

How to reach Malda and University of Gour Banga:

Malda is a district town located at the heart of West Bengal and is well connected to the entire India through rail and bus services. The nearest rail station is Malda Town (IRCTC code: MLDT) and N.H. 34 connects it to the northern and the southern parts of Bengal. By road Malda is 326 kilometers away from Kolkata and 253 kilometers away from Siliguri.

The University is situated on N.H. 34 near Rabindra Bhavan. The Central Bus Terminus is adjacent to the University campus. City Buses, Auto/ Toto Rickshaws and Rickshaws on solo and sharing basis are available at reasonable rates throughout the day from the Railway station.

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REGISTRATION FORM **INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON** **EXPLORING TRAUMA:** **INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES** **January 28-29, 2016**

Venue: Department of English
University of Gour Banga,
Malda, West Bengal.

1. **Name:** _____
2. **Designation:** _____
3. **Institutional Affiliation:** _____

4. **Nationality:** _____
5. **Sex:** _____
6. **Title of the Paper:** _____

Seminar Participation Details:
Registration Fees:
(Tick whichever is applicable)

Delegates	: Rs. 1500/-
M. Phil / Ph.D. Scholars	: Rs. 1000/-
Students	: Rs. 500/-

Communication Details of the Delegate:

Address: _____

Telephone/Mobile No: _____
Email ID: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

N.B.: The registration amount has to be paid in cash at the spot registration counter from 9 a.m. on 28.01.2016.

TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON EXPLORING TRAUMA: INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES

January 28-29, 2016



Organized by
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
UNIVERSITY OF GOUR BANGA
MALDA, WEST BENGAL
INDIA – 732 103

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that the Department of English, University of Gour Banga, is organizing an International Seminar on “Exploring Trauma: Interdisciplinary Perspectives” on January 28-29, 2016.

On behalf of the Seminar Organizing Committee, I cordially invite you to participate in the said seminar and share your views on the subject.

With warm regards,

Dr. Amit Bhattacharya

Convener

Seminar Organizing Committee

Department of English

University of Gour Banga

EXPLORING TRAUMA: INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES

Trauma Studies is a unique interdisciplinary platform that has acquired a prominent place in contemporary academic studies in the context of increasing visibility of violence in various spheres of human experience. It addresses socio-political issues of immense practical importance. While on the one hand it has been enriched by inputs from researches in different academic disciplines like history, philosophy, psychology, psychiatry, women -'s studies, ethnic studies, law and literature, it has also been strengthened and updated by sustained movements initiated by activist groups of different hues. Etymologically, ‘trauma’ means physical wounds but it has gradually absorbed the meaning of psychological wounds as well. So Trauma Studies explores comprehensively the ‘worlds of hurt’. Intricately complex nature of traumatic experiences resist simplistic interpretations. Trauma is a “breach in the mind’s experience of time, self, and the world”. ‘Traumatic neurosis’ as a belated experience is vulnerable to ‘repetition compulsion’. This triggers a long, even life-spanning, experience of suffering which requires understanding, care, professional counseling and even medication.

Trauma Studies, as Michael Rothberg asserts, does not begin from “the expansion of Holocaust consciousness or the context of post-Vietnam America” (Preface, *The Future of Trauma Theory*, ed. Gert Buelens et al). Although the above-mentioned historical events, and later the 9/11, foregrounded their widespread impact on individual minds and collective psyche, an exclusive focus on them will create a truncated Western-centric perspective. Trauma as an experience is not confined to a specific time and space. It may be manifest in the sufferings of a mass rape victim like Mukhtar Mai, or in the survivors or dependents of the victims of Tianjin explosions of 2015 in China or in any act of violence that ‘has been or may be again’.

The contemporary postmodern reality that is ever threatened by the AIDS pandemic, the terror alert, war, genocide, human trafficking, environmental degradation and socio-cultural fragmentations of all kinds demand an adequate attention to Trauma Studies and what better field to analyze and assess the role and relevance of trauma than the discursive realms of theory, literature and culture? Since Trauma theories are basically Western-centric in formulations and exemplification -ns, the proposed seminar will try to ‘de-provincialize’ the perspectives; for “trauma study explores the relation of words and wounds. Its main focus is on words that wound, and presumably can be healed, if at all, by further words across the boundaries of time and space”. It seeks to give as much prominence to non-Western discourses, literary and cultural representations, and case studies as to their Western counterparts. It will try to focus on how ‘different fields and methodologies of inquiry’ can help Trauma Studies to develop so that it can ‘address mutations of power and the conditions of life’ which appear most conspicuously in recent times. In short, the purpose of the seminar is to explore ‘trauma’ from new perspectives and with diverse methodologies.

The seminar abstracts may not be limited to the issues specified in the “sub-themes” section. The Review Committee reserves the right to make the final selection.

SUB THEMES:

1. Trauma: Theories and Concepts
2. History and Memory: Communalism, Extremism, Holocaust, Partition, Regionalism, Terrorism
3. Power, Testimonies, and Survivors’ Narratives
4. Women, Domestic Violence, and Rape
5. Marriage, Pregnancy, and Motherhood
6. Gender and Sexuality
7. Identity and Violence: Apartheid, Segregation, Casteism
8. The Environment: Pollution, Global Warming, and the Climate Change
9. Disaster, Disease, and Disability
10. Displacement, Disorientation and Disintegration: Migration, Human Trafficking, Exile
11. Trauma: Rescue, Rehabilitation and Counseling

CALL FOR PAPERS:

Interested participants are to send an abstract within 200 words to amitbhattacharya.in@gmail.com by January 15, 2016. Acceptance of abstracts will be communicated to the participants by January 18, 2016. Full papers, not exceeding 3000 words (excluding notes and references), are to be submitted by January 25, 2016. Full papers with abstracts and short bio-notes of the author(s) should be mailed as a single MS word attachment, font size 12 in Times New Roman with 1.5 line spacing. Participants are requested to adhere strictly to the guidelines provided in the MLA handbook (latest edition). Selected papers will be published in the form of a Book with ISBN.

- On both the seminar days, lunch, refreshment and high tea will be provided to the participants.
- No TA/DA & other allowances will be provided to the participants for attending the seminar.
- The Seminar Organizing Committee is unable to provide accommodation to the outstation participants. However, assistance will be provided to find adequate hotel accommodation on prior request.
- In case of seminar presentation made by joint authors, each of them should get registered separately.