



## DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN

UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

Thiruvananthapuram

International Interdisciplinary Seminar on

Diaspora, Kultur & Literatur –Indo-  
DeutschesNachdenken

[Diaspora, Culture & Literature - Indo- German Reflections]

12th, 13th, 14th of February 2020

Venue: Senate Chamber, University of Kerala, Palayam,  
Thiruvananthapuram

*Kulturen und Zivilisationen reisen, durch das Überwinden von Nationalitäten und dem gegenseitigen Austausch unter den Menschen der ganzen Welt, außerhalb konkreter und abstrakter Grenzen. Die neoliberale Welt hat sich weitgehend dem mannigfaltigen und multidimensionalen kulturellen Austausch der Weltgesellschaften geöffnet. In der Tat führen die Zivilisationen ihre stille, aber beredte, Reise durch das Engagement der Menschen, durch Kultur, Kunst, Literatur und politische Interaktionen fort. Das lang gepflegte Erbe, des toleranten und gemeinsam/gegenseitig entwickelten kulturellen Habitats Indiens, anerkennend, welches immer einen beruhigenden Austausch mit seinen westlichen Kollegen hat, wird in diesem Zusammenhang sehr geschätzt. Mit diesem internationalen-interdisziplinären Seminar wird ein ehrlicher Versuch unternommen, Indiens Erfahrung kulturellen und literarischen Engagements mit Deutschland, zu präsentieren.*

*Die deutsche Abteilung der Universität von Kerala begrüßt jeden zu dieser großartigen akademischen Diskussionsveranstaltung, bei der Gelehrte aus Indien und Deutschland ihre Vorträge mit einleuchtenden und anschaulichen Sichtweisen und Beispielen erläutern werden.*

Culture and civilizations travel through transcending nationalities, and mutual exchanges between people across the globe beyond concrete and abstract boundaries. The neo-liberal world has extensively opened-up itself to the manifold and multi-dimensional cultural exchanges among the world societies. In fact, civilizations continue their silent but eloquent journeys through the engagement of people, culture, art, literature and political interactions. Recognizing the long cherished heritage of India's tolerant and mutually evolving cultural habitat which always has soothing exchanges with its western counterparts is very much appreciable in this context. An attempt to showcase, India's experience of cultural and literary engagements with Germany is made through this international – interdisciplinary seminar. The Dept. of German, University of Kerala welcomes everyone to this grand event of academic discourse in which scholars from India and Germany will enlighten the sessions with illuminating and illustrious perspectives and reflections.

Etymologically the term 'Diaspora' is derived from the Greek term "diasperien", from "dia-across" and "sperien-to sow or scatter seeds". It is based on Hebrew word of diaspora – 'galnut' , meaning 'exile'. In the beginning the term "diaspora" was used by the ancient Greek to refer to citizens of a grand city who migrated to the conquered land with the purpose of colonization to assimilate the territory into the Empire. The concept 'Diaspora' refers to dispersal of Jews from Palestine throughout the world. Along with physical dispersal of the Jews, the term carries religious, philosophical and eschatological connotations, inasmuch as a special relationship is understood to exist between the land of Israel and Jewish people. The term 'Diaspora' refers to any people of ethnic population forced or induced to leave their traditional ethnic homelands; being dispersed throughout other parts of the world; and the ensuing developments in their dispersal and culture. The original meaning of 'Diaspora' was cut off from the present meaning. Today, 'Diaspora' refers to a range of ethnic communities and a variety of categories of people like – political and war refugees, migrants, ethnic and racial communities, immigrants / expatriates/ transnational communities. According to Steven Vertovec "Diaspora" is the term often used today to describe practically any population which is considered 'deterritorialized' or 'transnational' – that is , which has originated in a land other than which it currently resides, and whose social, economic, and political networks cross the border of the nation-states or, indeed span the globe". Diaspora suggests a dislocation from the nation-state or geographical location of origin and relocation in one or more nation-states, territories or countries. "Diaspora" now speaks to

diverse groups of displaced persons and communities moving across the globe. The term 'diaspora' is often used as a catch-all phrase to speak of and for all movements, however privileged, and for all dislocations, even symbolic ones. This term has been used by anthropologists, literary theorists, cultural critics, sociologists to describe the mass migration and displacements in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> c., particularly with reference to independence movements in formerly colonized areas, waves of refugees fleeing war-torn states and fluxes of economic migration in the post-World-War-era. Diaspora studies have gone through four phases – 1) study of Jewish experience from 1960s and in 1970s 2)1980s and up to mid 1990s, in which diaspora was deployed as 'a metaphoric designation' to describe different categories of people – 'expatriates, expellees, political refugees, alien residents, immigrants and ethnic and racial minorities. 3) from mid 1990, in the post-modern world, when identities have become deterritorialized and constructed and deconstructed in a flexible and situational way. Accordingly the concept of diaspora had to be radically reordered in response to this complexity. 4) since the turn of the century, the phase of consolidation, which has seen the danger of emptying the notion of diaspora of much of its analytical and descriptive power.

The term 'Diaspora' has undergone changes in the meaning, it retains some of the features such as 'homelessness' 'alienation' (temporary) 'rootlessness' and love for the mother country. Salman Rushdie from his personal experience asserts – "Exiles or emigrants or expatriates are haunted by some sense of loss, some urge to reclaim, to look back, even at the risk of being mutated into pillars of salt. If we do look back, we must also do so in the knowledge – which gives rise to profound uncertainties – that our physical alienation from India almost inevitably means that we will not be capable of reclaiming precisely the thing that was lost; that we will in short, create fictions, not actual cities or villages, but invisible ones, imaginary homelands, Indias of the mind".

There are variety of causes of diaspora e.g.- imperialism, colonialism, and its end, business or trade, wars, unemployment, job opportunity, poverty, social, economical and political background of the diasporas, prevalent condition, economical mode of transportation, agencies available who facilitate, 'push' factors and 'pull' factors, economic opportunities, strong desire of intellectual and economic enhancement, IT, globalisation process, and transportation system. Today the world has become 'global-village'. Transnational networks are the pivotal aspects of globalization. Globalization has led to 'time-space compression'. Deterritorialization is one of the central forces of modern world. Diaspora population is deterritorialized and transnational. The Indian diaspora includes millions of

people in Surinam, South Africa, Trinidad, Tobago, Guyana, Jamaica, Mauritius, Fiji, Malaysia and other countries. They left British India in 19<sup>th</sup> c. and early 20<sup>th</sup> c., and millions more have moved to US, UK, Germany, UAE in recent decades. They are identified as NRIs or overseas Indians or expatriates or immigrants. To seek better fortune and economic opportunities, Indians migrated at first to UK but later to North America, especially to USA, Australia and Germany. The Indian diaspora is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest and most spread out in the world. People of Indian diaspora contribute to different fields of their adopted country and homeland. They are in every sphere of human life such as – commerce, industry, fine arts, science, technology, agriculture, politics and literature. There is a notable and sizable Indian diaspora literature in English. The writers of Indian diaspora include Bharati Mukherjee, Kiran Desai, V S Naipaul, Shauna Singh Baldwin, Salman Rushdie, Arvind Adiga, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni etc..

Friedrich max Muller and Hermann Gundert have contributed a lot to connect Indo German cultural interactions by translating Vedas, Upanishads from Sanskrit into German, and publishing the first English-Malayalam Dictionary. Hermann Hesse and Gunter Grass have reflected their views on sub-continent and its vast culture through 'Siddhartha and Die Kopfgeburten oder die Deutschen Sterben aus'. In the end of 1970s Indian people moved to Germany for better profession. Again in 2013 Germany opened the labour market and many nursing communities, IT specialist, Business analysts etc.. are moving to Germany. Recently, Germany received more than one million people from Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and middle east. The migrant writers in German literature like Sasa Stanisic, Alina Bronsky, Feridun Zaimoglu, Rafik Schami, Ilija Trojanow etc have influenced the mass very deeply through immigrant literature . They have reflected the culture and life of their homeland through their writings in German language. Even though they are in the host country (Germany), they have kept always the imageries of homeland. The diaspora is being created through war, terror, globalization, privatization and many other causes. The diaspora is a connecting link between cultures, countries and people. In this international seminar we aim at to discuss the relevance of the diaspora for the creation of the cultural and the literary integration of the global village – in particular in German and Indian context.

## **SUB -THEMES**

- Indian Diaspora in Germany and their influence in Indian society
- Indo – German cultural exchanges
- Migrant literature in contemporary German language and its impact on German society
- Migration and Refugees to Germany and their mutual interactions
  
- Paradigm shift in the perspective On others of German society- the cultural and literary dimensions
- Socio-political impact of migration in the post-war German society
- The relevance of Diaspora in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Indo-German Diaspora and their contributions
- Indo-German writers and their contributions for the cultural integrations
- Diaspora as a connecting link between cultures, countries and people
- The new immigration laws of Germany and its impact on Indian Diaspora in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

*The above sub themes are not exhaustive*

## **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**



**PROF. DR. ANNA BABKA, DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN, UNIVERSITY OF  
VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

### **GUEST OF HONOUR**

PROF. Dr SUNANDA MAHAJAN (RTD)  
DEPT. OF GERMAN  
SAVITRIBAI PHULE PUNE UNIVERSITY  
PUNE

### **VALEDICTORY ADDRESS**

Dr. ROSY SINGH  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
CENTRE OF GERMAN STUDIES  
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### **RESOURCE PERSONS**

DR. PETER CLAR  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
DEPT. OF GERMAN STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA, AUSTRIA

PROF. DR SANTA KUMARI S  
UGC EMIRETUS PROFESSOR (RTD)  
DEPT. OF GERMAN  
UNIVERSITY OF KERALA  
TRIVANDRUM

DR. SREEKANTHAN .S  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR (RTD)  
DEPT. OF GERMAN  
UNIVERSITY OF KERALA  
TRIVANDRUM

PROF. DR. M.K NATARAJAN  
PROF & HEAD, DEPT OF GERMAN  
BHU, BENARES

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

The organizer of the Seminar call upon the professionals, academicians from other social science disciplines, University students, young and upcoming research scholars and social activists to present their research papers relevant to the theme and sub themes.

### **Abstract & Paper Submission**

An abstract not exceeding 250 words shall be submitted in .doc or .docx format for consideration on or before **January 31<sup>st</sup>2020** to **seminardepartmentgerman@gmail.com**. Co-authorship up to 2 persons is permitted.

The abstract shall contain:

- Title of paper
- Brief idea of the paper
- Conclusion indicating author's perspective.
- Key words of the paper

The abstract shall indicate the name, designation, Institution details, e-mail address and Telephone numbers of all contributors. In case of co-authorship, each author will have to register separately in the event of participation in the conference. The full papers shall be submitted on or before **February 5<sup>th</sup> 2020** to **seminardepartmentgerman@gmail.com**

### Guidelines for Submitting Full Paper

- Length of the paper shall be less than 3500 words (including foot notes)
- Format: MS Word, Font Type: Times New Roman, Font Size: 12 Point, Line Spacing: 1.5
- For title of the Paper 14 point capitals may be used
- Name and Designation of the author/authors shall be mentioned below the title of the paper
- Harvard Blue Book Style (19th edition) shall be used for citation
- Revision (if any) suggested by the reviewer of the paper shall be included. Revisions suggested are on the basis of blind peer review
- Duration of the presentation – 15 minutes

Abstracts and full papers mailed to seminardepartmentgerman@gmail.com only be considered.

Status of the acceptance of full papers shall be communicated after blind peer review and plagiarism check. The registration details along with mode of payment shall be informed with communication of acceptance.

Publication of **SELECTED** Edited Articles in ***German Studies in India,***

- The selected full papers shall be published in ***GERMAN STUDIES IN INDIA*** bearing an ISSN number published by Department of German, University of Kerala.
- The full paper, if get selected, to be included in the publication shall be intimated to the author.



## **VENUE**

Seminar venue is **Senate Chamber**, University of Kerala, SH Campus, Palayam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

### CONNECTIVITY

From University of Kerala

#### BY FLIGHT

5 KM to Trivandrum International Airport (TRV)

#### BY TRAIN

3 KM to Thampanoor Central Railway Station, Trivandrum (TVC)

#### BY BUS

3 KM to Thampanoor Central KSRTC Bus Station, Trivandrum

Distance from important tourist places in central Kerala is

Alleppu (Backwater, House boat and Boat Race) 155 km

Thekkady (Hill station, wildlife) 200 km

Munnar [Hill Station, Nilgiri Tahr (an endangered species of wild goats) ] 285 km

Kumarakom (Birds Sanctuary, Backwater, Houseboat) 158 km

Cochin International Airport 235 km

## IMPORTANT DATES & REGISTRATION

### **Important Dates**

Last date for Abstract: **January 31<sup>st</sup> 2020**

Communication of status of Abstract: **February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**

Submission of Full length papers: **February 5<sup>th</sup> 2020**

Submission of revised papers (if needed): **February 8<sup>th</sup> 2020**

Registration: **January 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 – February 5<sup>th</sup> 2020**

Date of Seminar: **12<sup>th</sup>– 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (Three Days)**

### **Registration Fee**

Students & Research Scholar : Rs 100

Teachers & others : Rs 500

Foreign Delegates : Rs 1000

- Direct cash payment shall be done

**CONTACT ADDRESS:**

**ORGANIZING SECRETARY**

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