the shared colonial histories and cultural dialogues between India and Australia. The conference also provided a vibrant platform for emerging scholars, with numerous Ph.D. students and young researchers presenting their papers during the working sessions. The sessions, chaired by distinguished academics such as Dr. Jati Sankar Mondal, Dr. Sourav Banerjee, and Dr. Tapu Biswas, demonstrated the depth and diversity of contemporary research in postcolonial studies. These sessions not only offered budding researchers a chance to showcase their work but also sparked lively debates that deepened the understanding of complex postcolonial issues.

The plenary addresses and technical discussions further underscored the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to examining the multilayered impacts of colonialism and the potential for multicultural societies to foster inclusivity and collaboration. The insightful contributions from speakers such as Prof. Niladri R. Chatterjee, Prof. Pinaki Roy, Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta, and others broadened the scope of the discussions, addressing topics such as gender, language, and diaspora within the postcolonial framework.

One of the most significant outcomes of the conference was its emphasis on the decolonization of the mind. This theme, highlighted in multiple sessions and particularly in the closing remarks by Honourable Chief Operating Officer Mr. Saurabh Adhikari, urged participants to critically examine the pervasive influence of colonial ideologies in shaping contemporary thought and societal structures. This call to action resonated with attendees and left them with a sense of purpose to challenge dominant narratives and foster more equitable cultural exchanges. The event's focus on the multicultural connections between India and Australia was particularly noteworthy. By exploring the shared histories and evolving cultural ties of these nations, the conference succeeded in highlighting the importance of collaborative scholarship in addressing common challenges and celebrating shared heritage. This focus not only deepened participants'

appreciation for the complexities of multiculturalism but also laid the groundwork for future cross-cultural academic partnerships.

As the conference concluded with the valedictory session led by Prof. Nandini Bhattacharya and the final remarks by Dr. Rituparna Chakraborty, the sense of accomplishment and intellectual fulfillment was palpable. The discussions, debates, and presentations over the three days had provided an expansive understanding of postcolonialism and multiculturalism, inspiring participants to continue exploring these themes in their academic and professional endeavors.

In essence, *"Linking Latitude: Postcolonialism and After"* was more than just a conference—it was a transformative experience that bridged cultures, disciplines, and perspectives. By fostering critical dialogues, encouraging collaboration, and challenging conventional narratives, the conference succeeded in creating a legacy of intellectual and cultural enrichment. As participants returned to their respective academic and professional spheres, they carried with them not only the insights gained during the event but also a renewed commitment to advancing the discourse on postcolonialism and multiculturalism in meaningful and impactful ways.