



**National Conference on**

**Multiple Selves in Multiple Texts: Life Narratives in South Asia**

**November 7-8, 2019**

Organized by

**Department of English  
Central University of Jammu  
Samba, Jammu and Kashmir**

[www.cujammu.ac.in](http://www.cujammu.ac.in)

<http://cujammu.ac.in/5082/>

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Abstract Deadline: September 20, 2019**

**Acceptance Notification: September 30, 2019**

**Registration (online): October 5, 2019**

**Full paper submission: October 20, 2019**

**Dates of the Conference: November 7-8, 2019**

**Conference e-mail: [conferenceengcuj@gmail.com](mailto:conferenceengcuj@gmail.com)**

## Call for papers

### “Multiple Selves in Multiple Texts: Life Narratives in South Asia”

#### Concept Note

Self has been a contested term in the critical and theoretical discourse, which occupies a pivotal position in literary discourse. The way literary works unfold the labyrinths of the self indicate that human ‘self’ is not a linear, one-dimensional concept but a multi-dimensional, complex entity. The focus on the self and how it is constructed through life narratives has engaged much critical attention during the recent years. The attempts at exploring the very concept and correlatives of the genre establish the complexity with which the genre of autobiography as a life narrative is viewed in contemporary theoretical world. Whereas James Olney views the genre as “unruly”, “restless” and “the most elusive of literary documents”, Northrop Frye classifies it as a subdivision of the novel. Nevertheless, the very idea and concept is further problematised in the wake of new theoretical insights of poststructuralism, postmodernism, feminism, deconstruction and so on. Ostensibly, an autobiography is no longer a whole and undisputable space contested with the advent of postmodernism and poststructuralism. Simultaneously, the question of how an autobiography is written raises the issue of how the self is constructed. Mapping the multiplicity of the self in particular life narratives, we simultaneously emphasize the multiplicity of forms of narrating the self in the South Asian context. The conference will debate on these and related areas with a substantial focus on an interdisciplinary approach to study of life narratives in South Asia.

By life narratives we understand not only literary texts but texts of culture (oral traditions, interviews, performances, art, cinema, and social media, etc.). Scholars of various disciplines are invited to consider how the self is constructed in these life narratives.

#### Themes & Sub-themes

**The sub-themes of the Conference include but are not limited to the following:**

- ✓ Autobiography as a narrative of Personalized memory
- ✓ Autobiography as sociobiography/autogynography
- ✓ The Subaltern/Bildungsroman/Ethnographic Autobiographies
- ✓ Navigating Self in Biographies
- ✓ Biographies/ Autobiographies in Translation
- ✓ Texts of culture (performances, interviews, art, cinema, social media)

We encourage papers presenting case studies and analysis through different critical perspectives and interdisciplinary approaches. We invite participants to explore life narratives in multiple dimensions and from various possible theoretical positions for the foundational impulse and the ethical relevance of life narratives across South Asia.

#### **IMPORTANT:**

1. Interested scholars, academicians, researchers, freelancers, activists, and students may send their abstracts in about 300 words (including key words) along-with their bio-notes (50 words). **The abstracts may please be sent to [conferenceengcuj@gmail.com](mailto:conferenceengcuj@gmail.com) by 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.**
2. The abstract must contain participant's/presenter's name, address for correspondence, and e-mail ids, mobile number/s on the top of the abstract/s.
3. Those who are interested in the poster/documentary presentation can also send their abstracts/proposals.

#### **REGISTRATION FEES:**

- For Teachers/Academicians/Freelancers : ₹ 1500/-
- For Research Scholars (PhD/M.Phil): ₹1000/-
- For UG/PG Students: ₹ 500/-
- ON SPOT REGISTRATION: ₹ 2000/-**
- The fee may be paid through NEFT/RTGS to the following Accounts:**

**Name of the Account holder: HOD English Central University of Jammu**

**Account Number: 0902040500000051**

**IFSC: JAKA0RAHYAA**

**Branch Code: 0902**

**MICR Code: 180051114**

**Branch: J&K BANK RAHYA, SAMBA, J&K**

**NOTE:** The fee includes registration, seminar kit, tea and lunch for two days and participation certificate. Participants are supposed to arrange their own accommodation. However, the conference committee can help with suggestions regarding suitable and modest accommodations near the aforementioned campus.

**NO TA/DA shall be paid to the participants.**

#### **About the University**

The Central University of Jammu came into existence on 08 August, 2011. It was established by the Central Universities Act, 2009 (Act No. 25 of 2009 read with the Central Universities Act, 2009). The university aspires to be a leading Centre of higher learning, integrating culture, knowledge, philosophy, science and emerging concepts, skills, technology and management practices. The University focuses on inter-disciplinary research and has collaborations with leading Institutions aimed at the optimum development of human resource and integration of

new ideas and innovations. The campus, although in the developmental stage takes pride in claiming itself to be a modern, environmentally sustainable, healthy and vibrant in consonance with the principles of Green technology. The university plays participatory role in the affairs of the people of surrounding areas in particular and civil society in general.

### **About the Department**

Department of English, Central University of Jammu came into existence with a mandate to be a leading centre of advanced teaching, learning and research in literature and allied areas. Buzzing with a vibrant academic ambience, the department offers full-time M.A. (English) and Ph.D. programme. The Department aspires to be a centre for academic excellence, contextual research and professional expertise. The thrust areas of the department are gender studies, translation, comparative studies and cultural studies.

### **About Jammu**

The state of Jammu and Kashmir (which will be Union Territory by the time conference is held) shares its borders with Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, and the neighbouring countries of Pakistan, China and Afghanistan. Owing to the large number of historical temples located within the city, Jammu is known as the city of Temples. Jammu is well connected with other states and cities by air, train and road. Historically, the city derives its name from Raja Jambulochan, who is believed to have seen a goat and a lion drinking water at the bank of a river during one of his hunting sprees. On seeing such an unusual spectacle he was convinced of the tranquility and divinity of the place. Hence, he commanded that a place be built at this place and a city was founded around it. Tourism is the largest industry in Jammu. Millions of devotees visit Jammu in connection with the holy pilgrimage to Mata Vaishno Devi shrine and Goddess Kali temple, Bahu Fort, Amar Mahal Museum, Mubarak Mandi, Bahu Fort, Raghunath Temple, Ranbireshwar Temple, Peer Kho, Mahamaya temple, Mansar Lake, Patnitop and many other places of historical and spiritual significance.

### **How to Reach CUJ**

Jammu is connected by air, roadways and rail. The University is located at a distance of 30 Kms (approx.) from the airport and 28 Kms. from railways station. Pre-paid taxis are available to reach Central University from the airport. It takes about 40 minutes to reach the university by taxi from the airport and Jammu Tawi railway station.

**The delegates will be provided a list of hotels, both in the vicinity of the university and in the city. Bus facility will be provided to delegates from selected locations to reach the university campus during conference days.**

**Paper Proposals (For Proceedings of the Conference):**

Selected papers presented during the Conference will be compiled and published as a Conference Volume by a reputed publisher. Please follow MLA Handbook (Eighth Edition) guidelines when submitting the complete paper.

*Last date for submission of complete papers: **October 20, 2019.***

**Guidelines for Authors:**

- Font & size: Times New Roman 12, Line Spacing: 1.5, Margin of 1 inch on all four sides. Text of the paper: justified.
- Title of the paper: bold, title case (Capitalize each word), centered. Times New Roman 14.
- References: Please follow MLA (Ed. 8th) style. Use End Notes if required. Attach a list of Works Cited at the end of the paper.
- Articles should be submitted as MS Word 2003-2010 attachments only.
- Approximate length of the paper: 3000 words.
- Each paper must be accompanied by
  - i) A declaration that it is an original piece of work and has not been published anywhere else or sent for publication
  - ii) Abstract of paper about 150-200 words and
  - iii) A short bio-note of the contributor(s) indicating name, institutional affiliation, postal address, mobile number and e-mail, in a single attachment.
- Papers submitted should evince serious research contributing new knowledge or innovative critical/theoretical perspectives on the subject being analyzed

**PATRON:**

*Prof. Ashok Aima  
Vice Chancellor  
Central University of Jammu*

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

*Prof. Govind Singh, Dean, Languages  
Prof. Devanad Padha, Dean, Sciences  
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Dr. Bacha Babu, Proctor*

**CONVENER:**

*Dr. Vandana Sharma, Head, Department of English*  
[vandanacuj2017@gmail.com](mailto:vandanacuj2017@gmail.com)  
[vandana.eng@cuajammu.ac.in](mailto:vandana.eng@cuajammu.ac.in)

**ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:**

<i>Dr. M A A Farooq</i>	<i>farooqafzal76@yahoo.in</i>
<i>Dr. Neena Gupta</i>	<i>neenaguptavij@gmail.com</i>
<i>Dr. Raj Thakur</i>	<i>thakurraj.13@gmail.com</i>
<i>Dr. Parveen Kumari</i>	<i>pleiades.the7@gmail.com</i>