



**Prof. D. K. Rampal Memorial National Seminar
(One Day)**

Organized by

The Department of English, University of Jammu

29th July, 2022

**Texts and Contexts of Identity through Literature and
Language**

Prof. D. K. Rampal Memorial National Seminar (One Day)

on

Texts and Contexts of Identity through Literature and Language

About the City

The seminar would be hosted by the University of Jammu located in the ‘City of Temples’, Jammu. Renowned for its ancient temples and places of pristine natural beauty, Jammu is located at the foothills of the great Himalayas and is the winter capital of the Indian Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Known for its ancient temples, imposing palaces and historically renowned places such as Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Temple, Gauri Kund Temple, Bahu Fort, Amar Mahal, etc., Jammu is the most visited place in the Union Territory. Surinsar lake and Mansar lake are the other natural attractions.

About the University

The University of Jammu accredited as ‘A+’ Grade University by National Assessment and Accreditation Council of India, came into existence in 1969 vide Kashmir & Jammu Universities Act 1969 following bifurcation of the then erstwhile University of Jammu & Kashmir. The University provides learning in all the major disciplines of Art, Commerce, Science & Technology and makes provision for research and advancement and dissemination of knowledge. The University stands for knowledge and virtue in the back drop of the divine peaks of Trikuta Hills.

About the Department

One of the first three departments of the University, the Post Graduate Department of English was established in 1965. Coping with the growing Academic challenges, it has kept pace with the emerging trends in the field of English language and literature. The research activities of the Department in areas like British Literature, American Literature, New English Literatures have been regularly conducted leading to publication in National and International Journals of repute.

About Prof. D. K. Rampal

Prof. D. K. Rampal joined the University of Jammu as one of the founding faculty and rose to be the Head, Department of English in 1987. He was a renowned academician, litterateur and researcher who had an unbound passion for his vocation and his subject. Author of many books on English Literature and Critical Theory, Prof. D. K. Rampal organized a number of seminars and academic discussions on different aspects of literature, thus, giving the University a national and international presence in the academia. During his distinguished career in the University of Jammu, Prof. D. K. Rampal pioneered several research projects and was instrumental in setting up the Centre for New Literatures in the University of which he was the founding director. Many students and scholars nurtured by him are in positions of prominence across the Union Territory, a testimony to his stature as a teacher.

Theme of the Seminar

Texts and Contexts of Identity through Literature and Language

Identity has assumed core significance in the present world order. The current understanding and usage of it oscillates between a parochial, concretized and localized view and a fluid, malleable and globalised view. 'Identity' has always been too elusive to lend itself to any definition. Embedded within the dialectics of continuity and mutability; homogeneity and hybridity, authenticity and fabrication; and, narrated and performed, the conceptualization of identity and the methods for studying its concrete manifestations have been profoundly subjective and more so in literature. Identity with its multifarious ramifications has been a ubiquitous presence in literature. Right from the classical bildungsroman focused on the growth of an identifiable stable self to postmodern texts of fragmented unstable identities, literature has been most responsive to the changing perception of identity. The recent reflections about postmodern self within social theory (Bauman, 2005; Giddens, 1991), feminist theorizing about identity (Butler,1990), social constructionism (Berger and Luckman, 1967; Kroskirty, 2000) identity embedded in social practices (Foucault, 1984) and discursive practices (Fairclough,1989) and symbolic interactionism (Mead,1934) that have influenced identity studies across disciplines have also manifested themselves in the way identity has been presented in literary texts. The interplay of micro and macro identities and different makers of identity like culture, religion, race, nationality, gender and language in literary texts enable a literary coding of identity that problematises any simple or essentialist understanding of the term. It presents identity as a process of negotiation and re-negotiation through various contexts (ideological, political, social or cultural) at various times, thereby, challenging and subverting any claims to an absolute or hegemonic understanding of any personal or collective identity lending itself to the contemporary resistance literature. Thus viewed from a literary lens, identity more than a concept appears to be a process inviting the researchers to unravel it. A concept closely allied to the point of being used as synonym with identity is 'self'. Though critics have deliberated at large both on the similarity and the difference between the two, the theme of the seminar is centered around the concept of 'identity' and hence 'self' may be used only in relation to it by the researchers for the purpose of this seminar.

This seminar invites papers deliberating on the different aspects of identity, identity formation and identity discourse as represented in literature. Since language is a constitutive factor in identity formation, papers exploring the issue from the perspective of language would also be welcome.

Sub-themes

- Identity in discourse studies
- Diasporic identities
- Identity and Gender
- Nationalism and identity
- Identity of the Subaltern
- Language and Identity
- Disability and Identity

Abstracts of about 200-250 words in Times New Roman 12 font and double spaced conforming to the theme are invited from the paper presenters. The abstract should be followed by 6-8 keywords. **The last date for submission of Abstracts is 15 July, 2022** and the acceptance will be notified by 20th July, 2022

Registration Fee: (Including Conference kit and food)

Scholars: Rs. 700/-

Teachers: Rs. 1500/-

The abstracts may be mailed to: memorialseminar2022@gmail.com