

**OSMANIA UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
(OUCIS)
Osmania University
Hyderabad, Telangana.**

**INVITES YOU
TO
AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
IN COLLABORATION WITH
“INSPIRARE ARTS FOUNDATION”**

21st, 22nd & 23rd MARCH 2022

**TITLE OF CONFERENCE:
HELTER BY SKELTER: THE IMPACT OF DIASPORA AND
MIGRATION ON GLOBAL LITERATURE AND CULTURE**

**Venue: Conference Hall, Osmania University Center for International
Studies (OUCIS),
Osmania University Campus,
Hyderabad, Telangana State, India
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CALL FOR PAPERS:

Helter by skelter is a plan, is a map. – A diaspora sunders the self, from itself. The love and longing of these partings and withheld arrivals is the original hectic in the blood, the original warmth in the ribs of writing. Compared to this the diaspora of multinational location is a mere crack on the wall hidden by the wall-paper of writing. – A writer of the diaspora bears the burden of two diasporas. It is a burden that shapes the fissure and drives the fuse of ideas, ideas that surface as doubt, critique, longing or a mere wish and are as much internal to the writer as to the exteriority that she has to negotiate.

By focusing on Migration and Diaspora Studies as both the fuse that drives and the bulwark that supports the trajectories of Culture Studies in the new millennium, this conference seeks to be highly interdisciplinary, with issues of the world engaged with from a Global South perspective.

It proposes to be uniquely committed to the belief that knowledge and practice produced by diaspora and migrants' grassroots organisations, activists, practitioners and artists should be intertwined with academic knowledge, and validated as part of a real decolonising effort.

Cultural Studies under the impress of these social and cultural movements has been an innovative interdisciplinary field of research that investigates the ways in which culture creates and transforms individual experiences, everyday life, social relations and power. Keeping in view the broad understanding of culture as a generation of social change as well as a historical mirror, this proposed International Conference shall explore the relations between culture understood as human expressive and symbolic activities, and cultures understood as distinctive ways of life.

What demands attention and shall be the thrust of this conference is how culture constitutes diverse worlds and how it can be mobilized to change those worlds. Combining the strengths of the social sciences and the humanities, we seek to draw on methods and theories from literary studies, history, cinema, art history and topics further afield.

By working across the boundaries among these fields, Inspirare Arts Foundation's proposed International Conference – in collaboration with the Osmania University Centre for International Studies on 21st, 22nd & 23rd of March 2022 (to be conducted on both Online & Offline platforms) – will address new questions being posed by the world and India before our artistic, intellectual and social mores and practices. We shall try to ascertain if Cultural Studies is still equipped to adapt to the realities of a rapidly changing India and a rapidly changing world.

The present state of cultural studies and, more broadly, of the intellectual left, especially in the Anglo-American academy needs fresh impetus as a radically contingent and contextual study of the articulations of lived, discursive, and material contexts. Our Conference proposes an analysis of the contemporary political space as a struggle over modernity. It shall suggest the possibility of multiple ways of being modern as an analytic and imaginative framework.

The interaction between the diaspora and cultural distance is also significant. Diasporas in culturally distant countries appear to be particularly useful in overcoming the travails

of migration. Often interpreted as evidence that culturally distant diasporas are less likely to integrate and maintain closer links with their country of origin, while diasporas from culturally similar countries are more likely to integrate and thus be less useful to potential new migrants, this strand of academic logic shall also be interrogated at this conference.

Challenging the euro-modern fragmentation of the social formation, our conference shall try to discuss the rigorous conceptual and empirical work that cultural studies must do – including rethinking fundamental concepts such as economy, culture, and politics as well as modernity – to reinvent itself as an effective intellectual project. We hope that a vision of a contemporary cultural studies that embraces complexity, rigorous interdisciplinary practice and experimental collaborations in an effort to better explain the present in the service of the imagination and the struggles for social transformation, shall emerge from the conference.

To that end, we invite abstracts (not exceeding 250 words) from scholars in the language, literature and social sciences departments, proposing 15 minute presentations at our conference on the following possible sub-themes.

Some Possible Sub-Themes

Critical and cultural theory

Cultural History

Cultural Studies Pedagogy

Multicultural, intercultural and cross-cultural studies

Relationship between identity, ethnicity and diaspora

Queer Theory

Feminism

Gender, sexuality, and class

Race and racism

Migrant cultural studies

Migration and Reintegration

Homeland, Motherland: Authenticity, Legitimacy and Ideologies of Place

Visual Arts and Contemporary Arts

Film and Theatre in Culture

Art and Modern Life

Consumption and Pop Culture

Media regulation: from censorship to piracy

Consumption and everyday life

Public culture and cultural policy

Popular cultures and genres

About Osmania University:

Osmania University, the beacon light of higher education and a centre of academic excellence, was established in the year 1917. Founded by His Exalted Highness Mir osman Ali Khan, Asaf Jah VII, the Nizam of Hyderabad, it takes pride in being the seventh oldest university in the country, the third oldest in South India and the oldest in the state of Telangana. Osmania University is the largest affiliating University in Asia with around 721 affiliated colleges spread over three districts of Telangana (Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy and Medak) catering to the educational needs of nearly 3.2 lakhs students. It was accredited with a 'FIVE STAR' in 2001; reaccredited with 'A' in 2008; and with 'A+' grade in 2017 by the NAAC. It has been ranked 23rd among Universities in the National Institutional Ranking Framework for 2017. It has figured among the "Top 300 BRICS and Emerging Economics 2017". With a sprawling campus on hundreds of acres towards the east of the historic city of Hyderabad, Osmania University is a multi-faculty and multi-locational university, offering a comprehensive education system with over 66 academic disciplines and 52 departments spread over eight campus colleges, five constituent colleges and five district PG colleges. The university has expanded right from the day of its inception and has contributed to knowledge generation, dissemination in all academic disciplines including science and technology.

About OUCIS:

Osmania University Centre for International Studies (OUCIS) formerly 'OUCIP' Osmania University Centre for International Programs came into existence in September 2006 after the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, handed over the management and administration of the American Studies Research Center (ASRC) to Osmania University. It is housed in the building complex of the ASRC and has inherited its academic and infrastructural strengths. However, OUCIP has broadened its scope and added new fields of study from humanities and social studies to American Studies. OUCIP was thus conceived to complement the special status of the City in which it is located while retaining its strength in the disciplines of American Studies and International Relations acquired over four decades. The Mission of Osmania University Centre for International Programmes is to provide an international face to Osmania University by creating a space for an intellectual engagement with the larger community of scholars, intellectuals within the University, and also the wider community of citizens outside the academia. With the objective of promoting interaction among the university, colleges, research institutions, policy making bodies, business associations from India and abroad the Centre aims to encourage the pursuit of new knowledge and its dissemination, application and use within and outside the academia to reduce human misery and to promote international understanding.

ABOUT INSPIRARE ARTS FOUNDATION:

The inception of a cultural dialogue between sister arts with a focus on weaving connections between nations, beyond borders, through such dialogues, is the prime objective of INSPIRARE ARTS FOUNDATION. From the local to the national to the international, we have harvested the fields of interrelation between art forms.

Our organisation has forged and catalysed deep conversations between intellectual and artistic voices of global provenance from the fields of literature, visual-arts, theatre & cinema. It is our belief that such a trajectory of across-the-arts bonding can be our chosen way to travel.

The events we have organized with some of the biggest names in the world, and institutions of global repute, promoting dialogic connections between theatre, visual art, music and poetry have reached a worldwide audience. In a matter of a couple of years we have emerged with a clear identity, objective and energy in the intellectual sphere. We have myriad plans for the foreseeable future as well.

IMPORTANT DATES:

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS: 7th March 2021

ACCEPTANCE OF ABSTRACTS: 9th March 2021

SUBMISSION OF FULL PAPERS: 15th March 2021

ALL ABSTRACTS & FULL PAPERS MUST BE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING EMAIL ADDRESS: inspirareindia2020@gmail.com

SELECTED PAPERS, FROM THOSE PRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE, SHALL BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION IN A FULL ISBN POST-CONFERENCE VOLUME. THE DECISION OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD REGARDING SUCH SELECTIONS IS FINAL.

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