
Forms of Telling
Narrativity, Myth and Literature
&
Calypso: the English Literary Festival



FEBRUARY 26-27, 2021

Department of English, Aryabhata College
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Convenor & Seminar-In-charge

Patron: Prof. Manoj Sinha, Principal

Forms of Telling: Narrativity, Myth & Literature

An International Webinar

Schedule

Day 1: 26th February 2021

2: 50 pm - Welcome Note: Binoy Bhushan Agarwal

2:55 pm - Principal's Address: Prof. Manoj Sinha

3:00 - 4:00 pm - Keynote lecture

Dr Giti Chandra, 'Real Bodies, Unreal Tales: Violence, Agency and Literature

Day 2: 27th February 2021

10:00 -11:30 am

Chair: Dr. B. Mangalam

Dr. Aruni Kashyap 'Skylark Girl: Myth and Orality in Narratives from Northeast'

Mihir Vatsa 'Landscape and Literature: Representing the Chhotanapur Plateau through Poetry'

11:45- 1:15 pm

Chair: Dr. Kamayani Kumar

Vineetha Mokkil 'Writing about the Apocalypse'

Abhija Ghosh 'Retelling in Cinema and Media: Old and New genres'

2:00-3:00 pm

Chair: Dr. Vibhuti Gaur

Dr. Meenakshi F Paul, 'Narrating Folktales: Crafting Retellings'

3:00 pm: Vote of Thanks – Binoy Bhushan Agarwal

The Report

The Department of English at Aryabhata College hosted a two day International Webinar in conjunction with its Annual Department Literary Festival on February 26-27, 2021.

Day 1 saw the kick start of *Calypso* with the Principal's address who declared the departmental literary festival open with his inaugural speech. The faculty members joined in to bolster the enthusiasm of the students and the participants. The event saw huge participation in different games and events despite most of it being in the online mode.

The Day 1 of Calypso also coincided with the first day of the International Webinar on the theme of 'Forms of Telling: Narrativity, Myth and Literature'. The Principal, Prof. Manoj Sinha, graced the occasion with his opening remarks on the relevance of storytelling. It was followed by Dr. Giti Chandra's keynote lecture titled 'Real Bodies, Unreal Tales: Violence, Agency and Literature'. Dr. Giti Chandra is an Iceland based author of *The Book of Guardians* trilogy, and Research Specialist with the Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (under the auspices of UNESCO) in Reykjavik and teaches at the University of Iceland. Her keynote lecture was richly imbued with questions of violence, agency and authorship, and the role and relationship between reality and imagination. Her wide ranging references in her very illuminating talk invited equally engaging questions and response from the participants.

Day 2 of the Webinar witnessed a galaxy of speakers converging vis-a-vis Google Meet to deliver talk on different aspects related to the theme. It began with Aruni Kashyap, the author and the translator whose talk was titled 'Skylark Girl: Myth and Orality in Narratives from Northeast'. Aruni Kashyap is also an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Georgia, Athens. Joining him on the panel dedicated to representation of/from diverse landscape was Mihir Vatsa,

the author of *Painting that Red Circle White*. Mihir spoke on 'Landscape and Literature: Representing the Chhotanagpur Plateau through Poetry'.

The next panel composed of Vineetha Mokkil and Abhija Ghosh very well complemented each other even when they approached the theme from very different standpoints and narrative medium. Vineetha Mokkil, the writer of *A Happy Place and Other Stories* spoke on 'Writing about the Apocalypse', and spoke on the challenges inherent in such forms of writings. Abhija Ghosh, a film scholar from JNU delivered a fascinating talk on 'Retelling in Cinema and Media: Old and New Genres'.

The concluding panel of the second and final day of the Webinar/ *Calypso* had Prof. Meenakshi F Paul, the Principal and Professor of English at the Department of Evening Studies, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, as the Invited Speaker, to reflect on myths and storytelling in general and the Himachali folklore in particular. Prof. Paul held the audience enthralled with her talk titled 'Narrating Folktales: Crafting Retellings'.

Together, the speakers addressed a range of issues and aspects related to the theme of the webinar thereby enriching the audience with their informed understanding of the field. With most of them being practitioners of both creative writings and non-fiction as well, the invited speakers and scholars brought their sharp intellect and brilliant understanding of the craft of storytelling and narrativity to the webinar. They thus rendered the sessions very lively and productive in turn leading to fascinating conversations and thoughtful questions and debates on the theme of the Webinar.

