

Background to the Conference

Littercrit: An Indian Response to Literature is a refereed academic journal published from Trivandrum from 1975 onwards with circulation in India and abroad. It has contributed substantially to the literary and cultural deliberations across the country since its inception. The 75th issue of the journal is being brought out in June 2013. To commemorate this event, the editorial board of Littercrit proposes to organize a three-day conference.

Theme and Theme-note of the Conference

The theme of the conference is Humour: Texts, Contexts. Humour is a ubiquitous aspect of culture that has been largely neglected in the academic domain, but recently salvaged by Cultural Studies. The conference will highlight the interdisciplinary relevance of humour research, from the perspectives of literary studies, education, psychology, anthropology, sociology, politics, religion, philosophy, business, healthcare, and others. There will be invited lectures on the various facets of humour, its functions and relationships, on humour theories, and how humour varies according to culture, age, gender, purpose and context. Papers and poster presentations will be invited from academics, scholars and students from various universities and departments across the country under the following sub-categories:

About Littercrit

Littercrit, the biannual literary journal, started its journey in 1975, out of the enthusiasm of a young scholar, Dr. P. K. Rajan, with the support of eminent scholar friends like Dr. Ayyappa Paniker, Prof. Kumara Pillai, and Prof. B Hridayakumari. The journey has been long and arduous, but satisfyingly fruitful, and it has now reached a significant milestone, the 75th issue. Littercrit has kept its promise, thanks to the efforts of Dr. P.K. Rajan who nurtured it for long 30 years and nursed it with a care that is inimitable. The verve and enthusiasm he poured into his task has sustained the present team to keep the journal going even years after Dr. Rajan's sad and untimely demise.

Littercrit has attracted scholars from in and out of India and has intervened in the literary debates of contemporary relevance. Many eminent scholars like M. K. Naik, Rajnath, Ayyappa Paniker, C. D. Narasimhaiah, G. N. Devy, Akshay Kumar, Pramod Nayar, E. V. Ramakrishnan, Satchidanandan, writers like Shashi Tharoor, Githa Hariharan, and international theorists like Fredric Jameson and Terry Eagleton have contributed academically to the journal over time.

The release of the 75th issue becomes a point of transition in the history of Littercrit, which has been undergoing transformation both in form and theme over the years. From its initial focus on literary studies it has shifted to the study of culture as a whole and has released special numbers on themes like "Globalisation and Culture." The journal is planning a quantum jump with the publication of the 75th issue both in its content and in its appearance. We warmly welcome the sincere support of all who wish to sustain the journal.



6 - 8 DECEMBER 2013

LITTERCRIT
THREE-DAY
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
ON

HUMOUR: +EX+S, CON+EX+S

1. Types of Humour

Jokes, Practical humour, Physiological humour, Intellectual humour, self-deprecating humour, sarcasm, black humour, carnivalesque laughter, grotesque humour, violent humour, burlesque, buffoonery

2. Humour: Archetypes and Stereotypes

Folklore, the clown, the fool, the trickster, the tragic comedian, the sacred & the profane, intelligence & stupidity, deficiency & disability, obesity, beauty, stereotypes of race, culture, ethnicity, gender, age

3. Humour and Literature

History of humour in literature, oral narratives, aesthetics of humour, genres (Comedy, Satire, Farce, Slapstick, Tragicomedy, Folk humour), realism & fantasy, verbal humour, tropes, classical & romantic humour, Gothic, Absurd, children's literature, utopias & dystopias, parody, gallows humour, language of humour, dialects and registers, iconoclastic literature, in criticism

4. Humour and Culture

Gender and sexuality, age, laughter (in relation to trauma & relief, pleasure, pain, fear), hysteria, therapy, insanity, insult, religion, family, workplace, urban & rural, morality & ethics, multiculturalism, tolerance, class & caste, as a defence strategy

5. Humour in Education

Humour in the classroom, as communication, cognition, as play, in teaching & learning, in curriculum design, in pedagogy, language acquisition, interviews & interpersonal interaction

6. Humour and the Nation

Identity, national character, Indian humour, Western humour, American humour, British humour, nationalism

7. Humour and Power

Oppression, authority, resistance, empowerment, as defence mechanism, subaltern, hierarchy, centre & marginality, Bakhtin, Foucault

8. Comic Subversions

Re-tellings, parodies, translation, adaptation, imitation, centres (heroism, masculinity, morality, intellectualism, sophistication, religion, class, region), reverence & irreverence, rational & irrational, creating humour (workshop)

9. Humour and Politics

Political humour, politics of humour, discourse, terror, humour & hypocrisy, illusion & spectacle, shock, chaos, freedom, management & manipulation, in political communication, rightist and leftist, as defence, political ideologies, corruption, in democracy & totalitarianism

10. Women and Humour Representation, connection & resistance, survival, justice, sexuality, public & private, male vs. female humour, feminism, sexism & abuse, female stereotypes

11. Ethnic Humour

Indigeneity, ethnic neighbours, ethnic minorities

12. Humour in Performance

Dance, music, theatre, visual arts, business, social work, healthcare

13. Humour in Popular Culture

Pop arts, mimicry, mockery, cartoons, comic books, caricatures, violence & savagery, festivals, food, fashion, punk, mass communication, postmodern

14. Humour in the Audio-Visual Media

Advertising, television, radio, news media, entertainment media, worldwide web, Hollywood, Indian cinema, video games, censorship & net neutrality

Call for Papers

Original, unpublished articles and presentations on the themes mentioned above, or on related issues, are invited for presentation in the conference. We only solicit unpublished papers, as we will be publishing a commemorative volume, with ISBN, in connection with the conference. The volume will be released at the inaugural function of the conference.

Last date for the receipt of abstracts : 31 July 2013

Information on the selection of abstracts : 15 August 2013

Payment of Registration fee : 10 September 2013

Last date for the receipt of full papers : 15 October 2013

Registration fees for delegates (INR)

	Without accommodation	With accommodation
Foreign	4000	-
Indian	1500	2000
Students	750	1000

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