

Organized By

Association for Commonwealth Literature & Language Studies in India

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Department of Humanities & Social Sciences BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus

On

Wit, Humour and the Carnivalesque in Literature and Performance

15, 16, and 17 February 2024

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

DAY 1: THURSDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2024

REGISTRATION | VENUE: DLT LOBBY | 8:30 – 9:00 AM

INAUGURAL SESSION | VENUE: DLT-9 | 9:00 – 9:30 AM

- Welcome Address: KA GEETHA, Conference Convenor & Head, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus
- Introduction to IACLALS: SWATI PAL, Vice Chairperson, IACLALS
- Opening Remarks on the Theme of the Conference: M ASADUDDIN, Chairperson, IACLALS
- Chief Guest's Address: SUMAN KUNDU, Director, BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus
- Vote of Thanks: AMITENDU BHATTACHARYA, Organizing Secretary, BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus

KEYNOTE SESSION | VENUE: DLT-9 | 9:30 – 10:15 AM

Keynote Address: EV RAMAKRISHNAN, Bilingual Writer & Critic

Carnivalesque in Contemporary Indian Fiction: The Interface Between Subversion and Affirmation

Chair: SENATH WALTER PERERA, Former Chairperson, SLACLALS, Sri Lanka

TEA BREAK | VENUE: DLT LOBBY | 10:15 – 10:30 AM

BUSINESS SESSION 1

SESSION 1A | VENUE: DLT-9 | 10:30 – 11:45 AM

Centre-staging Humour: Stand-up Comedy

Chair: NILAK DATTA

- 1. **RUNA MENEZES** The Pun, Punch and Punchline: Comedy's New Avatar in Contemporary India
- 2. **ASHWATHY NAIR** Locating Kunal Kamra's Humor: Personalizing Politics and De-fetishizing the State
- 3. TARA SALDANHA #maidturnedcomedian: Deepika Mhatre's Stand-up Comedy as Life Narrative
- 4. GAYATHRI M Crossing Generations of Comedy: Chakyar Koothu and Modern Stand-Up

SESSION 1B | VENUE: DLT-10 | 10:30 – 11:45 AM

Rhyming Wit: Humour in Indian Poetry

Chair: KALYANEE RAJAN

- 1. **S CHITRA** Wit and Humour in the Akam Poems of Tamil Cankam Literature
- 2. MOHD AQIB Hierarchy of Emotions in 19th and 20th Century Urdu Literary Cultures: Reading Humour and Gravity as Ideological Practices
- 3. ASMAT JAHAN Decolonising the Minds: Akbar Allahabadi's Satirical Poetry as a Form of Resistance
- 4. **VENKATESH PUTTAIAH** Humour as a Counter to Authority in Eunice De Souza's *A Necklace of Skulls*

SESSION 1C | VENUE: D-101 | 10:30 – 11:45 AM

Comic Capers: Humour in the Graphic Medium
Chair: GEETHA BAKIL APADAVU

- 1. **HEMAVATHI BS** Blistering Barnacles! What the Wit & Why the Humour!
- 2. **NIBEDITA MUKHERJEE** The Rhetoric of 'Powered' Humour: The Female Cartoonists Sketch Back
- 3. **BARNASHREE KHASNOBIS** Comics Go Green: *Rationis Capax* through Green Humour in *Pugmarks and Carbon Footprints*
- 4. **NAMRA SULTAN** Comedy Born Out of Tragedy: Wit, Humour and the Comic Imagination in Joe Sacco's *Palestine*

BUSINESS SESSION 2

SESSION 2A | VENUE: DLT-9 | 11:45 AM – 01:00 PM

Brand Wit: Humour in Advertising

Chair: RAMPRASAD JOSHI

- 1. **SANGEETA SHARMA** Use of Humour in Advertising
- 2. **MERIN JOSE & SABITHA ZACHARIAS** Kinesthetic Incongruity and Brand Humour: A Study of Selected Advertising Commercials
- 3. **NEENU KUMAR** Utterly-Butterly Delicious Tale of Wit and Humour in Amul Advertisements
- 4. **ANANDITA PAN** Not for the Faint Hearted: Humour, State, and the Subversive Impact of Amul Girl

SESSION 2B | VENUE: DLT-10 | 11:45 AM – 01:00 PM

EnGendering Humour Chair: NATASA THOUDAM

- 1. **ISHITA GAUTAM** *Andaaz Apna Apna*: Dolly Alderton, John Kennedy Toole and the Misogynist Joke
- 2. ISHITA BAJPAI & JAYATEE BHATTACHARYA Interweaving Humour with Queer Masculinities and Gender Roles in the Transmigration Danmei Novel The Scum Villain's Self-Saving System
- 3. ANJU MATHEW "Can the Feminists Troll?": Critical Analysis of Gendered Trolling in Kerala's Digiscape
- 4. **KAVYA KRISHNA KR** Mono Acting Social Satire: Gender, Humour and Affect in Women's YouTube Vlogging practices in Malayalam

SESSION 2C | VENUE: D-101 | 11:45 AM – 01:00 PM

Humour & Post/Colonialism Chair: PRIYANKA TRIPATHI

- 1. **BARNALI SAHA** It's a Hoot: Wit, Humour and the Bengali Babu in Kaliprasanna Sinha's *Hootum Pyanchar Naksha*
- 2. **USHA NEKKALAPUDI** Wit, humour and Satire in the England-returned Barrister Parvatheesam: Migrant Experience as a Telugu Travelogue
- 3. KAMAYANI KUMAR Cartoons: An Ethnographic Commentary on Partition of India
- 4. **DIPANJAN CHATTERJEE** Language of the Kolkata Derby: Partition and Carnivalesque Spaces

LUNCH BREAK | VENUE: DLT LOBBY | 01:00 – 01:45 PM

BUSINESS SESSION 3

SESSION 3A | VENUE: DLT-9 | 01:45 – 03:00 PM

The Postcolonial Carnivalesque

Chair: KA GEETHA

- 1. **SENATH WALTER PERERA** The Carnival as Camouflage in Michael Ondaatje's *Running in the Family* and Carl Muller's *The Jam Fruit Tree*
- 2. **YASHVI SRIVASTAVA** Comedy and Crisis: Political Commentary in Shehan Karunatilaka's *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*
- 3. **URMI SENGUPTA** 'Tricky Trickster Tales': Wit and Humour as Tools of Decolonization in Indigenous Literatures of Canada
- 4. **SHARIQ KHAN** Memes as Carnivalesque in Sheena Patel's *I'm A Fan*

SESSION 3B | VENUE: DLT-10 | 01:45 – 03:00 PM

Classic Mavericks: Wit & Subversion in the Western Canon

Chair: SUSAN S DEBORAH

- 1. **SUKRITI BHUKKAL** Carnivalesque Revelry and Social Subversion in Aphra Behn's *The Rover*: A Study of Gender, Power, and Liberation
- 2. AYESHA IRFAN Bernard Shaw's Intellectual Comedies and the Shavian Wit and Humour
- 3. **SWATEE SINHA** Theorizing the Popular: Wit and Humour in Samuel Beckett
- 4. **SABREEN AHMED** Locating the Carnivalesque and Public Laughter in Milan Kundera's *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting*

SESSION 3C | VENUE: D-101 | 01:45 – 03:00 PM

Funny Pictures: Humour in Indian Cinema

Chair: RAYSON K ALEX

- 1. **DHANYA AP** Unmasking Prejudices: An Analysis of the Use of Wit & Humour in Malayalam Cinema
- 2. JAHNAVI S DAS Laugh till You Drop: A Study of Black Humour in Bollywood Films
- 3. CHETNA RAWAT Exploring the Dark Side of Laughter: Black Humour in Karwaan and Goodbye
- 4. MAZIAH SHAAZ Goan Rhapsody: An Analysis of Carnival, Wit and Humor in Select Films Set in Goa

BUSINESS SESSION 4

SESSION 4A | VENUE: DLT-9 | 03:00 – 04:15 PM

Humour & the Chequered Histories of Northeast India

Chair: HEMJYOTI MEDHI

- 1. **REETU RAJ KASHYAP** The Modern Assamese Tradition of Humour and Assam's Cultural Left of Mid-20th Century
- 2. **DEBASHREE DATTARAY** The Carnivalesque as Cultural Memory: Resistance in the Karbi Youth Festival of North East India
- 3. **SYLVIA SAGOLSEM** Humour as Cultural Expression: Insights from Manipuri Folk Narratives

4. **NATASA THOUDAM** The Meitei-Kuki Conflict in (Political) Cartoons of *The Sangai Express* (Meiteilon Edition)

SESSION 4B | VENUE: DLT-10 | 03:00 – 04:15 PM

Drawing Giggles: Humour in Visual Narrative Arts

Chair: ASMAT JAHAN

- 1. VISHAL PANDYA Beyond the Punchline: Irony and Satire in Contemporary Art
- 2. JAYA UPADHYAY The Comic and the Grotesque: Reading the Critique of 'Babu Culture' in the Art of Dharmanarayan Dasgupta
- 3. SHILPA SHIRISHKUMAR TANNA Comic(s) Capers: Carnivalesque Tropes in Sarnath Banerjee
- 4. AARCHA PRADEEP Wit, Humour, Satire & Social Critique: An In-depth Study of VT Thomas's Comic Series Bobanum Moliyum

SESSION 4C | VENUE: D-101 | 03:00 – 04:30 PM

Indi-wit: Humour in Bhasha Literatures

Chair: EV RAMAKRISHNAN

- 1. SOHINI GAYEN & ARNAPURNA RATH Colloquialisms and Humour in Select Short-Stories of Tarasankar Bandyopadhyay
- 2. ALVIN JOSEPH Wit, Humour, and Carnivalesque Elements in Vaikom Muhammad Basheer's Novels
- 3. THARA GANGADHARAN Humour and Biopower: An Analysis of Vaikom Muhammad Basheer's Short Stories
- 4. KALYANEE RAJAN Examining the Depiction of Witty Women and their Response to Marriage in Ismat Chughtai's Fiction
- 5. **DIKSHA BENIWAL** Hiding in Humour: A Study of Ajay Navaria's "Apne Apne Mukhaute"

TEA BREAK	VENUE:	DLT LOBBY	04:15 – 04:40 PM	
POETRY READING	SESSION	VENUE: DLT-9	04:40 – 05:30 PM	
	Chair: KA	ALYANEE RAJAN		
	I	and of Day 1		

DAY 2: FRIDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2024

BUSINESS SESSION 5

SESSION 5A | VENUE: DLT-9 | 09:00 – 10:15 AM

Comic Transactions: Humour Across Time & Culture

Chair: RAYSON K ALEX

- 1. **SUBHAYU CHATTERJEE** Nabaneeta Dev Sen's *Abhijnanadushmantam*: An Attempt to Point Out the Silences
- 2. RAHUL AHLUWALIA The Trails of Odysseus: Vestiges of a Joycean Labyrinth
- 3. JAYA YADAV A Modern Prometheus?: Analysing Humour, Popular Culture and Representation in Rick Riordan's *Percy Jackson* Series
- 4. **KALPLATA** Rabelaisian Renaissance: Dissecting Gender Dynamics within the Carnivalesque Landscape of *Gargantua and Pantagruel*

SESSION 5B | VENUE: DLT-10 | 09:00 – 10:15 AM

Antiseptic Wit: Confronting Social and Political Realities through Humour

Chair: PAROMITA BOSE

- 1. **SRIDHI DASH** Humour as Resistance: Faturananda's Literary Critique of Society and Politics
- 2. SAYANTANI CHOWDHURY Satire and Cultural Criticism in a Little Magazine: Revisiting Diptendra Sanyal's Achal Patra
- 3. YAMINI Harishankar Parsai: Satirizing the Performance of Nationalism
- 4. AHMED SHABIN KK Circumventing Censorship: Satire and Black Humour in Perumal Murugan's Writings

SESSION 5C | VENUE: D-101 | 09:00 – 10:15 AM

Wit Unbound: Humour in the Western Classics

Chair: SHOBHA M

- 1. S. RAVIKUMAR & P. BOOMIRAJA Wit and Humour in Classical Literature
- 2. SHIPRA G. VASHISHTHA An Analysis of the Role of Wit and Humour in Classical Comedy
- 3. **PIYUSH RAVAL** Humour and the Conflict between Old and New Comedy in Aristophanes' *The Frogs*
- 4. **S GOPINATH** Scatological Humour in *Gulliver's Travels*

TEA BREAK | VENUE: DLT LOBBY | 10:15 – 10:30 AM

MEENAKSHI MUKHERJEE MEMORIAL PRIZE SESSION

Chairs: M ASADUDDIN & SWATI PAL

VED PRAKASH "Examining the Domain of Caste, Gender and Sexuality through Select Films of Jayan K. Cherian"

In conversation with **SWATI PAL**

BUSINESS SESSION 6

SESSION 6A | VENUE: DLT-9 | 11:30 AM – 01:00 PM

KidWit: Humour in Children's Literature

Chair: AMANDEEP KAUR

- 1. GARGI GANGOPADHYAY The Pleasure of Topsy-Turvy Worlds: The Carnivalesque in Bengali Children's Literature
- 2. SABEREE MANDAL Sukumar Ray: A Critical Analysis of Humour in Bengali Poems
- 3. PAROMITA BOSE The 'Nonsense' World of Sukumar Ray
- 4. **SHEFALI KOHLI** Beyond the Real: Exploring Carnivalesque and Magical Realism in Salman Rushdie's *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*
- 5. UMME UMMARAH KHAN Unmasking the Comedy in the Tragedy: Exploring Wit and Humour in Children's Literature through Lemony Snicket's Works

SESSION 6B | VENUE: DLT-10 | 11:30 AM – 01:00 PM

Castes of Humour

Chair: ANANDITA PAN

- 1. NANCY TYAGI Humour as a tool for the Marginalised: A Reading of Anti-Caste Literature
- 2. **PRIYA VERMA** 'Filthy Mahars!' Analyzing Dalit Assertion and Satire in Baby Kamble's *The Prisons We Broke*
- 3. JHARANA RANI DHANGADAMAJHI Religion or Subversive Performativity: Unravelling the Carnivalesque in Dalit Rituals of Odisha
- 4. **DILSHA K DAS** Reconstruction of Identity in Thira and Theyyam: Performance and the Performer
- 5. **DIVITA SINGH From Margins** to Mainstream: A Study of Blue Comedy through the Paradigm of New Dalit Resistance, Revolt and Assertion

SESSION 6C | VENUE: D-101 | 11:30 AM – 01:00 PM

(No) Laughing Matter: Humour's Role in (De)Normalizing Stereotypes

Chair: KALYANEE RAJAN

1. **ALEENA KHAN & MOHD FARAZ ZUBERI** Being Funny About Who I Am: Identity Stereotypes to Create Humour

- 2. **JASRAH FAROOQ** Blackface Minstrelsy: Fetishisation of Black Race in the Garb of Humour
- 3. **NARENDRA KUMAR** Racist Humour, Cultural Surveillance and Trauma in Caryl Phillips' *Dancing in the Dark*
- 4. **MANISH SOLANKI** Carol Ann Duffy's *The World's Wife*: Satirical Revisionism and Subversion of Gender Stereotypes
- 5. **NEHA DAGAR** Wit and Humour in Folk Songs Challenging Traditional Gender Roles and Stereotypes: An Example of Jakari

LUNCH BREAK | VENUE: DLT LOBBY | 01:00 – 01:45 PM

BUSINESS SESSION 7

SESSION 7A | VENUE: DLT-9 | 01:45 – 03:00 PM

Wit & the Other: Humour's Multifarious Entanglements

Chair: NIBEDITA MUKHERJEE

- 1. AMANDEEP KAUR & JAGVIR SINGH The Humour of the Absurd: Roy Andersson's "Living Trilogy"
- 2. **SHOBHA M** The Significance of Scatological Humour: A Case Study of the Film *Piku*
- 3. **ASMITA KUNDU** The Carnivalesque of Queer Historicity: Horror and Wit in Plain Bad Heroines
- 4. A SOWMYA Casting Aside of Caste Centres in Comic Shorts

SESSION 7B | VENUE: DLT-10 | 01:45 – 03:00 PM

Wisecracks: Humour in Everyday Life
Chair: PRIYANKA TRIPATHI

- 1. **IPSITA SENGUPTA** In connect, disconnect: Exploring pluripotency of wit and humour in a comparative study of select representations of the adda, eighteenth century and contemporary
- 2. ALEENA MANOHARAN The Comic Mode in Aboriginal Literature
- 3. **AMRITA SHARMA** Voices from Urban India: Understanding Carnivalesque through select web productions by *The Viral Fever*
- 4. **NEELA PARVEJ** Wit, Humour and Language in Digital Folklore: Exploring the linguistic Dynamics of Online Humour in the Digital Age

SESSION 7C | VENUE: D-101 | 01:45 – 03:00 PM

Wit & Humour in the Twice Born Fiction

Chair: ANSHU SURVE

- 1. **S MOORTHI** Wit and Humour in RK Narayan's Novels
- 2. M NATARAJAN Khushwant Singh: A Facetious Commentator of Men & Matters

- 3. **ANNALISE BENJAMIN** Laughing in the Face of Prejudice: The Transformative Power of Humor in Contemporary Indian Discourse on Race and Ethnicity
- 4. **HARSHKUMAR CHANDRAKANT GHAGHADA** A Battle of Wits: Roy's Indigenous Approach in *The God of Small Things*

TEA BREAK | VENUE: DLT LOBBY | 03:00 – 03:15 PM

BUSINESS SESSION 8

SESSION 8A | VENUE: DLT-9 | 03:15 – 04:15 PM

Funny Aesthetics: The Praxis & Politics of Hasya Rasa
Chair: EV RAMAKRISHNAN

- 1. NIBEDITA JENA & RAMESH C. MALIK Critical Appraisal of Catharsis: A Study of Odia Comedies
- 2. **SREENATH VS** Tamāśa and Śuddhahāsyam: Understanding the Dynamics of Humor in Mimicry
- 3. GARIMA HARINIWAS TIWARI Exploring Wit, Humor, and Hasya Rasa in Mahesh Dattani's Plays

SESSION 8B | VENUE: DLT-10 | 03:15 – 04:15 PM

Seriously Funny: Disability & the Power of Humour
Chair: FATIMA RIZVI

- 1. YUSUF AYAZ The Fool-Lunatic Complex: A Study of Humor and Madness in Renaissance Society
- 2. **DEEPANWITA DEY** Madness, Humour and Trauma in Jerry Pinto's Em and the Big Hoom
- 3. JAYA SARKAR Crip Humour: Exploring Subversion of Stereotypical Portrayals of Laughter at the Impaired

SESSION 8C | VENUE: D-101 | 03:15 – 04:15 PM

Hilarious Hoot: The Sitcom Spectacle
Chair: KAVYA KRISHNA KR

- 1. **SOUMYANEEL DASGUPTA** Interrogating the Transformative Poetics of Sitcoms: Humour as a Medium of Resistance and Transgression in *Seinfeld* and *Young Sheldon*
- 2. **CHITRA BAJPAI** *The Big Bang Theory*: The Verbal Humour in Television Sitcoms
- 3. **ROLI MISHRA & ARUNDHATI SHARMA** A Theoretical Analysis: Unravelling the Quantum of Femininity in *The Bing Bang Theory*

GENERAL BODY MEETING

GBM	VENUE: DLT-9		04:15 – 05:00 PM			
TEA BREAK	VENUE: DLT LOBBY		05:00 – 05:15 PM			
BOOK RELEASE SESSION						
	BOOK RELEASE SESSION					
BOOK RELEASE	VENUE: DLT-9		05:15 – 06:00 PM			
Chair: SWATI PAL						
End of Day 2						

DAY 3: SATURDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2024

BUSINESS SESSION 9

SESSION 9A | VENUE: DLT-9 | 09:00 – 10:00 AM

Folk Funnies: Wit in Traditional Performances

Chair: SUSAN S DEBORAH

- 1. ANSHIKA NIRANJAN Humour in Marriage Folk Songs of Bundelkhand Region: with Special Reference to Districts Jalaun and Hamirpur
- 2. MEGHAL KARKI Rethinking Humour, Licence and the Carnivalesque in the Indian Context, with Reference to Kumaoni Holi
- 3. BHUMIKA SINGH Unmasking Wit and Humour: Investigation of Wit and Humour in Select Mask Traditions of India

SESSION 9B | VENUE: DLT-10 | 09:00 – 10:00 AM

Humour in the Folk Traditions of Bengal
Chair: SWATI PAL

- 1. **SANJUKTA NASKAR** The Cult of Baul in Contemporary Times
- 2. MIR MASUDUL HOQUE The Folk Carnivalesque: Resistance and Subversive Wit in Bengal's Alkap Tradition
- 3. **SUBHANKAR DUTTA** Performance and the Comic Replicas: Humour and Social Satire in the *Sawng Jatra* of *Gajan* Festival

SESSION 9C | VENUE: D-101 | 09:00 – 10:00 AM

Humour in the Folk Traditions of Gujarat

Chair: PIYUSH RAVAL

- 1. **ANSHU SURVE** Harmonizing Humor and Social Critique: A Comprehensive Analysis of Gujarati *Dayro*
- 2. **VARIA DRASHTI RUSHABHBHAI** Delving into the Delicacies of Thought: Wit and Intellectual Profundity in Jhaverchand Meghani's Gujarati Folk Narratives

TEA BREAK | VENUE: DLT LOBBY | 10:00 – 10:15 AM

CD NARASIMHAIAH PRIZE SESSION

CDN PRIZE | VENUE: DLT-9 | 10:15 AM – 12:30 PM

Chairs: M ASADUDDIN & FATIMA RIZVI

- 1. **SANYOGITA SINGH** Humour and Hurt: Narrative as Counter-strategy in Krishan Chander's *Ek Gadhe ki Aatmkatha*
- 2. **ASHIMA SHRAWAN** Deciphering Humour: Exploring the Enigma of Hasya Rasa in Natyasastra
- 3. POOJA DUGGAL Stand-up Comedy as a Catalyst for Social Change: Wit, Humour and Caste
- 4. **SRESTHA BHATTACHARYA Humour, Carnivalesque and Counter-Memory** in the Literary Works of Suniti Namjoshi
- 5. TASNIM NAZIFA CHOUDHURY The Construction of the Comic Frame in Stand-Up Comedy

LUNCH BREAK | VENUE: DLT LOBBY | 12:30 - 01:10 PM

CDN PRIZE | VENUE: DLT-9 | 01:10 – 01:30 PM

CDN PRIZE WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT & AWARD

- Announcement of CDN Prize Winner
- Comments by Floor Judges

VALEDICTORY SESSION | VENUE: DLT-9 | 01:30 – 02:30 PM

Chair: KA GEETHA

- Valedictory Address: AMRUTA PATIL, Graphic Novelist
- Concluding Remarks: M ASADUDDIN, Chairperson, IACLALS
- Vote of Thanks: Secretary, IACLALS

NILAK DATTA, BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus

------ End of Day 3 -----