



SRI GURU NANAK DEV KHALSA COLLEGE

(UNIVERSITY OF DELHI)

DEV NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110 005

Ref. No.: _____

Dated: 02/01/2017

CALL FOR PAPERS

For

UGC SPONSORED Two Day National Seminar, organised by Department of English, Sri Guru Nanak Dev Khalsa College, University of Delhi

on

Trans (gendered) Lives: Praxis of Silence and Exclusion

7-8 February, 2017

CONCEPT NOTE

Over the years, the politics of gender, social and cultural construct has been debated and explored by the scholars all over the world. However, in recent times the dialogue has shifted from the hegemonic role that gender has played in our lives to an establishing of our gender identity, which is different from our assigned sex (biological sex). There is a great academic need to talk about a wide range of gender expressions and identities which goes beyond the conventional notions of gender that divides entire humanity into male-female binary.

For many people transgender is the 'T' in LGBTQ. For others, it is interchangeable with a drag king or queen. Transgender which is usually used for persons whose gender identity or expression of gender is different from their biological sex is a polyseme having multiple meanings. The prefix 'trans' in transgender can mean 'across' or 'to move beyond' the binary framework of male-female gender, stressing, at the same time, upon their internal gender transposition. In the face of an oppressive silencing binary gender paradigm, the transgender finds it extremely difficult to give a voice to his existence and capture his experiences in a language which is caught in the politics of gender. By late 1980's, trans writers started to consider themselves "as a genre-set of embodied texts whose potential for productive disruption...has yet to be explored" (Sandy Stone). So a host of theoretical works followed, which aimed to give a voice to gender-queer identities and stimulate a discussion, drawing on personal experiences, a self-defined account rather than an imposed one. The memoirs and theoretical works by trans writers helped in bringing trans politics, culture and history to a wider audience.

Patrick Califia, writer of the well-known autobiographical book, "Sex changes: The Politics of Transgenderism", raises questions about what transgender exactly is, about gender dysphoria and the existent gender binary. According to him, "The violence, discrimination and hatred heaped upon

differently gendered people is an enormous wrong. This bigotry will stop only when the rest of "us" are able to accept our own gender conflicts and pinpoint our own prejudices about biological sex and social sex roles. Similarly, writers like Viviane K. Namaste, Janice Raymond, Sandy Stone, Henry Rubin and Gayle Salamon, to name a few, have looked into linguistic constraints imposed on transgendered individuals, exploring the relationship between language and transgenderism.

The proposed two day seminar intends to examine the dynamics of gender construction and how, trapped in the social definitions of a male or a female, a transgender moves beyond the given binaries. The purpose of the seminar is to look at the term as it is used in the English speaking western world and in other geographical and linguistic areas and gain a nuanced understanding of the discourses surrounding trans writers. Although the chief concern of the seminar will be to review literature and other cultural practices from the last forty years on transgender, and by those self-identify as transgender yet to lend a wider range to the main theme and make the seminar inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary scholarly contributions from every domain are invited. The innovative and intellectual discussion by scholars of all domains will also help in promoting a high order research in this area.

Broad areas to be covered by the seminar:

- discursive and non-discursive strategies used by trans writers
- Review of Transgender literature
- Discourse on transgender bodies and identities
- Transgender narratives and counter narratives
- Understanding transgender identities and it's overlapping categories of transexual, transvestite, androgyne, cross-dresser, etc.
- Indian and western perspectives on transgender
- Art, literature and films as modes of transgender expressions and resistance

Please mail the abstract and soft copy of the paper by 15 January 2017 to Harpreet Bahri at harpreetbahri@gmail.com

Kindly keep to the following format:

Font size: 12, Font Type: Times New Roman


for Dr. Man Mohan Kaur
Principal

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