

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH SEMINAR DETAILS:

2020-2021

EVENT I

- DATE OF LECTURE : 05/10/2020
- Title of special online lecture :REDIFINING CULTURE AND FEMININITY : MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT'S " A VINDICATION OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMAN"
- PLATFORM: ZOOM
- TIME: 5.45 pm
- PARTICIPANTS: 373

An online departmental special lecture titled was held on 05/10/2020. It was conducted by the Department of English Maharani Kasiswari College in collaboration with the college IQAC, the Webinar Committee and Seminar sub-Committee. Dr. Chandrima Karmakar, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Jt. Convenor, Study Circle and Seminar Committee, conducted the session. The Principal, Dr. Sima Chakrabarti gave the introductory lecture as the chief patron of the webinar. The IQAC Convenor, Dr. Tapan Kumar Chand offered his views on the importance of conducting online lectures in times of pandemic as a channel for intellectual stimulation in academia. The topic of the special lecture was chosen to address the existing undergraduate CBCS syllabus followed by the University of Calcutta which has incorporated portions of Wollstonecraft's text. The Resource Person, Professor Sreemati Mukherjee, Department of Performing Arts, Presidency University delivered an extremely insightful lecture on Wollstonecraft's location in the background of the Enlightenment and the French Revolution. Mapping her influences on nineteenth century Bengali women writers, Prof. Mukherjee demonstrated the fact that the work of Kailashbashini Devi and Rokeya Sakhawat Hossein reflect Wollstonecraftian ideas. Her association with supporters of the Revolution, especially Richard Price and Edmund Burke, her challenge to domestic politics received special mention in Dr. Mukherjee's stress on the class and gender content of Wollstonecraft's work. That the text in question was a challenge to existing literature on women's education was highlighted in the lecture. Prof. Mukherjee charted out how *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* went on to become a classic as it questioned ontological categories of understanding gender. The question-answer session conducted by Prof. Moumita Biswas, and Prof. Abu Farah Hoque, both Assistant Professors, Department of provided the necessary impetus to organize more of such lectures. Members of the college faculty, teachers from other colleges participated spontaneously. The Head of the Department, Prof. Rita Chatterjee gave the vote of thanks. The senior most faculty member of the Department, Dr. Sumita Chowdhury constantly offered her valuable advice while preparing for the webinar.

THE COLLEGE UPLOADED THE LECTURE ON YOUTUBE AS WELL. THE LINK TO THE WEBINAR IS GIVEN BELOW.

<https://youtu.be/HHxo4KswjI>.

2020-2021

EVENT II

- DATE : 12/10/20 – 17/10/2020
- PLATFORM: Gmeet
- TITLE OF PROGRAMME: ISMAT CHUGHTAI WEEK : THREE DAYS OF DEPARTMENT WEBINAR
- TIME: 10.30 am
- PARTICIPANTS: 119

Programme schedule:

- 12/10/2022: Students' performance, 'Dastangoi' :-Texts narrated: Gainda and Nanhi ki Naani.
- 13/10/2022: Special lecture by Prof. M. Asaduddin, Dean, Humanities, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.
- 14/10/2022: Faculty presentation (Prof. Rita Chatterjee and Prof. Chandrima Karmakar)
- 15/10/2022 – 16/10/2022: Student Activities (E-poster and pencil sketches)
- Number of Participants: 119.

Commemorating the phenomenal Urdu author Ismat Chughtai (1915-1991) the Department of English in collaboration with the college IQAC presented The Ismat Chughtai Week. The topic of webinar was conceived as well as introduced by Dr. Chandrima Karmakar, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Joint Convenor, Study Circle and Seminar Committee. The Principal delivered her inaugural address on the first day of the session. She elaborated on the role of oral narration in transmission of cultural heritage. Dr. Tapan Kumar Chand, presented his introductory address as IQAC convenor. On the first day students of the fifth semester of the department performed acts of narrating Chughtai's short fictions, *Nanhe-ki- Naani* and *The Mole*. The format of narration was "dastangoi" , a form of thirteenth century oral story-telling where a "dastan" or a tale is verbally transmitted through the act of telling(" goi" - telling). Dipa Kumari Shaw, a fifth semester student introduced the concept and its significance in the telling of Urdu tales by Chughtai. She performed the role of a " dastango" or story teller along with Aanchal Shaw and Aindrila to present a reading of *Nanhe- ki- Naani* . This was followed by a narration of *The Mole* by story-tellers from the fifth semester, Madhurima Mitra, Mouli Chaudhuri and Sayantani Sinha. On the second day, there was a special lecture by Dr. Mohammad Asaduddin an eminent critic, a literary expert on Chughtai, translator and Professor of English, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi. He highlighted the role of Chughtai as a maverick feminist who wrote about social and gender related issues including homoeroticism. Dr. Asaduddin also spoke of the complexities of translating from a source to target text and the change of cultural idiom it involves. He responded to queries of faculty members and students alike. The interactive session was conducted by two students, Dipa Kumari Shaw and Sayantani Sinha. The vote of thanks was given by Prof. Abu Farah Hoque, faculty member, department of English. The third day two faculty members, Prof. Rita Chatterjee and Dr. Chandrima Karmakar presented papers. Prof. Abu Farah Hoque, Assistant Professor, Department of English, coordinated the session. Prof. Chatterjee 's paper was titled "*Dil ki Duniya* : Mapping the Excesses". Dr. Karmakar read a paper titled "Locating the Child Narrator: Contesting 'spaces' in *Lihaaf* ". On the last two days, students posted online posters on the predominant themes Chughtai worked on. They drew portraits of the author and brought the week long celebration to a successful end. Many members of other departments from this college and others participated in the session . Professor Abu Farah Hoque, Assistant Professor, offered the vote of thanks on the first three days of the online event. Dr. Sumita Chowdhury and Prof. Moumita Biswas offered their constant support to the effort.

- Attached below is the link to some clips of the recording.

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1be6W7-fqWz5g4KEg8ocM1japQFCAYcn5/view?usp=drivesdk>
- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZX2PFHD9u6pVVvsSZDljAn8BU218ZKfN_/view?usp=drivesdk

