

Intersections of Literature and History for Social and Cultural Change

(Coining new ideas – Transcending New Horizons)

COIN 2019

19th & 20th October 2019

Venue:

National Institute of Technology Meghalaya

Bijni Complex, Laitumkhrach,

Shillong – 793003

Meghalaya, India

Organized by

The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

National Institute of Technology Meghalaya

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Call for Abstracts:

“Behind every book is a man; behind the man is the race; and behind the race are the natural and social environments whose influence is unconsciously reflected.” (William. J. Long, *English Literature: Its History and its Significance for the Life of the English Speaking World*, p.2)

It is true that there is essentially a vast difference between Literature and History. While the former is categorized as a sub-discipline in the Faculty of Humanities, the latter falls under the Faculty of Social sciences. In addition, even the objectives of the two set them apart in many respects. History is defined as the study of the past, the basis of which is factual evidence gathered from civilizations, occurrences and events. Literature, on the other hand, studies the written work or literary productions that are born out of the imaginative abilities of literary artists of different time periods.

However, Long’s statement in his effort to define the importance of literature highlights one very important aspect. He identifies that any work of art is simply not a product of the imagination itself but rather the influences of external forces. These forces as he identifies are the environments, both social and natural, from which a writer draws inspiration for a book. The events that take place in these environments provide the literary artist with some form of material to enhance his imaginative faculties and therefore historical events are unconsciously reflected in them. Thus it is only justified that even a creative genius like Shakespeare would find inspiration and a vast supply of material in the history of Ancient Rome and produces such powerful classical tragedies like *Julius Caesar* and *Antony and Cleopatra*. Therefore, despite the differences in the subjects, one cannot really draw a line between the two as History invariably continues to dominate subject matters in Literature through humanity and the latter would cease to exist without History. On the other hand, many historians have been lauded for their abilities to represent well researched and accurate facts of different time periods. However, although they have been praised for their historical representations, they have also been recognised for the literary finesse in representing the same. Therefore, the flipside of the relationship between the two subjects is equally noteworthy. The dynamic representation of historians and the creative finesse of the literary

artiste have often crossed paths and in doing so have mutually enhanced and enriched each other.

The possible outcome of such a relationship cannot be undermined. If History represents society and culture in its truest form and Literature enhances the platform of representation then the connection can also be seen as the best means to also bring about social and cultural change. Dynamic representations would result in the creation of a consciousness among the reading public. While historical facts appeal to the intellect through an understanding of facts, literary representations would create an emotional revolution which would result in an awakening to a need to affect social and cultural change. One can only imagine the kind of impression that Orwell's book *1984* or Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* would create in the mind of a reader who is not only thoroughly entertained and educated but awakened to the historical realities and develops a conscious understanding of the social and cultural milieu and identifies means to promote social and cultural progress. It can only be said then that there is no thin line that demarcates the subjects. They intersect at different points and when they do the relationship becomes significant enough to bring about a difference in the way humanity perceives life itself. The main objective of the conference is also focussed towards an understanding of the above relationship and its positive outcomes.

Interested faculty members and students are invited to take part in discussions surrounding the different points of intersections and their significance. Each presenter will be given about 15 minutes for presentation and discussion. Abstracts should be sent to ilhsc.2019.hs@nitm.ac.in. Abstracts should be of at least 300 and no more than 500 words with 5-6 keywords and should include: title; author(s); affiliations; research aims; key arguments/findings. The submitted abstracts will be scrutinized by a committee of experts. Modifications in the abstracts will not be accepted after the last date of submission. Abstracts on the following themes or any *other related themes* are welcome:

Convergence of Themes and Subject matters in Literature and History

Literature as a Source of History

History as a Source of Literature

Literature for Social Change

History for Social Change

Importance of History in the study of Literature

Importance of Literature in the study of History

Importance of Social Change in the study of literature

Importance of Social Change in the study of History

Oral narratives

Oral History

Reconstructing the Past for the Future

Fact and fiction

Language and Literature

Language and Culture

Language and Society

Language of History

Historical Narratives

Language of Literature

Literature and Culture

History and Culture

Social Change and Culture

Travel Writing

Media Culture
Her Story
Gender Studies

Confirmed Key Speakers and their Topics: (This list will be updated regularly)

1. **Prof. Ahmed Ahsanuzzaman**, English Discipline, Khulna University, Bangladesh
Topic – History Intersects with Literature: The Language Movement of 1952 and the Rise of Bengali Nationalism
2. **Prof. Awadesh Mishra**, Director, English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Shillong Campus
Topic – The Importance of understanding Culture in Language Learning
3. **Prof. Th. Ratankumar Singh**, Director, College Development Council, Manipur University, Canchipur
Topic – Bridging Social and Cultural Differences through Literature
4. **Prof. Simi Malhotra**, Director, Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi
Topic – The Significance of History and Society in Policy Research of the North Eastern Region of India
5. **Prof. Saugata Bhaduri**, Professor, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, JNU, New Delhi
Topic – Relevance of History in the Study of Social and Cultural Change
6. **Prof. Desmond Kharmawphlang**, Professor, North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Mawlai
Topic – The Historical Significance of Khasi Oral Literature
7. **Prof. T. K. Bamon**, Professor, English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Shillong Campus
Topic – English Language and the Making of the Modern Khasi Culture
8. **Prof. Jyotirmoy Prodhani**, Professor, North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Mawlai
Topic – Oral Narratives and their Cultural and Historical Significance
9. **Dr. P. S. Mangang**, Asst. professor, NIT Meghalaya, Shillong
Topic – The Interdisciplinarity in Humanities and Social Sciences

Registration Details:

All co-authors should register as delegates. The registration fee for delegates (Paper Presenters and Listeners) is *Rs. 2,000/- only* (for both foreign and Indian delegates). This includes access to all the sessions of the conference, lunch and refreshments during the conference days, conference kits, abstract booklet and certificates. Registration form and payment detail will be sent at the time of acceptance. Students and scholars who want to participate as *listeners* should send requests to ilhsc.2019.hs@nitm.ac.in by 30th September 2019. No registration will be entertained after the last date of registration. Registration fee once paid will not be refunded. Participants will have to manage their own accommodations. No TA/DA will be provided.

Important Dates:

Dispatch of Conference Flyers, Posters & emails	: 15 th July 2019
Last date for submission of Abstracts	: 15 th September 2019
Notification of Acceptance	: 20 th September 2019
Last date for Registration	: 05 th October 2019
Conference dates	: 19 th & 20 th October 2019

Contact: ilhsc.2019.hs@nitm.ac.in (queries will be responded within 48 hours)