

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR COMMONWEALTH LITERATURE & LANGUAGE STUDIES

in collaboration with

**JANKI DEVI MEMORIAL COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF
DELHI**

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2021 (Online)

MARCH 18-20, 2021

Keynote Address: MARCH 17, 2021

UTOPIAS AND DYSTOPIAS IN OUR TIMES

Programme Schedule

Zoom Meeting ID: 965 6011 0874

Passcode: ICLALS

Facebook Live at *IACLALS* Official Page



IACLALS 2021

Contact: iaclals.2021conference@gmail.com

Day 1: 17th March 2021

5:30pm-7:30pm, IST: Inaugural Session and Keynote Address

Chair: Harish Trivedi

Welcome and Login Details: Kalyanee Rajan, Treasurer, IACLALS

Opening Remarks: M. Asaduddin, Chair, IACLALS

Introducing IACLALS: Swati Pal, Vice Chair, IACLALS

Keynote Address: **FRAGMENTED UTOPIAS AND DYSTOPIAS**

Professor SUMAN GUPTA

The Open University, UK

Vote of Thanks -- Albeena Shakil, Secretary, IACLALS

Day 2: 18th March 2021

9:15 am: Welcome and Instructions

9:25am-11:00am, IST: Session 1: The Spectre of Post- and Trans-humanism

Chair: Sachin C. Ketkar

Manish Solanki, 'Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*: Science Fiction and Speculative Discourse'

Monica Zutshi, 'Through a Mirror Darkly: Dystopia as Contemporary Critique of the Economies of Power in Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*'

Indrani Das Gupta, 'Reading Memory and Charting the Horizons of Possibility in Dystopian World of Priya Sarukkai Chabria's Novel *Clone*'

Shrutarsi Das, 'Becoming Animals in Post-Ethical Utopia: Resistant Animals and the City in Nabarun Bhattacharya's 'Lubdhak''

Q & A followed by 10 minutes break

11:00am-12:30pm, IST: Session 2: Ecocide versus Ecotopia

Chair: M. Asim Siddiqui

Mohua Ahiri, 'The Contesting Claims for the Disappearing Land in Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide*'

Pushpa R. Menon, 'Eco(dys)topia in the Sundarbans Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide*, a case in point'

Neenu Kumar, 'Ecological Utopia and the World of Future in *Ecotopia* and *The Oryx and the Crake*'

Numana Ibrahim Bhat, '*Ecotopia* - The Modern Prophecy: Reflections on Select Environmental Narratives'

Q & A followed by 10 minutes break

12:30PM-2:00pm, IST: Panel Discussion

LEILA - AN INDIAN DYSTOPIA?

The Novel and the Web Series

Chair: M. Asaduddin

Prayaag Akbar (Author)

Suhani Kanwar (Screenwriter)

Nishat Haider (Jamia Millia Islamia)

Avishek Parui (IIT Madras)

Q & A followed by 25 minutes lunch break

2:25pm-4:15pm, IST: Session 3: Utopias and Anti-Utopias

Chair: Vibha S. Chauhan

- Kritika Chettri, 'Ernst Bloch and the Utopias of Conflict: A reading of the utopias from the Nepalese Civil War'
- Muhammed Afzal P., 'Of "Failed" Heroes and "Refusal to be Realistic": Melancholy and Utopia in Leftwing Culture in the 1970s'
- Kinshuk Majumdar, 'Morichjhapi Massacre Revisited: Utopia turned into Dystopia in *The Hungry Tide*'
- Kriti Kuthiala Kalia, 'The Dystopic Capitalist "Dreamscape" in Yan Lianke's *The Day the Sun Died*'
- Subhadeep Ray, 'Utopia as the Advent of the New: Peasant Movement and Manik Bandopadhyay's "Conjugal Relations"'

Q & A followed by 10 minutes break

4:15pm-6:20pm, IST: Session 4: Utopias of Indian Modernities

Chair: Subhendu Mund

- Sachin C. Ketkar, 'Precolonial Vernacular Utopia and the Muddle of 'Early Modernity': A study of *Anandwanbhuwan*'
- Asmat Jahan, 'The Utopian Impulse of the Modern Urdu Poets'
- Rajashree Bargohain, 'Nostalgic Utopianism: Lila Gogoi's *Noi Boi Jai*'
- Dhurjjati Sarma, 'A Failed Utopian Dream: Visions of a Commonwealth Desire in Ranju Hazarika's *Eta Dwip Satta Kabar*'
- Kalyanee Rajan, 'Interrogating Mind, Market and Madness in the Dystopic world of Gyan Chaturvedi's *Pagalkhana*'
- Bharti Arora, 'The Utopian Quest of Nehruvian Developmentalism Gone Wrong: A Reading of Alka Saraogi's *Jankidas Tejpal Mansion*'

Q & A followed by 10 minutes break

6.20pm-8:35pm, IST: Session 5: Dystopias of Children and Young Adults

Chair: Angelie Multani

- Sanam Khanna, 'Slave Minds, the Kathputli Coalition, and Agrarian Revolt: The Everyday of Dystopian Delhi in "Almaru"'
- Chaandreyi Mukherjee, 'The Surveillance of Plush Toys: Technological Dystopia in Samanta Schweblin's *Little Eyes*'
- Raj Gaurav Verma, 'Dystopian Lives, Utopian Dreams: Tracing the Paradox of Existence in Indian Children's Literature'
- Kalplata, 'Semiotics of dystopia in *A Series of Unfortunate Events*'
- Zahra Rizvi, 'The 'Affinityscapes' of Young Adult Dystopian Fiction: A Study of *The Hunger Games Series*' Participatory Culture'
- Swatee Sinha & Anjali Gera Roy, 'Salman Rushdie's Dystopic Imaginary in *Shame*'

Q & A

Day 3: 19th March 2021

9:00am-11:05am, IST: Session 6: Rethinking Utopias and Dystopias: Paradise Lost, Science Fiction, Fantasy?

Chair: Somdatta Mandal

- Ratna Raman, 'Doris Lessing's Dystopic Vision: Stretching the boundaries of Humanism and Utopia'
- Layla Mascarenhas, 'Adam and Eve Before and After 'The Fall': Sexual Utopia to Dystopia'
- Neetha Prasad, 'Why Satire?: The Story of Deathlessness'

Yusuf Ayaz, 'Worst Comes to Worst: Fateful Fears via-a-vis Farfetched Fantasies'
Sachida Nand Jha, 'Revisiting *Brave New World*: Rethinking dystopia'
Amarjeet Nayak, 'The past is a palimpsest: South Asian Science Fiction and Its Dialectic Engagement with the Past - A Close Reading of "Sultana's Dream" and "Reunion"'

Q & A followed by 10 minutes break

11:05am-12:30 pm, IST: Session 7: Dystopias in Films and Web Series

Chair: Meenakshi Bharat

Vivek Sachdeva, 'Dystopic Vision and Narrative Space'
Maaz Bin Bilal, 'Ghoul Who? Whither? Occult Symbolism in Patrick Graham's Netflix Series'
Violina Borah, '*Mad Max: Fury Road* to *Furiosa: Feminist Road*'
Ved Prakash, 'Dystopia, Death, and the Question of Survival'

Q & A followed by 10 minutes break

12:30pm-1:45pm, IST: Meenakshi Mukherjee Memorial Prize 2021

Chair: GJV Prasad & Swati Pal

Sagar Taranga Mandal

in conversation on his winning paper

'Pulsing Cities and Seething Interstices: Poetics of Mediation in Graphic Science Fiction'

with

Kalyanee Rajan

Q & A Followed by 25 minutes lunch break

2:10pm-4:00pm, IST: Session 8: The 'topia' in Utopia and Heterotopia

Chair: Priyanka Tripathi

Natasa Thoudam, 'From India's Northeast: Utopia in Dystopia in Mutum Devala's "The Wrong Person"'
Sagar Taranga Mandal, 'Dystopia at Palestine + 100: Speculations about a dissident future'
Shimi Moni Doley, 'Luz in *The Eye of The Heron* and Aunt Lydia in *The Testaments: A Quest Towards a Feminist Ideal*'
Diksha Beniwal, 'Untouchables and the Urban Utopia of a Colonial City'
Sayan Mukherjee, 'Echoes of the Future: Dystopias in the Works of Appupen'

Q & A followed by 10 minutes break

4:00pm-5:50pm, IST: Session 9: Women's IWE and Utopias

Chair: Ranu Uniyal

Priyanka Tripathi, 'Gender Politics, Menstruating Women and Utopian form of Cultural Resistance: Sucharita Dutta Asane's "Cast Out"'
Brati Biswas, 'Sultana's Dream: Towards a Feminist Utopia'
Anavisha Banerjee, 'Colonialism: Feminist Utopia in Rokeya Hossain's Sultana's Dream and beyond'
Antara Chatterjee, 'An Alternative Vision of Science: Intersections of Science, Sustainability and Feminism in Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain's Sultana's Dream'
Shruti Singh, 'Utopia Dystopia and Feminism in *Tamarind Mem* and *My Feudal Lord*'

Q & A followed by 10 minutes break

6:00pm-7:30pm, IST: Special Session: BOOK RELEASE

Chair: Swati Pal

**Books Authored, Edited and Translated
by IACLALS members over the last one year
will be Released**

Day 4: 20th March 2021

9:30am-11:05am, IST: Session 10: Critical Postcolonial Dystopias

Chair: Sukrita Paul Kumar

Shruti Sareen, 'Dystopias of Power and Marginality: Monica Mody's *Kala Pani* and Suniti Namjoshi's *Conversations of Cow*'

Piyush Raval, 'Dystopian Vision of Indian Society in Prayaag Akbar's *Leila*'

Shibangi Dash, 'Dalit Subjectivity in the Dystopic Indian Society: A Study of Few Selected Stories by Urmila Pawar and Baburao Bagul'

Shayeari Dutta, 'Post-Imperial Utopia: Naipaul's Romance of Ruins'

Q & A followed by 10 minutes break

11:05am-1:00pm, IST: C D Narasimhaiah Prize Session (Shortlisted Papers)

Chairs: T Vijaykumar & Fatima Rizvi

Moinak Banerjee, 'Dissent and Death of the Stateless, Homeless and Lawless - Dystopias of Migration in the Oral Narratives of Marichjhapi Massacre'

Ishita Sareen, 'The Self in Disharmony: E(a)ffective Political Dystopias in Hari Kunzru's *Red Pill*'

Jaya Yadav, 'The 'Everyday' of Dystopia: An Analysis of *Munnu: A Boy from Kashmir* and *All Quiet in Vikaspuri*'

Swasti Sharma, 'Dystopian Futurescape: Ecocentric Counterculture in Jayant Narlikar's Oeuvre'

Q & A followed by 35 minutes lunch break

1:35pm-2:00pm, IST: CDN Prize WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT AND Award

***Announcement of CDN Prize winner by the Chair,
IACLALS with JURY MEMBERS***

2:00pm-4:10pm, IST: Session 11: Feminist Utopias and Utopias

Chair: Rukmini Bhaya Nair

Srinjoyee Dutta, 'Remembering/Dismembering: Tenuous Utopian formulations in Nur Nasreen Ibrahim and Mimi Mondal's short stories'

Shraddha A. Singh, 'Capitalocene and Dystopia in Margaret Atwood's *The Heart Goes Last*'

Paromita Bose, 'Gendered Dystopias: Reading Naomi Alderman's *The Power* alongside Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*'

Amina Hussain, 'The Republic of Gilead and the "two legged wombs": Feminist Dystopia in Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*'

Payal Jain, 'Doing Things with Words: Acts of Subversion in *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Vox*'

Roopa Philip, 'Regulated Bodies: An Analysis of Bina Shah's *Before She Sleeps*, Maggie Shen King's *An Excess Male* and Manjula Padmanabhan's *Escape* as "ustopias"

Q & A followed by 10 minutes break

4:10pm-6:15pm, IST: Session 12: Pandemic Woes

Chair: Meenakshi Pawha

Indrajit Mukherjee, "'The Storm is over": Negotiating Darwinism and Post-Apocalyptic Milieu in Jack London's *The Scarlet Plague*'

Sindhu J., 'Chernobyl Prayer as Lived Dystopia: A Signifier for Covid Times?'

Jeyakirthana J., 'Reading *Blindness* in a Pandemic'

Moumita Roy, 'The Dystopian 'Normal': Altered Reality and Traces of Pandemic in Margaret Atwood'

Azhar Uddin Sahaji, 'Antihumanism and Experiencing Dystopia'

Neeru Jaiswal, 'Covid-19 Pandemic: A Dystopian Crisis from the lens of the movie *Wall E*'

Q & A followed by 10 minutes break

6:30pm-7.45pm, IST: Valedictory Address

Chair: Supriya Chaudhuri

Real Life Fiction: Genre and Truth Claims in Popular Call Centre Narratives

Professor ANNA GUTTMANN

Chair ACLALS, Lakehead University, Canada

Conference Report: M. Asaduddin

Vote of Thanks and Certificate Details: Albeena Shakil

PATRONS

Prof. HARISH TRIVEDI

Former Chair, IACLALS, 2005-14

Prof. GJV PRASAD

Former Chair, IACLALS, 2014-20

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