CALL FOR PAPERS

International Seminar on
Gender Issues: Transcending Boundaries of Culture

In contemporary times women are caught in the nexus of patriarchal and religious resurgence and the neo liberal forces of globalization. These structures have devastating impact on the status and well being of women particularly in developing societies. Simon de Beauvoir explains this unequal state of affair between genders as not being predetermined. Sex may be fixed but manufacture of the gender is fluid, as she stated in what became a popular slogan, “one is not born, but rather becomes, a woman”. The upsurge of scholars in the fields of literature and cultural studies have made gender as a primary lens of intellectual enquiry, thus paving way for inter disciplinarily in academic pursuit. Critical studies on gender issues across cultures may provide a better way of framing, enquiring the core issues about ideology, social formation, political movements and shifts in perception of embodiment and community. Literary works on gender aspects are evolving, as the potential to provide a particularly generative sight for new works.

These literary and cultural studies on emerging gender issues responds creatively and dynamically to all the cultural forms from an interdisciplinary approach involving social science, media, gay, lesbian and queer studies. Until recently the focus on the gender issues has enabled creative ways of thinking how the transgendered body is inhabited, the practices that promise to radically destabilize the meaning of the social genders. In this sense gender becomes a genre that implies a set of conditions given by a text. It is contingent not only on the individual text but on the individual reading moment, avoiding recourse to a universal or a prescriptive norm. Literary works and cultural studies on gender aspects of globalization leading to feminization of labor, lone social status of women in the hierarchical social system especially in Indian subcontinent, cultural stereotyping of gender in many corners of the world have documented the productive nature gender variance and its impact upon the way gender issues are understood and lived.

At this backdrop, the conference shall address the endless varieties on gender aspects, to discuss and deliberate literary and analytical works on gender issues across cultures.

- We invite papers that illuminate the vast diversity of global women’s writing, past and present, in all genres and formats (printed text, manuscripts, journalism, screenwriting, graphic novels, songs, music, performance art, artists’ books), of all cultures, regions, and linguistic groups. Papers can also be
relevant to contemporary Aboriginal, minority and/or multilingual writing; They may:

- Comment on the critical reception of Aboriginal, minority and/or multilingual writing;
- Explore the potential for comparative study and analysis through an integrated online history and/or its implications for Commonwealth or Comparative Literature of any nation;
- Pursue both historical specificity and trans-historical connections;
- Consider the plurality of women’s literary histories;
- Examine these histories in relation to various versions of the nation or a transnational perspective;
- Address the practicalities of the marketplace;
- Interrogate distinctions between popular and elite, subversive and insider writing;
- Investigate platforms necessary to make Wikipedia-like resources literary, creative, scholarly and extensible;
- Address the limitations of current available sites (e.g., lone databases) and the potentials of interlinked or integrated knowledge systems;
- Explore modes of circulating, disseminating and expanding an integrated history;
- Offer frames for reading digital works as media systems, social practices, or cultural networks;
- Offer examples of using digital tools to produce new kinds of cultural or historical analysis;
- Illustrate the emergence of new forms of technological infrastructure and media.

**SUBMISSION OF PAPERS**

The Seminar is designed to promote critical debate and invites participation of scholars with Stimulating papers. They would in turn be benefited from the insights of the Resource persons at the Seminar. The Seminar proceedings will, in the end, result in the publication of a book to be edited by the Seminar director. The organizing committee reserves the right to publish the papers submitted at the Seminar. The papers may run into 8-10 pages typed on single side in Times New Roman or Bookman old style font 11 using 1.5 spaces on A4 size sheets.

Delegates are requested to e-mail the abstracts of their papers not exceeding 500 words to the Seminar Director by JUNE 30, 2014. Acceptance of papers will be intimated by July 10, 2014 through E-mail only on this id englishintsem2014@gmail.com

Full length papers must be submitted to the Convener on or before 18th July, 2014. The time available for paper presentation will be 10 - 15 minutes. The papers presented at the seminar must be characterized by original approach and have an awareness of contemporary issues and critical theory.

The Registration fee for the seminar is Rs2000, 200$ (for foreign nationals), this covers seminar kit, abstracts of Seminar papers, and food only. Paucity of funds hampers our spirit to provide accommodation and travel to you. Please bear with us.
Delegates accompanied by spouses/friends have to pay Rs 1800/- as Conference Registration fee. The Registration fee for local participants who do not need breakfast and supper is Rs 1200/-.

The registration fee may be paid by crossed Demand Draft in favour of Mrs. Sathupathi Prasanna Sree (Seminar Director), payable at Andhra Bank, AU Extension, account number 105610100035827 and IFSC code ANDB0001056 and the branch code is 1056, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam 530003, by July 15th, 2014 (strictly).

It may kindly be noted that unless registration fee is paid in advance, it is not possible to include the name of the participants in the programme of the seminar.

Please send two stamp size latest (color) photographs with your abstracts. Accepting or rejecting of papers is at the discretion of the Seminar Director.

**VENUE**

The Seminar will be held in the Department of English, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, AP, and the first University in the country to introduce *Indian Writing in English* as an academic discipline.

Visakhapatnam is well connected by bus/train/plane to all major cities of India. The University campus is situated adjacent to Bay of Bengal and is about five kilometers from Visakhapatnam Railway Station and 20 kilometers from Visakhapatnam Airport.

**WEATHER**

Weather in Visakhapatnam will be pleasant and Nights, however, will be showers and moderate humid. Delegates are requested to bring with them slight silk clothes.

Seminar Dates and important dates to remember

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Seminar is scheduled for</td>
<td><strong>19th and 20th September, 2014</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Last date for registration</td>
<td><strong>15th July, 2014</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Date for submission of abstracts</td>
<td><strong>30th June, 2014</strong></td>
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Full length paper should (compulsorily) be submitted on or before 18th July, 2014.

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Director, International Seminar Department of English, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam – 530 003, Andhra Pradesh, India

Phone Numbers : 0891-2844339, 2700400

® Mobile : 09246628841
REGISTRATION FORM

01) Name:

02) Age:

03) Designation:

04) Institution:

05) Mailing and Email address:

06) Contact phone/Cell number
   (Including area code):

07) Accompanying person(s) if any

08) Whether accommodation is required: YES/NO

09) Title of the paper:

10) Registration fee with details of DD:
   Bank:
   No:
   Date:

11) Date, time & mode of arrival
   Date:
   Place

SIGNATURE OF THE DELEGATE

Please return the completed form along with D.D latest by:
XEROX COPY OF THIS REGISTRATION FORM MAY BE USED (PLEASE FORWARD / CIRCULATE/ THIS INFORMATION AMONG YOUR STAFF AND FRIENDS