

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

About the Guest Editor

Arunima Ray is the Guest Editor of this Special Issue on Indian Writing in English. She teaches English at Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi. Her special areas of interest are Postcolonial Studies, Feminist Studies, Dalit Literature, Indian Writing in English, and so on. She has widely published in these areas, presented papers in national and international seminars and is working on several ongoing projects at present.

About the Authors

Abantika Devray completed her M.A and M.Phil in English from Jadavpur University, Kolkata and is currently pursuing PhD at the Department of English, Assam University, Silchar, on the representation of nationalism and conflict in contemporary works of fiction in Assam. She also teaches English on part-time basis at Scottish Church College, Kolkata.

Amrita Chakraborti is engaged in working on her Ph.D thesis at the Department of English, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. Her areas of interest are Virginia Woolf, sapphic modernities, feminism, and queer studies.

Anil Kumar Aneja is a Professor at the Department of English, University of Delhi. His areas of interest are Disability Studies with particular reference to literature and cinema, Indian Writing in English and Human Rights Literature.

Anjana Neira Dev is Associate Professor of English at Gargi College, University of Delhi. Her research interests include Indian Writing in English, Popular Literature (Detective Fiction), Women's Writing, Creative Writing, and English for Special Purposes. She has published extensively in national and international journals and contributed articles to books in these areas. Her published books include four textbooks commissioned by the University of Delhi: an edited bilingual anthology on *Indian Literature: An Introduction* (2005), *Business English* (2008), *Creative Writing: A Beginner's Manual* (2009), and an edited *Anthology of Indian English Poetry and Short Stories* (2014). Anjana did her MPhil from the University of Cambridge and her PhD in Indian English Poetry from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Delhi. Her PhD dissertation titled *Nations Within and Without: A Study of Seven Post Independence Indian English Poets*, has since been published (2012). She has also co-authored a book on *Technical Writing and Communication: Theory and Practice* (2012), and edited *A Handbook for Academic Writing and Composition* (2014) and most recently, *A Critical Reader for Literary Theory* (2017). In January 2017 she was awarded a Major Grant in Aid for a project on "The Ganga in Indian Literature and Folklore" by the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR).

Anne Jones is a graduate student doing an M.A. in English and a Research Assistant at Villanova University, Pennsylvania, USA. Her essay "Tracing the Missing Letter: Reassembling Nonhuman Agency in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*" was published in the peer-reviewed journal, *Concept*. She was also recently awarded Villanova's \$3000 Summer Research Grant to explore how the spinning wheel, galvanized by Gandhi's

Hind Swaraj, functioned as a social actor that played a crucial role in unraveling the imperial network, and she was invited to present her findings at Villanova's Graduate Research Symposium earlier this year.

Arti Minocha is currently an Associate Professor at the Department of English, Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University. She has taught various courses in Indian Literature, Modern British Literature, World Literatures, and Women's Writing. Her doctoral project on gender and print cultures of colonial Punjab sought to re-inscribe women into histories of print and literary cultures and language debates in nineteenth century Punjab. She has worked extensively on archival collections housed in India and the United Kingdom, some of which she is currently translating. She has published in the areas of Indian Theatre, Print Culture Studies, and Gendered Histories of Colonial Punjab.

Benil Biswas is a performer, scholar and cultural commentator. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor, School of Cultural and Creative Expressions, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Delhi. He is trained in Theatre and Performance Studies at the School of Arts and Aesthetics (SAA), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. His research interest includes performance theory, aesthetics from minoritarian perspective, specially caste. His Ph.D thesis is "Towards an Alternative Aesthetics in Performative Traditions of the Namasudra." Recently, in 2016, he attended the Mellon School of Theater and Performance Research, Harvard University, Massachusetts, USA.

Arpita Sardar is a Ph.D. research scholar at the Jadavpur University, Kolkata Department of English. She has qualified UGC NET-JRF in English. She has done her Master's degree from Calcutta University, Department of English. Her areas of interest are Postmodern British Literature, Postcolonial Literature, Gender Studies, American Literature, and Australian Aboriginal Literature. She has publications in literary journals on the area of postcolonial Literature. She is currently working on the novels of Githa Hariharan.

Beerendra Pandey is a Fulbright PhD and MA in English from State University of New York (SUNY), USA. He works as Professor at the Department of English, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu. He specializes in Modern and Contemporary South Asian literature, partition studies, cultural studies, trauma studies, and human-animal studies. In recent years, he has directed his critical attention towards his native Maithili life and letters. For his critical writings on Maithili art, literature and culture, the President of Nepal conferred on him the prestigious Vidyapati Award in 2017.

Jasbir Jain is Director of the Institute for Research in Interdisciplinary Studies (IRIS), Jaipur. Formerly of the University of Rajasthan, she has headed the Department of English and has worked in various capacities including the directorship of the Academic Staff College. Amongst her recent publications are *Indigenous Roots of Feminism* (2011), *Theorising Resistance* (2012), *The Diaspora Writes Home* (2015), *Forgiveness: Between Memory and History* (2016), *Subcontinental Histories: Literary Reflections on the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (2018) and *Interpreting Cinema: Adaptations, Intertextualities, Art Movements* (2020). Currently she is working on Multiple Modernisms.

Muhammad Manzur Alam is a Ph.D. candidate in English at West Virginia University, USA and is also an Assistant Professor (on leave) at East West University, Bangladesh. His research focuses on exploring issues of political ecology in South Asian novels. He has made conference presentations and publications on areas such as South Asian literature, political discourses, ecocriticism, and the Indo-Caribbean writer V.S. Naipaul.

Musarrat Shameem is an Associate Professor of English at Jagannath University, Dhaka. She completed her Honours and Master's in English Literature from the department of

English, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2000 and 2002 respectively. She had been teaching in different private universities in Dhaka before joining Jagannath University, a public university in 2010. She is now teaching there as a full time faculty member. She completed her doctoral research on Bharati Mukherjee, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni and Jhumpa Lahiri under the supervision of Fakrul Alam, PhD, UGC Professor, Department of English, University of Dhaka. The title of her doctoral dissertation is *Plurality Redefined: The Emergence of the New Woman in Mukherjee, Divakaruni, and Lahiri*.

Nupur Chawla is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Maitreyi College, Delhi University. Her research focuses on literary representations of conflict in Nagaland and their contention against coercive forces, stereotypes and misconceptions surrounding the region. She has presented papers in both national and international conferences and have also published a few of them in research journals. Additionally, she has authored resource material on Twentieth Century American poetry, for students of English Literature, at IGNOU, Delhi. Her association with The Consortium of Educational Communication, (CEC-UGC), Delhi, has involved recording lectures on various topics pertaining to English Literature. In her teaching tenure so far, she has taught papers on world Literatures, Indian Writing in English, Literature of Diaspora and Literature and Cinema. She completed BA (H) English and MA English from Delhi University and M. Phil from the Department of English, Jamia Milia Islamia, Delhi. Her M.Phil dissertation is titled "Politics and Aesthetic of Conflict in the Literary Space: A Study of Temsula Ao's Short Fiction".

Poonam Sharma pursued BA and MA in English Literature from Gargi College, University of Delhi. She did an MPhil in Modern South Asian Studies from the University of Cambridge and was awarded a Commonwealth Shared Scholarship for her course. Her MPhil dissertation focused on the Indian English novels after economic liberalization in India. Her fields of interest include postcolonialism and globalisation, Indian English fiction, Comparative Indian literature, Translation studies, Hindi novel and modern poetry. She is currently teaching as an Assistant Professor at the department of English, Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi.

Pramila Venkateswaran, poet laureate of Suffolk County, Long Island (2013-15) and co-director of Matwaala: South Asian Diaspora Poetry Festival, is the author of *Thirtha* (Yuganta Press, 2002) *Behind Dark Waters* (Plain View Press, 2008), *Draw Me Inmost* (Stockport Flats, 2009), *Trace* (Finishing Line Press, 2011), *Thirteen Days to Let Go* (Aldrich Press, 2015), *Slow Ripening* (Local Gems, 2016), and *The Singer of Alleppey* (Shanti Arts, 2018). She has performed the poetry internationally, including at the Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival and the Festival Internacional De Poesia De Granada. An award winning poet, she teaches English and Women's Studies at Nassau Community College, New York. Author of numerous essays on poetics as well as creative non-fiction, she is also the 2011 Walt Whitman Birthplace Association Long Island Poet of the Year. She is a founding member of Women Included, a transnational feminist association.

Pujarinee Mitra has graduated with an MA in English from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in Spring 2020. Her thesis was on the use of personal documents by three women characters in Arundhati Roy's *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* to record affects and function as a tool of anti-fascist resistance. A section of this thesis has been published in this issue. The questions that inform her research are: What is the function of affect within anti-fascist feminist resistance in India? How is this function represented in Anglophone literature from India and Bollywood films? She has presented in

conferences like the MLA, MMLA, Annual Conference of South Asia, Madison, and NeMLA. She has recently published an article, "The Vande Bharat Scam: Women, Social Standing, and Evacuation Flights to India under Covid-19" in *Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics*, Vol. 44, Issue 1, Spring 2021. Her areas of interest include Contemporary South Asian Literature, Gender and Sexuality, Anti-fascism in South Asia, Affect Theory, and Postcolonial Literature.

Raj Kumar is Professor and Head in the Department of English, Delhi University. His research areas include autobiographical studies, Dalit literature, Indian writing in English, Odia literature and post-colonial studies. He has been a Fellow at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla in 1999 and has published in several journals such as *Social Action*, *Sateertha Bulletin*, *The Fourth World*, *Creative Forum*, etc. He has also translated literary texts from Indian languages, especially Odia into English. His book, *Dalit Personal Narratives: Reading Caste, Nation and Identity* has been published by Orient BlackSwan, New Delhi in 2010 and got reprinted in 2011, 2015 and 2017. His English translation of Akhila Naik's *Bheda*, the first Odia Dalit novel is published by Oxford University Press, Delhi in 2017. His book *Dalit Literature and Criticism* is published by Orient BlackSwan, New Delhi in 2019.

Rita Joshi is an Associate Professor of English at Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University. Her PhD. is on D. H. Lawrence. Her papers on D.H. Lawrence and Indian Fiction in English have been published in journals and edited volumes in India and also in the US.

Sabreen Ahmed has received her PhD from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi in Feb 2013. Her thesis is entitled "Muffled Voices: The Zenana in the Fiction of Muslim Women Writers from South Asia." Her area of interest is Gender studies, South Asian English Writing and Contemporary Theory. She has published an anthology of poems entitled *Soliloquies* (2016) and has also edited a UGC Sponsored National Seminar Proceeding captioned *Indian Fiction in English and the Northeast* (2016). Currently she teaches in the Dept of English, Nowgong College, Nagaon, Assam. Her forthcoming book is *Interface: Language, Ecology and Gender in North East India*.

Soumyadeep Neogi is currently an Assistant Professor at the Department of English, Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi. After completing his M.Phil from the University of Calcutta, he became engaged as a Senior Research Fellow at the Department of English, University of Delhi, where he is presently pursuing his Ph.D. His broader research interests include Partition and South Asian Cultural Studies.

Swagata Bhattacharya is a Postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University. Her doctoral thesis was on the representation of female characters by women writers of Indian origin in Canada. She is the author of the book *Diasporic Interventions: A Study on Select Women Writers of Indian Diaspora in Canada* (2016).

Usha Akella has authored six books that include poetry and musical dramas. Her newest book, *I will not bear you sons* is published by Spinifex Press, Australia in 2021. She earned an MSt in Creative Writing from the University of Cambridge, UK. She is the founder of Matwaala, first South Asian Diaspora Poets Festival in the US (www.matwaala.com) and hosts interviews and conversations.

Watitula Longkumer is an Assistant Professor of English at IITRAM Ahmedabad. Her teaching and research interests include Indigenous literatures, Indigenous theory, North-East India Literature, Contemporary Indigenous Feminisms and related Indigenous women's history and literature, The Literary and the Digital Humanities.