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EDITORIAL NOTE

One of the foremost trends noticeable in the contemporary academic scenario has been the tendency to write articles that cover interdisciplinary issues. Interdisciplinary research helps in addressing questions related to societal well-being albeit in the sphere of academic exercises. It helps in addressing the major issues regarding policy making and thereby ensuring sustainable development. Not only are the contents of research taken from disciplines that may belong to diametrically opposite sections being undertaken regularly but also the methodologies that are used no longer relegate themselves to the so - called traditional sectors of inquiry. The researchers do not hesitate to use scientific, quantitative modes of analysis to engage and explore the hidden meanings or directions in a text that structurally belongs to the field that had till now demanded qualitative analyses. What is more important is the fact that academic departments have now come around to accept these transdisciplinary interrogations as "normal". Interestingly it seems that there is a universal scholarly journey that is carrying us back to the days when knowledge was unitary but multilinear- there was no line of demarcation between subjects and academics was a holistic enterprise and yet specializations were valued. However, while undertaking such studies, one must be aware that the proposed field of enquiry should be structured with adequate critical support. It becomes an imperative on the part of the researcher to be consistent with the lines of critical thought that he or she has applied to explore the field of study. The research should in no way appear shallow or cliched. Literature review becomes essential all the more and citations of proper sources tactically protects the research from being marked as either plagiarised or of being considered as of little importance to further studies. The present-day educational policy in India is in favour of erasing the borders between various kinds of knowledge systems as well. Importance is being given to indigenous modes of history, to gender specific courses in academic departments and also to lived experiences to name a few. The role of the teacher is also evolving with the onslaught of information- both real and fabricated- that needs to be streamlined and presented as a coherent unit of study.

Keeping in line with this thought, *Exposure* offers an interdisciplinary space for exploring spaces of enquiry. The articles submitted for this special issue are varied and well researched. Most of them speak about reading as an act of participatory resistance. They are interrogatory in approach and diligently argue in favour of issues that need

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universal attention. The issue has entries from various fields of knowledge-history, political science, literature and sociology. Environmental matters have also been taken up in the context of life and living. The contributions offer valuable insights into areas of research that are extremely relevant and necessary. Mr. Krishna Paul explores the possibility of reading *Shrimad Bhagavad Gita* with the help of the philosophical moorings of Emmanuel Kant. Paul deals with the concept of "niskama karma" and debates if it closely relates to the school of deontological theory or has a teleological end to it. Ms. Srija Dutta has tried to critically situate the role of travel in Indian way of life by undertaking a historical reading of the genesis and development of tourism. The article explores the role of space and place in everyday lives. Ms. Srimoti Ghosh Sanyal analyses the intersection of ecology, gender and caste in the works of Bama, Baby Kamble and Baby Halder. She reads the various ways in which marginalisation of women escalates when caste hierarchy becomes a method of oppression in the social rubric. Ms. Sreeparna Roy discusses peri-urbanisation in the context of the infrastructural expanse of West Bengal. Her work critiques the uneven distribution of developmental exercises and analyses the impact of displacements from natural habitats. It also speaks of a kind of forced transition to an urban way of being and living which is not laterally or uniformly distributed. Dr. Moitree Chakraborty traverses the inward journey of the character of Sita in a rewriting by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. Using the Ericksonian mode of the quest for identity, the article explores how the feminine self of Sita reaches out to Nature in moments of crisis during her time in the jungle. Dr. Tanima Dutta takes up Bengali Popular Culture as her space of research and her paper situates the rock songs of Rupam Islam as spaces of counter culture. Dutta locates alienation, pain and other such angsts of post global Bengali society in the forms and content of Islam's songs thereby reinstating the importance of reading popular culture as socio-philosophical texts. Mr. Ashis Mishra's work on the digitisation of texts highlights a behavioural change in the act of reading itself. He illuminates the lack of attention in the reader who is so conditioned by the devices that the act of deeply engaging with the texts on hand becomes fragmented and distant and which may be remedied through alternative methods of reading in digitised reading environments. Mr. Shib Sankar Chowdhury's article focuses on the politics of representation of the "adivasi" in the sphere of Indian society as presented in Indian English Literature. He engages with the biopolitical machinery employed by the nation state in restricting the articulations of the ethnically marginalized sections and their refusal to perform as mere agencies of pleasure before the power blocs of society.

Dr. Modhura Bandyopadhyay delves into personalised historiographies of the aged, female narrator- a common trope in the writings from the North east and the Eastern Himalayas and relates it to the collective lived experiences of war, alienation and the quest for identity. She collates the gerontological stationing of an individual with the ageing of the tribal society in Nagaland. Mr. Sumit Majumdar comments on the impact of policy making and implementation of the Public Service Acts. He attempts a comparative study of the Rights to Public Services acts of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and West Bengal. He focuses on the fissures of the system such as gaps in communication and inordinate delays in practical applications while highlighting remedial measures. Hence this issue of the journal adumbrates numerous spaces of thought and inquiry and posits the possibility of further inquiries into the issues taken up by the articles.

I am thankful to the editorial board for giving me the opportunity to guest edit this special issue.

Thank you.

With warm regards,

Dr. Sanjukta Chatterjee

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