

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA  
UNIVERSITY

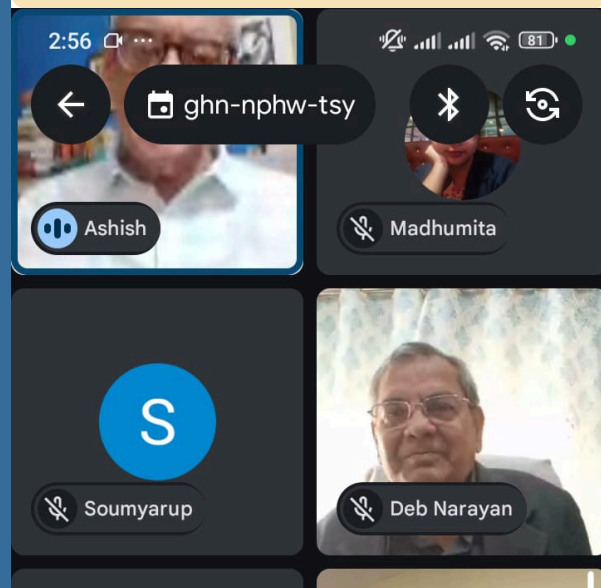
# NEWSLETTER

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

## EDITORIAL

The Department of English has continued its tradition of vibrant academic engagement, and February has been no exception, marked by the commencement of the even semester alongside the ongoing postgraduate programmes. The month was particularly noteworthy for the successful organisation of three major conferences under the aegis of the Centre for Australian Studies, the Centre for Scottish Studies, and the Centre for Tagore Studies, each fostering meaningful scholarly exchange and interdisciplinary dialogue. Together, these initiatives reaffirm the department's commitment to academic excellence and its role as a dynamic hub for literary and cultural inquiry.

The Centre for Tagore Studies organised a three-day online national conference from 3-5 February titled "Mapping an Era of Cultural Awakening: Rabindranath Tagore and His Contemporaries in Nineteenth-Century Bengal." The conference featured distinguished speakers, including Abhijit Sen, Amrit Sen, and Ashis Lahiri, along with several other eminent academicians who addressed various sessions. The event also witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and scholars from across the country, making it a significant platform for intellectual exchange and scholarly engagement.





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The Department of English, in collaboration with the Centre for Australian Studies, successfully organised a two-day international online conference on 18-19 February titled “Beyond Borders: Cultural Negotiations and Global Engagement in Australia and India.” The conference was graced by eminent scholars, including Bill Ashcroft, Michael Griffiths, and Helen Pringle, whose insightful addresses enriched the academic discourse. The event also saw enthusiastic participation from students and emerging scholars from various parts of the country, fostering a dynamic space for dialogue on cross-cultural engagement and global perspectives.

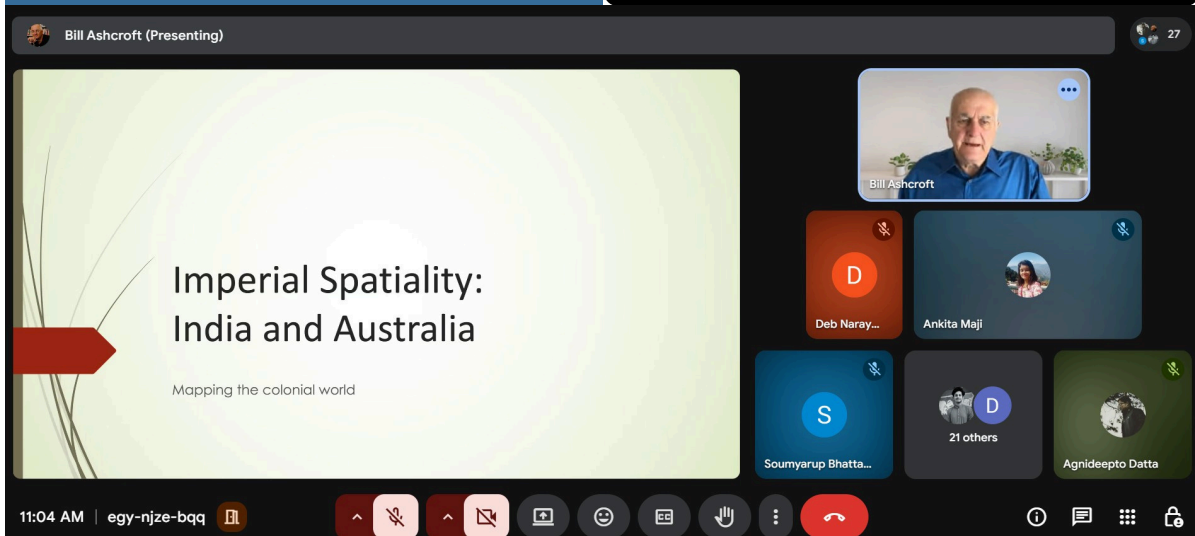


Swami Vivekananda University  
 Centre for Australian Studies, Swami Vivekananda University  
 in collaboration with IASA, Eastern Region, Australian Consulate, Kolkata and Routledge  
 2nd International Conference on  
 Beyond Borders: Cultural Negotiations and Global Engagement  
 in Australia and India  
 16-17 January, 2026

**Concept note:**

With the development of strategic and cultural diplomacy in the post-Cold War period, new initiatives in the direction of politics, culture, internationalism and global engagement began to be prioritised. India's Act East Policy or later the political alignment with Australia in terms of QUAD began to bring down the modular perceptions of world order. With the establishment of Australia India Council or Australia China Council in the 1990s, Australia's engagement with India and vice versa helped to stride across multiple forms of cultural and strategic transactions. In India, the formation of Indian Association for the Study of Australia (Eastern Region) in the last decade of the last century, establishment of research centres in different universities like Bardwan University, Bankura University, Swami Vivekananda University etc helped develop a sustained research interest among the teachers and scholars. Australia India Institute in the University of Melbourne and the Australian Studies Institute in Australian National University helped support collaborative engagements.

In recent years, there is a definitive proliferation of global engagement between Australia and India. With a large number of Indian diaspora in Australia and Australia's initiatives in developing research cooperation with Indian universities led to the proliferation of relationship between Australia and India. Paul Sharrad's Of Indian Origin, Aarti Betiger's Growing Up Indian in Australia, Inez Baranay's Neem Dreams, Roana Gonsalves' The Permanent Resident etc substantiate multiple border crossings.





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The Department of English, in collaboration with the Centre for Scottish Studies, organised a two-day international conference titled “Myths, Folklore and Landscape: Cultural Permeations in and Across Scotland” on 20–21 February in hybrid mode. The conference featured distinguished academicians, including Bashabi Fraser, Neil Fraser, Alan Riach, and Saptarshi Mallick, who delivered insightful sessions that enriched the thematic discussions. The event also witnessed enthusiastic participation from scholars and academicians from across the country, fostering a vibrant platform for cultural and literary exchange.

Swami Vivekananda University  
 SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
**MYTHS, FOLKLORE AND LANDSCAPE: CULTURAL PERMEATIONS IN AND ACROSS SCOTLAND**  
 2026  
 ORGANISED BY:  
 CENTRE FOR SCOTTISH STUDIES & DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND CULTURAL STUDIES  
 SWAMI VIVEKANANDA UNIVERSITY  
**Schedule**  
 20th and 21st February, 2026

EMINENT SPEAKERS:

- Prof. (Dr.) Bashabi Fraser
- Prof. (Dr.) Neil Fraser
- Prof. (Dr.) Alan Riach
- Dr. Payel C Mukherjee
- Prof. (Dr.) Amrit Sen
- Dr. Saptarshi Mallick
- Dr. Kaberi Chatterjee
- Dr. Nandini Sen



Para Kenthalia, West Bengal, India