**REPORT ON THE IACLALS ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2012:**

**“Text, Culture and Performance: Postcolonial Issues”**

**Central University of Jharkhand, India, February 2-4, 2012.**

The serenely green and pretty campus of the Central University of Jharkhand was practically beseiged by our IACLALS contingent for Conference 2012 from February 1st for the next three or four days, as members arrived in droves with papers and laptops and not enough warm clothes for the severely-wintry first day and night there that dropped on unsuspecting heads amidst the low hills and dales outside Ranchi. The overwhelming warmth of our hosts, however, almost instantly mitigated such chill as the weather may have caused, and possibly at their insistence the temperatures too rose to comfortable heights in the course of the conference. The small faculty at the Centre for English Language at CUJ with Professor BP Sinha at its helm, ably supported by the calm and efficient Dr Shreya Bhattacharya and the youthful, resourceful Rahul Chaturvedi, went about their business of hospitality and organisation like a tiny, mighty army on a mission. The lovely campus, with small low buildings and red earthen paths winding through verdant trees and grass, put us all in good cheer upon sight of it.

The first day’s proceedings began with a kind of bang we are not really accustomed to at regular IACLALS conferences: an elaborate inaugural ceremony that lasted more than half the morning, graced by His Excellency the Governor of Jharkhand, Dr Syed Ahmed along with the gracious Vice-Chancellor of CUJ, Shri Darlando Khathing. In fact, the learned Dr Ahmed delivered in his inaugural address what we might have conceived as a pre-keynote address, drawing upon his knowledge of literature.

Following this immaculately-orchestrated inaugural ceremony, we launched into the conference proceedings with an absorbing, gleaming keynote address by the redoubtable Professor Alok Bhalla, of ‘Partition’ fame – who surprised us by choosing to do an intricate reading of a classical ‘text’, ‘The Crisis in Ayodhya: A Reading of One Miniature Painting of the Chamba *Ramayana* Folio’ – and left us fascinated with his interpretation of the ‘performance’ implicit in an artistic rendition of the epic.

Post-lunch (served innovatively in CUJ’s surreally-green-roofed sports complex re-christened ‘Food Court’ solely for the IACLALS conference), the first day’s sessions began with enthusiasm and minimal confusion, given that this was the first time ever that the conference was actually juggling six parallel panels in each session, apart from the plenaries on each day – the keynote as well as the Meenakshi Mukherjee Prize speech on the first, the CDN Prize panel and one other on the second, and the Valedictory on the third. The parallel panels were conducted in two buildings not far from each other, with three in each. The unfortunate aspect of so many parallel panels is of course the fact that the audience splits up between them, and if more than a quarter of the conference participants are reading papers and chairing panels while some are inevitably catching (their) moments in the sun on the picturesque campus, then audience sizes just as inevitably shrink. The range of papers in the many panels being impressive, the sight of listeners slipping in and out of rooms to catch specific ones was common, a proof then that there were many engaged participants who studied the programme with attention!

The long day’s proceedings ended with another ‘first’ – the inaugural Meenakshi Mukherjee Memorial Prize plenary session, at which Professor Makarand Paranjape of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, received the first MM award for the best scholarly essay published by a member during 2010-2011 and submitted for consideration by the member to the association. This year there were nine entries, evaluated by a panel of judges comprising of Tabish Khair, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, and Brinda Bose. Professor Paranjape made a short presentation in the context of the prize-winning essay [insert title] after he received the award for 2012. As a visual treat at the end of a long day of paper sessions, the hosts had organised an unique event: the screening of the Hindi film [title of film?] written and directed by the Local Secretary of the Conference at CUJ, Professor BP Sinha, aka Vinod Kumar in his filmmaking avatar!

The second day of the conference began with six parallel panels after breakfast, and then convened for what has now become the most exciting event of this annual IACLALS meet, the CD Narasimhaiah Prize panel for the Best Paper presented at the conference. This year there were fifteen entries for the CDN Prize, of which four were shortlisted for the final face-off by Professor Subhendu Mund and Dr B Mangalam. The four finalists who presented their papers at the late-morning CDN plenary session were Debaditya Bhattacharya (JNU), Lalsanthangi Ralte (JNU), Meenu B (University of Hyderabad) and Meera B (University of Hyderabad). The judges for the final were Professor Paul Sharrad (University of Woolangong, Australia), Professor Lily Kawa (Ranchi University) and Dr Simran Chadha (Dayal Singh College, Delhi University). In a nail-biting photo-finish, two presenters were marked with a difference of less than a single digit between them, and so the IACLALS committee decided (as had been done once before) to award two prizes instead of one. The CDN Prize winners for 2012 are Debaditya Bhattacharya and Meera B – our warmest congratulations to them on behalf of all members of IACLALS.

After lunch, once the prize-winners had been announced and the certificates and cheques awarded, the participants remained in the auditorium for an afternoon plenary session at which Professors Paul Sharrad (University of Woolangong) and Joel Kuortti (University of Turku) presented papers on literary and performative histories in as diverse and yet postcolonially-connected locations as Australia and India. The last session of the day then split again into five parallel sessions. At the end of the second day, students and guest faculty of the Performing Arts cell of the CUJ put up a delightful show of music and dance which provided a chance for everyone to unwind and enjoy themselves thoroughly.

The reward for the taxing number of parallel sessions was offered by our hosts in the first half of the third and final day of the conference, when a bus trip into the city of Ranchi gave many first-time visitors to the state a glimpse of some of its capital sights, the Rock Garden, the Tribal Museum and the house on Tagore Hill that the poet’s brother built. The half-day outing on a warm February morning provided a welcome airing of intellectually-over-exercised brains for most! After a late and hurried lunch back at the CUJ campus, those brains had to school themselves into discipline for the last session of parallel panels, before convening for the last time in the bright and spacious auditorium for a memorable valedictory session. The hosts felicitated members of the IACLALS executive committee at the start of the valedictory, after which Professor Harish Trivedi conducted the proceedings that included impromptu reflections on the conference from a number of participants, a warm vote of thanks from Dr Rina Ramdev to all those who had made the conference of 2012 a success, and finally the handing out of the certificates of participation. The show ended with protracted rounds of photography, a testament in itself perhaps to a stimulating conference experience.

**Brinda Bose**

Secretary

IACLALS

**IACLALS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**ON**

***TEXT, CULTURE AND PERFORMANCE:POSTCOLONIAL ISSUES***

**2nd to 4th February, 2012**

**Venue: Central University Jharkhand**

**PROGRAMME**

**Organized by**

**Indian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (IACLALS)**

**in collaboration with**

**Centre for English Language**

**Central University Jharkhand**

**Day 1: 02 February 2012**

**10:00 am – 11:30 am**: *Inaugural Session*

10:00 am: Arrival of Chief Guest

10:05 am: Lighting of Lamp

10:10 am: Welcome Song

10:15 am: Welcome Address- Prof B. P. Sinha

10: 20 am: Introductory Remarks - Prof Harish Trivedi

10:30 am: Address by Vice-Chancellor (Acting), RU – Prof V. P. Sharan

10:40 am: Address by Vice-Chancellor, CUJ

10:50 am: Address by His Excellency, Dr, Syed Ahmed, Governor of Jharkhand

Vote of Thanks – Dr. Shyam Narain

**11:30 am -11:45 am**: Tea

**11:45 am – 12:30 pm:** Keynote Address

Chair: Subhendu Mund

Keynote Address: Prof Alok Bhalla, 'The Crisis in Ayodhya: A Reading of one Miniature Painting from the Chamba *Ramayana* Folio'

**12: 30 pm – 2:00 pm:**

Parallel Session 1A:

Chair: Brinda Bose

Taposhree Taraphdar, Sudhin N Ghose (1899-1955): Situating the Glocalized World in *And Gazelle’s Leaping*

Somjyoti Mirdha, Colonial Version and Post-colonial Revisions: A Study of *Prince of Destiny and Hindupore*

N.K. Rajlakshmi, Exploring the past – (Re)forming the Present- A Brief Survey of Amitav Ghosh’s Novels

Parallel Session 1B:

Chair: Bonani Chatterjee

Deblina Sarkar, Negotiating A Post-Colonial Space: A Study of the Novels of Arun Joshi

Pragya Shukla, Magic Realism in *The Mistress of Spices*

Afrinul Haque Khan, Cultural Disintegration, Alienation and Search for an Authentic Selfhood in the Novels of V. S. Naipaul

Parallel Session 1C:

Chair: S.M.P.N.Singh Shahi

Sandeep Yadav and Soma Das, Sophistry of Negotiations: Nissim Ezekiel’s “Background,Casually”

Bharti Arora, Refusing the Tyranny of Categories: Protean Myths in Suniti Namjoshi’s*Feminist Fables*

Mamta Kerketta, Narratives of Resistance: A Critical Study of the novels of Shashi Deshpande

Parallel Session 1D:

Chair: P. K. David

Kiran Mishra, Jasvinder  Sanghera’s *Shame Travels*-A Post- Colonial Purview

Anavisha Banerjee, Purity, Hybridity and Cultural Translation in Bharati Mukherjee’s novels

Debabrata Adhikary, The Act of Cultural Translation: The Issues Concerned

Parallel Session 1E:

Chair: Rina Ramdev

Farah Ishtayaque, Nervous Conditions-Restructuring and Consolidating Indian Theatre: A Study of Karnad’s *Tughlaq* and *Hayavadana*

Shubhankar Roy, Badal Sircar’s *Evam* *Indrajit* and Girish Karnad’s *Tughlaq:* A Study in Contemporaneity

Kumari Priti, *Goa*: A Negotiation between Colonialism and Postcolonialism

Parallel Session 1F:

Chair: Simran Chadha

Khushwant Kaur, Richness of India: The Indian English Drama

Sukla Basu, Translating the Other: August Wilson’s *Fences* as Mukhopadhyay’s *Bera*translated for the Bengali Middle Class Intelligentsia

Rajiv K Mallik, *One Day In Ashadha*: Performance of a Common Man

**2:00 pm – 2:45 pm:** Lunch

**2:45 pm - 4:15pm**

Parallel Session 2A

Chair: Anna Maria Reimer

Anshu Kujjar, Memories as Re-defining Future: Reminiscing the Past in Esther David’s *Book of Esther* and *Book of Rachel*

Ludmilla Volna, Diaspora Home, Sweet Home:  Aspects of Cultural Performative Expressions in Josef Urban's *Habermann's Mill* and Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakistan*

Kavita Arya, Technology: Transforming the Text and Context

Parallel Session 2B:

Chair: Sandhya Devesan Nambiar

Saptarshi Chaudhary, Bibhutibhushan Bandopadhyay’s *Aronyok*: Bhadralok Emotionology at its Limits

Naveen Kumar, Textuality of Diaspora: A Study of *Baumgartner’s* *Bombay* and *Journey to Ithaca*

Subrata K. Das, Identity, Diaspora, Hybridity

Parallel Session 2C:

Chair: Shreya Bhattacharji

P. Muralidhar Sharma, The 'Dancing-Girl' as an 'Artist': A Study of R.K.Narayan's *The Guide*

Smita Jha, Bapsi Sidhwa’s *Ice - Candy Man*: A Postcolonial Perspective

K.K. Bhatt, Colonial Texts, Postcolonial Transformations

Parallel Session 2D:

Chair: A. K. Sharma

Sapna Dudeja, Spivak’s Politics of Translation: An Assessment

Mala Sharma, Meera Mahadevan's Views on Post Colonialism

Kumar Sanjay, Soft Skills in India - Postcolonial Perspective

Parallel Session 2E:

Chair: Nishat Haidar

Abani Doley, Cultural Translation and Identity Movement: A Case of the Missing Speaking Tribes of the North-East India

Rabindranath Sarma, Oral-Written Continuum in North-East India

Parallel Sessions 2F:

Chair: Lily Kawa

Dipannita Dey and Priyanka Tripathi, The Concept of Self in the Politics of Postcolonial: An Analysis of Aparna Sen’s *Iti Mrinalini*

Nipun Kalia, Decentralizing The Male Gaze: The Cult of The Feminine in The Films of Catherine Breillat

Bedatri Datta Choudhury, Women Living the Birth and the Passing Away of Nations: the Cases of Radha in *Mother India* and Violet Stoneham in *36 Chowringhee Lane*

**4:15 pm – 4:30 pm:** Tea

**4:30 pm – 6:00 pm:**

Parallel Session 3A:

Chair: K. K. Bhatt

Shyam Babu, Politics of Resistance in Habib Tanvir’s Theatre

Shruti Das, Past Significance and Present Meaning in Fakir Mohan Senapati’s *Rebati*

Parallel Session 3B:

Chair: Sukla Basu

Manish Dayal, Post-Colonial Issues in Asif Currimbhay’s Plays: An Analytical Study

Hiya Chatterjee and Shayeari Dutta, Text, Culture and Performance: Postcolonial Issues

Shukla Chatterji, Theatre as a Space for Rethinking Caste and Gender: Vijay Tendulkar’s*Kanyadaan* in translation

Parallel Session 3C:

Chair: Joel Kuortti

Anugamini Rai, Postcolonial  Perspective of Walcott’s Poetry

Hemanga Dutta, Transcreation, Cultural Barriers and Sapir Whorfian Paradigms: Evidence from Indian Languages

Sneh Prabha Mahto, Gender Discrimination against Women in Indian Fiction

Parallel Session 3D:

Chair: Ludmilla Volna

Sachidanand Jha, Narrating the Nation in a Postcolonial text

Sheikh Mehdi, In Search of Postcolonial Theory in the New World Order

Subhendu Mund, Post-postcolonial Anxieties, Anxieties of Post-postcoloniality

Parallel Session 3E:

Chair: Paul Sharrad

Paromita Bose, Writing Self, Performing Self

Rajarshi Mitra, Towards Ecological Indianness: Salim Ali’s Autobiography and the Evolution of Green Citizenship in Twentieth Century India

Vinay Bharat, The Cultural Piracy: A Postcolonial Issue

Parallel Session 3F:

Chair: Ivy Hansdak

Smita Jha, Reading of the Text and Indian Poetics

Rajesh Kumar, Nature as Text: Postcolonial Subjection

Vineeta Dowerah, Nature and Native Imagery in the Poetry of Mamang Dai: A Critical Analysis

**6:00 pm – 6:45 pm**:

 **Plenary**

Chair: Harish Trivedi

Award of the Meenakshi Mukherjee Memorial Prize, and a presentation by the winner, Prof Makarand Paranjape.

**7:00 pm – 9:10 pm:** Film show – *Aakrant*

**Day 2: 03 February 2012**

**10:00 am – 11:30 am:**

Parallel Session 4A:

Chair: Rina Ramdev

Sandhya D. Nambiar, Acting like Gods: Tracing Narratives of Identity on the Ritual Body

Vipin K. Kadavath, KPAC and the Envisioning of Democracy in Kerala

Sayantan Mondal, Text, Culture and Performance

Parallel Session 4B:

Chair: GJV Prasad

Farha Noor, Performing The Working Wife and The Waiting Wife -*Chand Roz Aur Meri Jaan*.

Preeti Singh, Nina Paley’s *Sita Sings The Blues*: Culture, Feminism And Postcolonial Blues

Swetha Antony, Locating the Selves: A Postcolonial Reading of Contemporary Indian English Poetry by Women

Parallel Session 4C:

Chair: Brinda Bose

Hariom Singh, Re-negotiating Gendered Spaces: A Study of *Ladies Coupe* and *In theCountry of Deceit*

Bonani Chatterjee, Feminist Consciousness in Mahasweta Debi’s *Hazar Churashir Ma* and*Rudaali*: Text, Form and Performance

Amit Kr. Dubey, Portrayal of Colonial Presence: Words, Sounds, Images of Repression in*Water*

Parallel Session 4D:

Chair: A.K. Sharma

Shreya Bhattacharji, Blurred Overlaps and Fading Margins: The Osmotic Relationship between “Text” and “Culture” in Karen King-Aribisala’s *The Hangman's Game*

Pragyan Paramita Mandal, Performing Maternity: Globalization, Surrogacy and the Indian Matrix

Seema Prasad, Subalternity As A Gender Affirmation

Parallel Session 4E:

Chair: Subhendu Mund

Bindu Singh, Unequal Love and Friendship: The Trauma of Subalterns

Vivek Singh, Disability and The Question of identity: Reconstructing Normalcy

Simran Chadha, Identities in Resistance