



SWAMI VIVEKANANDA UNIVERSITY

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Completion Report of One Day International Conference on
Restructuring The Canon: Gender, Transgender and Subversion of Identity



Organized by: Department of English & Department of Psychology Swami

Vivekananda University

Mode: Blended

Conference Date: 31.08.2024

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 on Gender, Transgender, and the Subversion of Identity is to foster an open, inclusive, and dynamic space for dialogue and exploration on the complex intersections of gender identity, expression, and societal norms. This conference seeks to challenge traditional understandings of gender, offering a platform to critically examine the ways in which gender and transgender identities subvert and reshape conventional ideas of self-hood, power, and social roles. By bringing together scholars, activists, and individuals from diverse backgrounds, the event aims to create a collaborative environment where inter-sectional approaches to gender, sexuality, and identity can be discussed, celebrated, and advanced.

Through keynote speeches, panel discussions, and workshops, the conference will address the socio-political, cultural, and psychological dimensions of gender and transgender experiences, highlighting both challenges and transformative possibilities. It will also focus on the ways in which gender norms are being disrupted and re-imagined across various contexts, from art and media to law and policy. Ultimately, the mission is to contribute to greater visibility, understanding, and advocacy for the rights and dignity of transgender individuals, while promoting a more fluid and inclusive vision of identity in the modern world.

Vision

The vision of the Conference on Gender, Transgender, and the Subversion of Identity is to create a world where gender is understood as a fluid, diverse spectrum rather than a fixed binary, and where all individuals are empowered to define and express their identities authentically. The conference envisions a future where the voices of transgender people are central in shaping social, political, and cultural landscapes, and where societal norms around gender are continuously questioned, deconstructed, and redefined.

By fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration, the conference aims to inspire a global movement toward a more inclusive and equitable society, where gender diversity is celebrated, and discrimination based on gender identity is eradicated. The vision is to challenge not only the marginalization of transgender individuals but also to disrupt all forms of restrictive gender norms that limit human potential and expression. Through shared knowledge and collective

action, the conference hopes to facilitate broader acceptance and visibility of non-binary, gender queer, and transgender identities, ensuring that they are no longer seen as subversive, but as part of the natural complexity of human experience.

Ultimately, the vision is to build a world where identity is fluid, and all people, regardless of gender, are respected, supported, and allowed to thrive without fear of repression or violence.

Concept Note:

This international conference intends to critically explore and challenge the rigid constructs of gender in contemporary society. It will focus on the transformative potential of transgender and non-binary identities to subvert traditional understandings of gender, selfhood, and societal roles. The conference will bring together scholars, activists, artists, and community leaders to engage in rich dialogues on how gender norms are being reshaped through lived experiences, activism, and cultural expression.

The conference will examine the intersectionality of gender identity with race, class, disability, and sexuality, highlighting the complexities of transgender experiences. It will address both the systemic barriers faced by transgender individuals and the creative, social, and political ways in which gender is being reimagined. Topics will include but are not limited to: the politics of gender identity, the impact of media and representation, gender fluidity, legal recognition, and health rights for transgender people.

By promoting interdisciplinary discussions and creative collaborations, the conference will strive to foster a more inclusive and equitable world, where gender is seen as a spectrum, and everyone has the freedom to express their true identity. The goal is to amplify marginalized voices and catalyze positive social change.

Speaker Details:

Prof. Simi Malhotra



Prof. Simi Malhotra is Professor, Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia. Her areas of interest include Literary Theory and Culture Studies. Her publications include the co-authored books 'Terrains of Consciousness: Multilogical Perspectives on Globalization' (Würzburg University Press, 2021), 'Ocean as Method: Thinking with the Maritime' (Routledge, 2022), and the co-edited books 'Food Culture Studies in India: Consumption, Representation and Mediation', and 'Inhabiting Cyberspace in India: Theory, Perspectives and Challenges' (both from Springer, 2021). Her most recent, and co-edited books are 'Globalization and Sense-Making Practices: Phenomenologies of the Global, Local and Glocal', and 'Globalization and Planetary Ethics: New Terrains of Consciousness, Affective World-Making: Routing Planetary Thought', from Routledge. She is also the recipient of several grants and awards. The latest being the UGC-DAAD PPP project.

Prof. Manabi Bandhopadhyay

Manabi Bandyopadhyay was born in Naihati, West Bengal to parents Chittaranjan Bandyopadhyay and Rima Bandyopadhyay in an educated family as a man. She is the first PhD professor in India



who accepts her identity as a transgender person. Bandyopadhyay served as an associate professor in Bengali at Vivekananda Satobarshiki Mahavidyalaya. After completing her PhD in 2006, she took charge as Principal of Krishnanagar Women's College on 7 June 2015 after a decade of struggling against patriarchy and convoluted notions regarding the third gender. Unlike men who would have applied for the same post, and women, who would have been appointed earlier, she had to garner support by projecting her career spanning over 16 years as a teacher,

made possible by the intervention of the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Ms. Mamata Banerjee. She is India's first openly transgender college principal, and began work as such in 2015 at the

Krishnagar Women's College in Nadia district. Manabi is a devotee of Sarada Devi and she was introduced to spiritual life by Swami Atmasthananda. She wrote several books in the Bengali literature. Her biography *A Gift of Goddess Lakshmi* speaks of her journey from her childhood to her becoming India's first Third Gender Principal and it was co-authored by Jhimli Mukherjee Pandey. She runs India's first transgender Magazine, *Abomanob* which is now an annual magazine which runs for more than 20 years. In 2019 Bandyopadhyay played a role in her debut film *Purba Paschim Dakshin* directed by Rajorshi Dey.

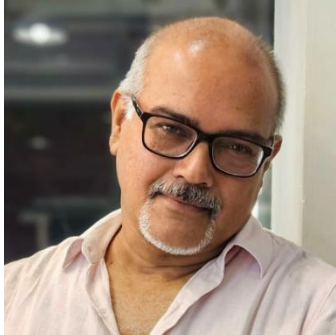
Prof. Pinaki Roy



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. 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. Aparajita Hazra



Prof. Aparajita Hazra, is the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Professor, Department of English, Diamond Harbour Women's University, India. Formerly she was Dean, Faculty of Arts at Sidho- Kanho- Birsha University. She is a visiting professor at the University of Sheffield, England. A gold medalist and National Scholar, she has published articles in various journals and lectured in nine countries: India, France, Ireland, Macau, Malaysia, Canada, New Zealand, Georgia, and Scotland. She has authored seven books. She has received several academic

awards and accolades. Her area of Research Interests includes Gothic Studies, Gender Studies, Renaissance Literature, British Romantic Literature, British Victorian Literature, American Literature, African Literature, African American Literature, Indian English Literature, Dalit Literature.

Arpita Chattaraj (Mukhopadhyay)



Arpita Chattaraj (Mukhopadhyay) is a Professor in the Department of English and Culture Studies at the University of Burdwan. Her recent publications include a critical edition of Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse* in the Orient Blackswan Critical Texts series and *Feminisms* also published by the Orient Blackswan publications. She has completed a research project sponsored by the ICSSR (Indian

Council for Social Science Research) which focuses on the study of the rivers of Bengal as sites of multiple discourses. She was a recipient of the SUSI fellowship granted by the US Department of State. Her research and teaching interests are American Literature, Gender Studies, Postcolonial Studies, Environmental Humanities and Culture Studies.

Sheila T. Cavanagh



Sheila T. Cavanagh is a Professor of English and Director of the World Shakespeare Project and The Emory Women Writers Resource Project. Author of *Wanton Eyes* and *Chaste Desires: Female Sexuality in The Faerie Queene* and *Cherished Torment: The Emotional Geography of Lady Mary Wroth's Urania*, she has written many articles on early modern literature and pedagogy, among other topics. She served as the Global Shakespeare Centre/Fulbright Distinguished Chair, as Director of Emory's Year of Shakespeare and is currently on the Board of the Society of Woman Geographers. She received her PhD at Brown University and did graduate work at Trinity College, Dublin and Georgetown University. She recently completed an MA in Public History at Georgia State University, which was preceded by an MST in College Teaching at the University of New Hampshire.

Dr. Sandip Ain



Dr. Sandip Ain is a professor in the Department of English, Bankura University. Dr. Ain has authored and co-authored multiple peer-reviewed scientific papers and presented works at many national and International conferences. His contributions have acclaimed recognition from honourable subject experts around the world. He is actively associated with different societies and academies. Dr. Sandip Ain's academic career is decorated with several reputed awards and funding. Dr. Sandip Ain's research interests include Indian literature in English, Post colonial Literature, Postcolonial Theory, Anglophone Literature in 19th century India, Digital Humanities, Ecocriticism. Through his research, Dr. Ain seeks to examine the intersections of literature with broader social, political, and environmental issues, providing valuable insights into the evolving relationship between language, culture, and identity in the postcolonial world. His work continues to inspire students, scholars, and colleagues alike.

Dr. Mausumi Sen Bhattacharjee



Dr. Mausumi Sen Bhattacharjee is an Associate Professor in the Department of English, The Sanskrit College and University. Completed her MPhil from Jadavpur University on The Generic Lineage of Three Plays by Harold Pinter in 2002. Her PhD doctorate at Jadavpur University is on the Representation of the Masquerade in 18th Century British Women Novelists. She has successfully completed two UGC Minor Research Projects in 2004 and 2014 respectively. She

has published widely in both national and international journals of repute. She takes special interest in researching on Modern British Drama, Feminism, Dalit Feminism, Travel Writing by 19th Bengali women writers, studies on literature of the Borders and Conflict Zones, Ecocriticism, Cinema of Satyajit Ray and Hrittick Ghatak and 18 th Century British Culture Studies. She has been teaching for the last 21 years.

Participants Details:

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23.	Baloram Balo	Ph.D. Scholar	English	University of Kalyani	brb.lit@yahoo.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. Tirna Sadhu (Asst. Prof., Department of English, SVU)
- Dr. Santanu Siuli (Asst. Prof., Department of English, SVU)
- Mr Soumyarup Bhattacharya, (Asst. Prof., Department of English, SVU)
- Ms. Shreyoshi Dhar (Asst. Prof., Department of English, SVU)
- Mr. Agnidepto Datta (Asst. Prof., Department of English, SVU)
- Mr. Debarshi Arathdar (Asst. Prof., Department of English, SVU)

- Ms. Natasha Chatterjee (Teaching Assistant, Department of English, SVU)
- Mr. Anirban Banerjee

Seminar Report on the *International Conference on Restructuring The Canon:Gender, Transgender and Subversion of Identity*

The one-day *International conference on Restructuring The Canon:Gender, Transgender and Subversion of Identity*, was held with the aim of fostering critical dialogues on traditional notions of identity, particularly within the context of gender and transgender experiences. This conference successfully deconstructed the dominant cultural, literary, and historical canons that have often marginalized or excluded non-binary, transgender, and gender-nonconforming identities. 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.

Inaugural Session and Keynote Highlights :

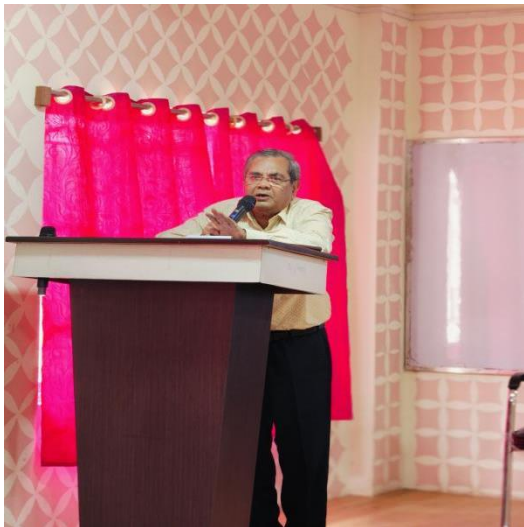


Fig1: Prof. Deb Narayan Bandyopadhyay delivering the inaugural speech

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. The inaugural lecture of the conference on Gender Studies, delivered by Prof. Deb Narayan Bandhopadhyay, set the stage for a thought-provoking and intellectually stimulating event. Prof. Bandhopadhyay welcomed the distinguished guests, scholars, and participants, emphasizing the significance of the conference in advancing the field of gender studies.

In his address, Prof. Bandhopadhyay highlighted the evolution of gender studies, tracing its roots from feminist movements to a broader, interdisciplinary field. He pointed out that today, gender is understood not as a binary construct but as a fluid spectrum that intersects with various other social identities such as race, class, and sexuality. The professor also underscored the importance of examining how gender shapes societal structures and individual experiences. He encouraged participants to explore the role of contemporary movements in challenging traditional gender norms, with a particular focus on global struggles for gender justice, digital technology's impact on gender expression, and the ongoing quest for equality.

Prof. Bandhopadhyay concluded his lecture by inviting everyone to actively engage in the discussions throughout the conference, as their research, ideas, and activism hold the potential to shape a more inclusive and just future.

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. Pinak pani Nath, and Honourable General Manager Mr. Subhasish 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 traditional notions of identity, particularly within the context of gender and transgender experiences. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Subham Bhattacharya.

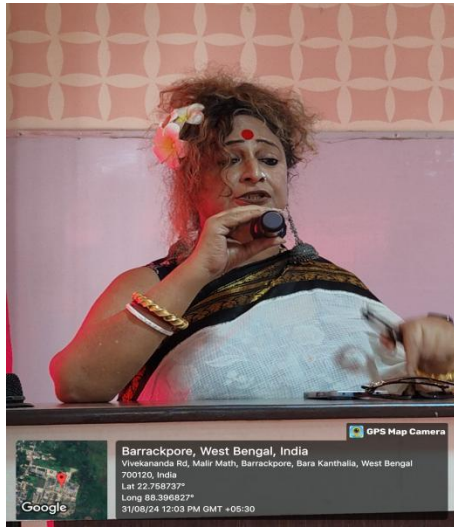


Fig 2: Dr. Manabi Bandyopadhyay delivering her keynote address

The first keynote address of the conference was delivered by Professor Manabi Bandyopadhyay, a trailblazer who made history as the first transgender Indian college professor. In her lecture, Professor Bandyopadhyay discussed the evolution of gender studies and its crucial role in understanding global cultural dynamics. She explored how gender studies have developed over time and highlighted their significance in addressing pressing societal issues, especially in the context of diverse cultural and social frameworks. Professor Bandyopadhyay's insightful lecture provided a powerful academic stimulus, setting the stage for the conference proceedings. Her unique perspective as both an academic and an advocate for transgender rights brought a personal and transformative dimension to the discussion, emphasizing the need for inclusive scholarship that reflects and engages with the complexities of gender identity. Her address was a thought-provoking and inspiring start to the conference, sparking meaningful dialogue among participants.



Fig 3: Prof. Niladri R. Chatterjee delivering his keynote address

The second Keynote Address of the conference was delivered by Professor Niladri R. Chatterjee, a distinguished professor, author, and a leading figure in the field of Gender studies. In his lecture, titled “Erring on the Feminist Side of Caution: Introducing Gender Studies to a Postgraduate Class,” Professor Chatterjee explored the evolution of gender studies and its increasing significance in understanding global cultural dynamics. He discussed the challenges and opportunities involved in introducing gender studies to postgraduate students, highlighting its transformative potential in reshaping perspectives on power, identity, and social structures. Professor Chatterjee emphasized the relevance of gender studies in analyzing contemporary global issues, encouraging scholars to engage critically with the subject. His lecture provided a profound intellectual foundation for the conference, offering valuable insights that set the tone for subsequent discussions, and underscoring the importance of gender studies in both academic and real-world contexts.

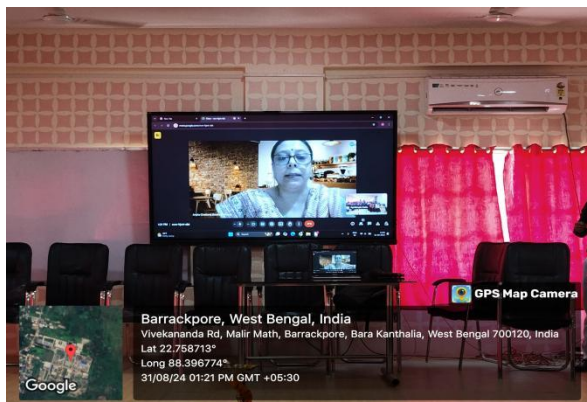


Fig 4: Prof. Arpita Chattaraj (Mukhopadhyay) delivering her keynote address.

The third keynote address of the conference was presented online by Professor Arpita Chattaraj (Mukhopadhyay), a distinguished professor, author, and prominent figure in English literature. In her lecture, titled “The Gender/Canon Dialogue: Anxieties and Influences,” Professor Chattaraj discussed the vital role of gender studies in shaping academic and cultural discussions. She explored the complex relationship between gender and the literary canon, addressing the anxieties surrounding the inclusion of gendered perspectives in traditional canons. Professor Chattaraj examined how these anxieties influence literary scholarship and contribute to the marginalization of gender-diverse voices. Her lecture provided a comprehensive and thought-provoking framework, offering valuable insights into the intersection of gender, power, and literary traditions. By addressing both the challenges and potential of integrating gender perspectives into the canon, Professor Chattaraj’s address laid a strong intellectual foundation for the conference, guiding subsequent discussions and setting the tone for deeper engagement with these critical issues.



Fig 5: Prof. Simi Malhotra delivering her keynote address.

The fourth keynote address of the conference was delivered by Professor Simi Malhotra, a renowned professor and celebrated author in English literature. In her insightful lecture, titled “Restructuring the Feminist Canon: Two Centuries of Women’s Movements in India,” Professor Malhotra explored the evolving role of women’s movements in India over the past two centuries. She delved into the multifaceted dimensions of gender studies, encompassing both literary

analysis and the socio-political implications of feminist thought and activism. Professor Malhotra examined how women's movements in India have influenced and reshaped cultural narratives, contributing to the restructuring of the feminist canon. Her lecture provided a nuanced understanding of the intersection of gender, literature, and politics, highlighting the historical and contemporary struggles for gender equality in India. This lecture offered invaluable perspectives for the conference, enriching the dialogue around feminist movements, gender studies, and their profound impact on both literature and society.

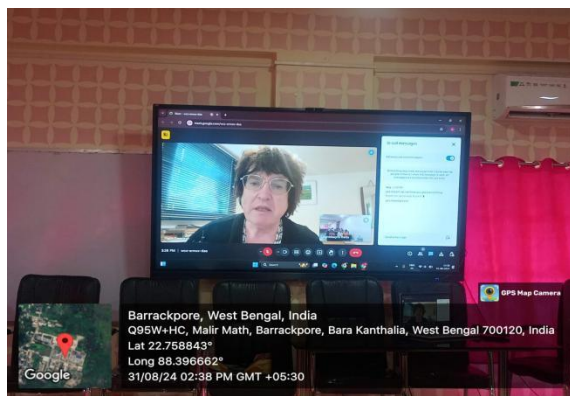


Fig 6: Prof. Sheila T. Cavanagh delivering her special address.

Professor Sheila T. Cavanagh delivered a special address online. Professor Sheila T. Cavanagh, a distinguished scholar of English and Director of the World Shakespeare Project and The Emory Women Writers Resource Project, delivered a special online address. In her insightful lecture, she explored the importance of gender studies in comprehending and tackling societal inequalities. Professor Cavanagh emphasized how gender dynamics shape social structures and contribute to persistent disparities across various sectors. She outlined how an understanding of gender can illuminate power imbalances and systemic injustices, offering critical perspectives for social reform. Drawing on her extensive academic expertise, she provided a solid intellectual foundation for the conference proceedings, underlining the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to examining gender. By integrating historical and contemporary viewpoints, she demonstrated the far-reaching impact of gender norms on literature, culture, and society. Professor Cavanagh's address was not only thought-provoking but also a call to action for further engagement with gender studies as a tool for social transformation. Her compelling framework set the stage for subsequent discussions, enriching the overall dialogue and guiding the

participants in a deeper exploration of the complex relationship between gender, power, and inequality.

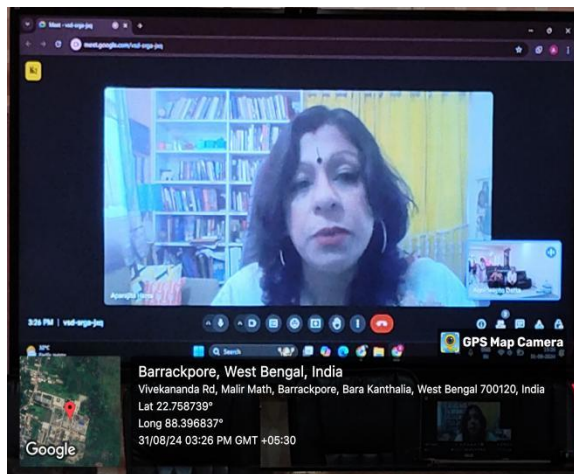


Fig 7: Prof. Aparajita Hazra delivering her keynote address.

The fifth Keynote Address of the conference was delivered online by Professor Aparajita Hazra, a renowned professor, author, and distinguished figure in English literature. In her lecture titled “Monday Morning Blues: Negotiating Gender in the Workplace,” Professor Hazra discussed the critical role of gender studies in understanding and addressing societal inequalities. She explored how gender dynamics affect the workplace, shedding light on the challenges faced by individuals due to entrenched gender norms and biases. Drawing on her extensive expertise, Professor Hazra highlighted how gender issues are often overlooked but are crucial for fostering equality and inclusivity in professional settings. Her address provided a comprehensive intellectual framework, setting the tone for the conference discussions and guiding participants in examining the intersections of gender, power, and work. Professor Hazra’s thought-provoking lecture enriched the proceedings, offering valuable insights for addressing gender-related issues in the workplace and beyond.



Fig 8: Prof. Mausumi Sen Bhattacharjee, delivering her plenary address

The Plenary Address was presented by Professor Mausumi Sen Bhattacharjee, who delivered a lecture titled “Negotiating Performativity and Identity in the Travel Writing by Women from Colonial Bengal.” In her address, Professor Bhattacharjee examined the intersection of performativity and identity within the context of travel writing authored by women from Colonial Bengal. She explored how these writers navigated complex socio-political landscapes, negotiating their personal and cultural identities through their travels and narratives. Professor Bhattacharjee shed light on the ways these women engaged with the colonial experience, using travel writing as a means of self-expression and resistance. Her insightful analysis highlighted how gender, identity, and colonialism intersect in these literary works, offering a fresh perspective on both the genre and the historical context. This plenary address contributed significantly to the conference, providing a deeper understanding of the ways women from colonial Bengal negotiated their roles and identities through their writing.

Valedictory Session and Closing



Fig 9: Prof. Pinaki Roy, concluding the session with his Valedictory speech.

The conference concluded with a valedictory session led by Prof. Pinaki Roy, who eloquently summarized the discussions and highlighted the conference's success in fostering a rich exchange of ideas. He addressed the gathering by his lecture on the topic “Vidyasagar and Women Empowerment : a Remembrance”.

The closing remarks were delivered by Dr. Rituparna Chakraborty, Head of the Department of English. She delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all speakers, participants, and organizers for their contributions. Her speech on the significance of Gender Studies along with the evolution of the same was elaborated in the best possible manner, from its origins in feminist movements to its expansion into a broader, interdisciplinary field. She emphasized that contemporary understandings of gender, recognizing it as a fluid spectrum, rather than a binary construct, and highlight its intersection with other social identities, including race, class, and sexuality.



Fig.10: Dr.Rituparna Chakraborty, HOD Department of English, Swami Vivekananda University, felicitating Prof. Niladri R. Chatterjee.



Fig.11: Dr.Nilanjana Mitra, HOD Department of Psychology, Swami Vivekananda University, felicitating Prof. Niladri R. Chatterjee.



Fig 12: Hon'ble Registrar Prof. Pinakpani Nath , Hon'ble Chief Executive Director(Academics) Prof. Deb Narayan Bandyopadhyay and Prof. Sandip Ain, Professor Bankura University.



Fig 13: Honourable Registrar Prof. Pinak Pani Nath, addressing the audience .



Fig 14: Dignitaries from various universities, and scholars with the organisers of the conference.

Paper Submission and Publication:

Total number of papers submitted for publication: 66 (from students, research scholars and faculty members)

The papers were published in various International Peer Reviewed Journals.

Feedback:



Index:

 Excellent

 Good

 Could be better

 Not Satisfactory

Programme Outcome:

The One-day International Conference *Restructuring The Canon: Gender, Transgender, and Subversion of Identity* yielded significant outcomes, solidifying its impact as a global intellectual platform. Here are the key outcomes of the program:

1. **Fostering Interdisciplinary Dialogue:** The conference encouraged rich discussions across multiple academic disciplines, promoting a deeper and more nuanced understanding of gender and identity. This interdisciplinary approach provided a comprehensive outlook on these complex topics.

2. **Re-evaluating Gender Canons:** Scholars critically engaged with traditional literary and cultural canons, challenging outdated norms and advocating for the inclusion of transgender and gender-diverse identities. This examination underlined the importance of diversifying representation in academic and cultural frameworks.

3. **Encouraging Global Collaboration and Networking:** The event facilitated connections among scholars, activists, and practitioners from across the globe, fostering meaningful

exchanges of ideas and creating opportunities for future collaborations in research, activism, and policy development.

4. **Showcasing Innovative Research:** The conference served as a platform for presenting cutting-edge research on gender, transgender issues, and the subversion of identity. The work shared contributed to expanding knowledge and pushing the boundaries of academic discourse in these areas.

5. **Promoting Inclusivity in Academia:** Emphasis was placed on amplifying marginalized voices within academic discussions, advocating for more inclusive representation and the integration of diverse gender perspectives in scholarly works.

6. **Advocating for Societal Change:** Throughout the conference, discussions centered around the urgent need for policy reforms and systemic changes to address gender inequality. Participants called for action to ensure justice and equity for all gender identities in various sectors.

7. **Expanding Global Perspectives:** The conference provided participants with a broader understanding of gender-related issues across diverse cultural and social contexts. These insights enriched both global academic and social dialogues, allowing for a more holistic view of gender in the contemporary world.

In summary, the conference successfully positioned itself as a critical forum for advancing discourse on gender, transgender identities, and the subversion of traditional norms, while fostering collaboration and inclusivity in the global academic community.

Budget Report for the International Conference on ‘Restructuring The Canon: Gender, Transgender and Subversion of Identity’.

Outflow of Money

1. Travel Allowance

- Flight Tickets for Speaker: ₹28,000
- Car Rent: ₹34,000

Total Travel Allowance: ₹62,000

2. Conference Fooding

- Conference Day: ₹800 per plate × 28 guests = ₹22,400

Total Fooding Cost: ₹22,400

3. Conference Kit

- Cost: ₹10,500

4. Felicitation Kit

- Cost: ₹3,400

Total Outflow

- Travel Allowance: ₹62,000
- Conference Fooding: ₹22,400
- Conference Kit: ₹10,500
- Felicitation Kit: ₹3,400
- Grand Total: ₹98,300**

Certificate for the Participants:



Conclusion

The One-Day International Conference on '*Restructuring The Canon: Gender, Transgender, and Subversion of Identity*' organized by Swami Vivekananda University, Barrackpore, successfully provided an intellectual platform for critical exploration and re-imagining of traditional gender norms and their representation in cultural, social, and academic canons. The conference brought together scholars, activists, and practitioners from diverse disciplines and regions, fostering rich discussions that not only interrogated existing gender narratives but also explored the transformative potential of subverting those boundaries to make space for gender diversity.

From its inception, the conference aimed to redefine gender studies in the context of a rapidly globalizing world. The inaugural session, led by distinguished luminaries such as Prof. Deb Narayan Bandyopadhyay and Honourable Vice Chancellor Prof. Subrata Kumar Dey, highlighted the importance of academic dialogue in addressing gender inequalities and reshaping cultural relationships. Their insightful remarks provided a solid foundation for the conference, emphasizing the need to critically examine the intersection of gender theory and contemporary global issues.

The session set the tone for the discussions ahead, underscoring the significance of gender studies in understanding and addressing societal challenges in the modern world.

The series of keynote addresses by esteemed academicians, including , Prof. Simi Malhotra, Prof. Manabi Bandhopadhyay, Prof. Pinaki Roy, Prof. Niladri R. Chatterjee, Prof. Arpita Chattaraj, Prof. Sheila T. Cavanagh, Prof. Aparajita Hazra, Prof. Sandip. Ain, Prof. Mausumi Sen Bhattacharjee among others, formed the intellectual cornerstone of the event. These addresses covered a broad spectrum of topics, ranging from the theoretical development of gender studies to practical discussions on identity, power, and resistance in multicultural societies. Each lecture contributed valuable insights, deepening the understanding of how gender dynamics shape societal structures and interactions across diverse contexts.

The key takeaway from the conference was the pressing need to rethink and challenge the exclusionary nature of dominant gender canons. For too long, academic and cultural texts have predominantly represented gender in binary terms, marginalizing non-binary, transgender, and gender-nonconforming identities. The conference highlighted how these traditional frameworks can perpetuate systemic inequality, discrimination, and invisibility for diverse gender identities. By offering new ways of thinking about identity through a transgender lens and encouraging critical discourse around the subversion of identity, the event set the stage for more inclusive and multifaceted representations in academic and societal contexts.

Through a series of impactful presentations and discussions, the conference examined how gender norms have been constructed historically and how these constructions continue to shape contemporary society. Scholars highlighted the importance of decolonizing gender studies and questioning the cultural imperialism embedded within mainstream canons that predominantly represent Western, heteronormative viewpoints. This global perspective allowed participants to consider the ways in which gender identities intersect with race, class, sexuality, and colonial legacies, offering a nuanced understanding of the struggles faced by marginalized gender groups around the world.

The conference also provided a platform for the voices of transgender and gender-diverse individuals to be heard and valued in academic spaces. The discussions on identity subversion

underscored the importance of creating spaces where gender fluidity is not only accepted but celebrated. By integrating transgender and gender-nonconforming perspectives into scholarly discourse, the conference played a pivotal role in challenging the mainstream narrative of gender and advocating for social and cultural change.

Another key outcome of the conference was the formation of new academic and professional networks. Participants engaged in collaborative discussions that not only deepened their understanding of gender theories but also explored practical strategies for advancing gender justice and inclusivity in various sectors, including education, policy-making, and the arts. These conversations were crucial in identifying tangible actions that can lead to real-world transformation, from inclusive curricula to policies that protect gender-diverse individuals from discrimination.

As the conference came to a close with the valedictory session led by Prof. Pinaki Roy and the final remarks by Dr. Rituparna Chakraborty, a strong sense of accomplishment and intellectual fulfillment was evident. The entire conference through the discussions, debates, and presentations had provided a comprehensive understanding of gender studies, inspiring participants to further explore themes of gender, identity, and power in their academic and professional pursuits. The insights gained during the conference left a lasting impact, motivating attendees to continue engaging with these critical issues in their future work.

In conclusion, the conference titled '*Restructuring The Canon: Gender, Transgender and Subversion of Identity*' successfully fulfilled its objective of critically examining and deconstructing gender norms, offering a comprehensive platform for scholarly dialogue on gender, transgender issues, and identity subversion. It was a significant step toward advancing the visibility of marginalized voices, promoting intersectional approaches to gender studies, and advocating for a more inclusive, equitable world where all gender identities are respected and celebrated. The conference underscored the importance of challenging established structures and continuing to push for social change in both academic and societal realms.