



मोतीलाल नेहरू कॉलेज Motilal Nehru College

(दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय)
(University of Delhi)

संदर्भ :

Ref. : MNC/BJM/

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Date :

बेनीतो हुआरेज़ मार्ग
नई दिल्ली-110021

Benito Juarez Marg,
New Delhi-110021

To,

The Teacher In-charge/ HOD

Department of English

Dear Madam/Sir

Sub: Call for papers for Seminar at Motilal Nehru College on 29th March, 2019

The Department of English, Motilal Nehru College, University of Delhi is conducting a one-day Seminar on 'Exploring Contemporary Urban Spaces' on 29th March, 2019. We would like to request you to circulate the information in your department. The last date for receiving abstracts is **7th March, 2019**. Please find the CFP enclosed.

We look forward to an enthusiastic participation.

Sincerely

(Dr. Vandita Gautam)

Convenor, Seminar Committee

Teacher In-charge, Department of English

Call for Papers
Department of English, Motilal Nehru College, University of Delhi
 One-day Seminar
 29th March 2019
 on

Exploring Contemporary Urban Spaces

The contemporary urban space has become a nexus of a way of life that is determined by traits such as modernity, diversity, competitiveness, multifaceted social set up, widespread use of information technology and much more. The complex urban culture is enormously demanding and thrives on the relationship that it establishes with the individuals who become an integral part of this cultural set up and vice versa. An understanding of the urban world, thus, seems to be incomplete without an understanding and analysis of the lives lived within that world. Along with this, the urban space also witnesses an amalgamation of the old and the contemporary that attempts to retain the historic monumental heritage along with offering modern assortments to its visitors. The urban space, therefore, becomes a space that ends up collaborating different structures and concepts such as the historical and the contemporary, the personal and the social, the modern and the post modern, gendered spaces, cyber hubs, millennial workspaces etc. The emergence of multiple spaces within the urban space also hints at Foucault's idea of heterotopia that gives way to many small structures of spaces to flourish within the larger system of urban space. The seminar attempts to explore this space through its representation in multiple disciplines like literature, social sciences etc giving way to a comprehensive multidisciplinary approach.

The seminar opens up the debate surrounding these urban spaces in order to examine the influence of socio-cultural processes that function in the formation of identities thereby (re)imagining the ways in which the city itself is represented. Recent studies explore a wide array of approaches towards conceptualising the city and enabling certain possibilities for thinking about gender and sexuality. The concept of gendered spaces refer not only to the presence or absence, furthermore, it is connected with the use of space, with power relations, and with meaning in order to rekindle a socio-spatial dialectic.

Urban spaces needs to be understood as hybrid spaces resulting from the different modifications they undergo. Social, cultural and historical experiences constitute spaces. Spaces cannot exist in isolation; they are an outcome of difference. One essential aspect of this hybridity is identity of the inhabitants of this space.

In order to define spaces as gendered, the difference between public and private spaces as masculine and feminine, needs to be questioned in cityscapes. The gendered nature of the urban space comes about with the way the public space is used or segregated. Not only the body, but spaces can also be seen as sexed and gendered. Further, in this division of the male and female spaces, where and how do the third/other genders negotiate their own spaces physically as well as psychologically needs to be explored.

Postmodern space is characterised not by a new conception of space, but by a new conception of the way space is filled. Jameson's postmodern hyperspace is distinguished by disorientation of perceptions, preconceived languages and notions of space, thereby disrupting the traditional notions of spatiality. In a way, postmodern architecture emphasizes on the idiosyncrasies of the fragmented identities and the new meanings emerging from the heterogeneity of the context. Postmodern discourse restructures the cognitive underpinnings of geographical space challenging the traditional ontological status of space. Also, the augmented geographical interface of cyberspace evokes a simulation of hyper-reality correlating to hyper-urbanism.

With continual and varying threat to the environment ranging within a web of inter-related issues like Global warming and Green-House gas emission, the buzz word – “Pollution” essentially serves as a whistle-blower to flag the alarming rate of environmental degradation, typically to an urban mind, which is truly an experiential reality rather a mere conventional debate. Therefore, in the urban geographical landscape and mindscape, the efforts to deal with mitigation strategy create a unique niche of eco-urban narrative.

Interestingly, the idea of “Mass” in urban space is rather unique due to its meta-intersection of space and time on the one hand and shrinking and expansion of the urban space on the other. Hence, the mass/class binary ruptures in the psycho-geographic oubliette of urban cosmopolitanism, creating a metamorphosed identity with continual interaction of the past with the new.

Urban design has come to mean more than shaping and aesthetics; it has increasingly become a strategic element in business innovation as well as in a number of societal development processes. Urban design blends landscape architecture and city planning to make urban areas functional and attractive.

Furthermore, the intersection of public art in/and cityscapes brings another aspect to the discourse of space and urbanism. Exhibition of different kinds of art like Graffiti, StickLit, OOH, Billboards etc encapsulates and define the many layers and meanings of the cityspace, which provides an interesting point of intersection between urbanism, art and literature.

As already indicated, papers could include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Exploring Space from Gender Perspective.
2. (Un)Belonging in the Urban Space.
3. Postmodern Spaces.
4. Urban Spaces and Public Art such as Graffiti, StickLit, OOH, Billboards etc.
5. Intersection of Performing Art and cityscapes.
6. Cities and Urban design
7. Technology and the re-defined urban space.
8. Eco-Urban Narratives.

Dates:

Abstract Submission (250-300words): 7th March, 2019.

Intimation of Acceptance: 9th March, 2019.

Full Paper Submission (3000words): 20th March, 2019.

Intimation of Programme Schedule: 24th March, 2019.

Abstracts may be sent to deptofenglish.mlnc@gmail.com

Url: http://mlncdu.ac.in/pdf/CFP_English_Seminar_2019.pdf

Note: No T.A will be provided.

Dr. Munish Tamang
Convenor
Seminar Academic Committee

Dr. Vandita Gautam
Convenor, Seminar Committee
Teacher In-charge, Department of English
Motilal Nehru College, D.U