



International Conference on

Moving Beyond the Margin: The Politics of Exclusion and Assimilation
15-16 November, 2018

Organised by:
Department of English
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Concept Note:

Moving Beyond the Margin: The Politics of Exclusion and Assimilation

Ruth Johnston in his article “The Concept of the ‘Marginal Man’: A New Approach” (1965) anthologised in the *International Migration Journal* remarks that “In the present context marginality is understood in terms of a cultural conflict experienced by people living in two different cultural milieus. The two cultures in question are usually arranged in hierarchy. One of them carries power and prestige and is usually referred to as the dominant culture. The other is a peripheral culture and is evaluated as being inferior to the first.”

However, one needs to move beyond Johnston’s definition to conceive a broader understanding of the term because Marginality is a complex space to comprehend as it is something within which certain individuals and communities experience drawbacks because of vulnerabilities which may arise from unequal ethnic, cultural, social, political, and economic factors. Therefore, one should have a dialogue around the so called ‘politics of location’. It is important to examine locations with reference to margin and mainstream, one needs to question what makes a margin a

margin. Moreover, one must revise the fixity of locations and this can perhaps be achieved by formulating counter-hegemonic practices.

The feeling of being marginalised leads to a sense of alienation, difficulty in assimilation and eventually into cultural identification. The subalterns become the wandering islands, engulfed in disillusionment and estrangement. To overcome this on-the-hyphens situation, the marginal man either attempts to assimilate with the dominant culture, or reject the main culture, or to remain dormant. However, the problem complicates when there is no major integration but marginalization; when there is no racial challenge, but segregation. The Conference proposes to address those sections of the world that suffer differential treatment on various grounds, and are labelled 'outcastes'.

As human mind is conditioned largely by the dominant culture/voice - patriarchy, religion, society that lay down a clear set of do's and don'ts, - any deviation is termed 'abnormal' behaviour, any transgression is seen as rebellion, to be crushed and put on the periphery. Gramsci's 'subaltern' includes any person belonging to the inferior strata, be it because of class, caste, race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. The twentieth century theories of Post colonialism, Post structuralism, Marxism, Feminism, Subaltern studies, etc. have challenged the centre-margin relationship and have overthrown Eurocentrism hitherto followed. Theories aside, the neo-colonialism proves the extent to which these binaries have penetrated into our psyche. The socio-cultural hegemony is reflected in literary sphere also to further cement the elite-periphery notions in the minds of the people. The social exclusion relegates them on to the fringe, where their voices are choked, and no one speaks about/for them. The paucity of literature by/about them is evidence enough of the sorry state of affairs, despite the high blown theories. Postmodernism has put a question to the 'centre' and cultural studies emphasize the need to research more about the marginal cultures, societies, behaviours to annihilate the stereotyped notions of society and literature.

At present, when the gap is getting wider between the people who belong to the lower strata of the social order and the ones with all the privileges at their door step then it becomes all the more essential to delve further into the discourse of marginality. Can marginal voices be a part of the dominant narrative? Are these voices heard? The aim of the Conference is to deliberate upon these voices and to unearth their stories to let give a space to the unheard melodies. Whether it be the individual's exclusion or any group's, it affects the overall growth of the society – politically, economically, and culturally. The two-day discussions would also look into the lacunae of the theories and their derailment from the original agenda of egalitarianism. The idea is to give space to these peripheral voices to write their rights and to set the wrongs right.

Sub-themes

- Understanding Minority Discourse
- Hatred and Violence

- Home and Exile
- Ethnic Cleansing
- Politics of Assertion and Subversion
- Periphery v/s Centre
- Conflict and Hierarchy
- Questioning Subjugation and (Re)claiming Power
- Politics of Marginalisation
- Politics of Acceptance and Rejection
- Differently-abled community
- Politics of Abuse
- Sexual Minorities
- Indigenous literature/Bhasha literature
- Folk culture/literature
- Politics of Exclusion/Recognition

These sub-themes are meant only as starting points for the interested, and by no means, a delimiting frame of reference. Any scholarly engagement with the field worth exploring at a literary-critical forum is welcomed.

Registration:

Rs. 2500	academician and professional participants who seek accommodation
Rs. 2000	academician and professional participants without accommodation
Rs. 1500	students and Research Scholars with accommodation
Rs. 1000	students and Research Scholars without accommodation
100 USD	Foreign delegates
*Rs. 2500	on-the-spot (without accommodation)

The registration fee includes conference kit, breakfast, working lunch, refreshments, and dinner for 2 days.

Abstracts/ Paper Submission Dates:

Submission of Abstract:	30th September, 2018
Intimation of acceptance:	15th October, 2018
Last date of registration:	20th October, 2018
Submission of full paper:	31st October, 2018

Email: english.curaj2018@gmail.com

Submission Guidelines:

- i. All submissions should contain Title of the paper, Name, Association, Designation, and Email followed by abstract (250-300 words) and 4-5 keywords.
- ii. The full paper is expected to be between 2500-3000 words.
- iii. All the submission should be in word document, font type- Times New Roman, font size-12 point (except title of the paper, which should be in 14 point), line spacing 2, with 1 inch margin on all sides.
- iv. The references should be in the latest MLA 8th edition style sheet.
- v. All the submission/ queries can be communicated to:
english.curaj2018@gmail.com.

For information/ query, contact:

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