

Higher Education & Research Society

An Education Society Registered under Government of India's Societies Registration Act 1860 (Maha/651/2013/Thane) &
A Trust Registered under Bombay Trusts Act 1950 (AF/27205/Thane)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RELIGION, LITERATURE & CULTURE

15th & 16th September, 2017



www.herso.org

Venue

Dnyansagar Institute of Management & Research

SKP Campus, Near Pune-Mumbai Highway,
Baner-Balewadi, Pune, India

About Us

Higher Education and Research Society is a Mumbai based international learned society concerned with the advancement and understanding of higher education, especially through the insights, perspectives and knowledge offered by the systematic research and scholarship. The Society aims to be the leading international organisation in the field to support and disseminate research and education. We commit sustainable development and focus on the solutions to spread the scientific attitude in academicians and citizens, practical and solution-based approach to higher education in general; introduction of applied education, social inequality, awareness of literature and language, climate change and many more.

The Society intends to play a role of a catalyst to enable researchers in different regions and disciplines to exchange information, share discussions on professional and theoretical issues, and initiate and co-ordinate research. Purely committed to the cause of academics in a 'top-down pattern', the prime goal of the society is to encourage and foster research by providing a platform to showcase the innate research aptitude of the academician. Promoting academic research and scholarship into Language and Literature, Humanities, Basic Sciences, Technology and Management streams, the society is determined to bring about a scholarly get-together of the intellectuals.

The society has to its credit three mega international conference at Pune and Nagpur with 400 plus delegates, a workshop and many MoUs with Research Centers. For the future conferences the Society invites applications from reputed institutions as 'Venue Partners' in India.

Concept Note

Literature, being a creative universal form of expression, addresses spiritual, emotional and social concerns of humanity. It is known that there are reciprocal relations between literature and religion, still the question of how these two disciplines interact with each other invites fresh thought. Looking at the past of English Literature, it is abundantly clear that critics even before Mathew Arnold have referred back to form and content of religious scriptures. Indian writers in English such as Raja Rao, Rabindranath Tagore, and Shashi Tharoor did the same. So re-evaluation of literature in the context of religion necessitates a fresh thinking within a culture wherein our views are shaped in a particular manner. Literary values are always discussed in the context of complexity of a specific culture as it is an expression of culture documenting human knowledge, belief and behaviour, which may trace back to a religion.

It is now essential to explore the urgent political significance of religious debate in our current global climate. Charles Taylor in his book, *A Secular Age* (2007), points out that there seems to be no bar in private and public life in the present society and people feel the religious way of life is only a better option among others. A generation of scholars once committed to secular criticism is now turning to religion

as a way to redress literary queries that materialist criticism has evaded. A new group of scholars, following the lead of those at the forefront of religion and literature in the latter part of the twentieth century, is eager to contribute to and read work intimate with both religious and literary debates.

The current scenario in our society is definitely an output of increasing influence of religions. People are taking them seriously and it could be presumed that people may judge life in the framework of a religion. However, writers like Jyotiba Phule, Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens do not seem to be inclined towards any religion but they try to rationalise their defences of life. This kind of persisting conflict makes one think about questions - Is a religion superior? Can we dispense with our religion? Do literature and religion go hand in hand? Can literature take the place of religion? Are we becoming more and more religious-minded? Is secularism just an illusion? Does literature play a role to redress the balance in our society? These and many other such questions occur to our mind as we go on thinking about literature, culture and religion together and separately. This conference is meant to provide a platform for the interdisciplinary intellectual discussions focusing on the central themes given below.

Sub Themes

- ❖ Religion and Society
- ❖ Culture and Religion
- ❖ Philosophy of Religion
- ❖ Religion and Literature
- ❖ Religion, Peace and Literature
- ❖ Secularism and Fiction
- ❖ Law, Religious Customs and Literatures
- ❖ Fundamentalism and Humanity in Literature
- ❖ Pagan Culture and Literature
- ❖ Religious Migration and Colonial Literature
- ❖ Literature and Humanitarianism
- ❖ Literature and Cultural History
- ❖ Religion and Liberal Humanism
- ❖ Language and Religion
- ❖ Philosophy and Ethics
- ❖ Communalism and Sectarianism
- ❖ Cultural Integration and Fragmentation
- ❖ Spirituality and Literature
- ❖ Gandhism and Literature
- ❖ Nature, Religion and Poetry
- ❖ Buddhism and Literature
- ❖ Mythology and Literature
- ❖ Hate Literature
- ❖ Gender, Religion and Literature
- ❖ Materialism and Literature
- ❖ Inequality and Justice
- ❖ Question of Faith and Poetry
- ❖ Literature and Religious Ideology
- ❖ Religion of War /Religion on War
- ❖ Ethnic Studies
- ❖ Literary Social Paradigm
- ❖ Literatures of the Underrepresented
- ❖ Nihilist and Jingoist Sentiment in Literature.
- ❖ Literature and Nationalism
- ❖ Regionalization and Internationalization
- ❖ Literature and Utilitarianism
- ❖ World Literature and New Literatures
- ❖ Ethnocentrism in Literature
- ❖ Literature and Class/ Caste / Race

- ❖ Subnationalism and Supranationalism
- ❖ Literature and Multiculturalism
- ❖ Terrorism, Religion and Literature
- ❖ Science, Religion and Literature
- ❖ Literature and Social Media
- ❖ Religious Plurality and Society
- ❖ Religion, Deconstruction and Literatures
- ❖ Religious Scriptures and Literature
- ❖ Pragmatism, Postmodernism and Literature
- ❖ Deconstruction and Fundamentalism
- ❖ Contemporary Literary Theory and Religious Literature
- ❖ English and Religious Influence
- ❖ Religion, multiculturalism and National Integration
- ❖ Media, Religion and Literature
- ❖ Religion and International Relations
- ❖ English Language Teaching and Religious Imposition

☞ ANY OTHER TOPIC(S) RELEVANT TO THE THEME OF THE CONFERENCE

About Pune

Nestled on the leeward side of the Sahyadri Mountain range, Pune is the ninth largest city in India and the second largest metropolis in Maharashtra. Rajgad in Pune District was the capital city of the emperor Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the founder of Maratha Empire. Pune also known as cultural capital of Maharashtra reflects a blend of tradition and modernity.

Popularly known as the “Oxford of the East” or “Capital of Learning”, Pune has a large number of educational institutes that attract students from across the globe. While it has been a corporate stopover, the city has its mix of potpourri and culture which makes for interesting sightseeing within the city and in adjoining areas. Some of the important sightseeing are the historical Aga Khan Palace reflecting the footprints of Indian freedom struggle, the memorial of the Maratha noble Sardar Shri Mahadji Shinde, the founder of Scindhia dynasty of Gwalior at Shinde Chhatri, a famous Market Tulshi Baug, Sir Jamshedji constructed Bund Garden, Purandar Fort- the birth place of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj and Sinhgad Fort- a mark of Maratha victories provides a trekking experience engulfed in a historical ambience. The nearby hill stations for its breathtaking scenic beauty at Lonawala and Lavasa cities are remarkable. This city is a citadel of social reformers and spiritual gurus and their presence could be felt on the beautiful campus of Osho Ashram, a picturesque hill of Parvati and temple of goddess Parvati, grand Shrimant Dagadusheth Halwai Ganesh Temple, Samadhi of Saint Dnyaneshwar at Alandi, marks of indivisible preaching in the form of divine poetry of Saint Tukaram at Dehu and his Gatha Temple. The city is particularly well known for being the trail blazer of women education across the whole country with Savitribai Phule being the first Indian lady teacher. Pune is very well connected by air, rail and road. The nearest Airport is Lohegaon, Pune; the second nearest Airport is Chhatrapati Shivaji

International Airport, Mumbai. City Buses ply from bus stations at Shivaji Nagar, Pune Station and Swargate to the venue.

The major tourist / pilgrimage destinations within the approximate peripheral area of 200 k.m. from Pune include the Hill Station- Mahabaleshwar, Vipassana Research Institute of Igatpuri, Tryambkeshwar, Panchwati (Nashik), Shirdi, Mahalaxmi, Jyotiba, Panhalgad Fort (Kolhapur), Raigad Fort, Harihareshwar, Dive Agar Beach (Raigad), Ajanta and Ellora, Gateway of India, Haji Ali, Siddhi Vinayak, Essel World, Adlab Imagica (Karjat) and major beaches of Konkan.

Submission of Abstract

The participants may send ABSTRACT of their standard research papers **up to 15th June 2017 (Regular Fees)** OR **AFTER 15th June 2017 (Late Fees)** to sudhirnikam@gmail.com conforming to the "Submission Guidelines" uploaded on www.herso.org

- KINDLY NOTE THAT SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME TILL THE DATE OF THE CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, THE LATE FEES SHOULD BE PAID FOR THE SUBMISSIONS AFTER 15TH JUNE.
- "Registration Form" may be downloaded from the same website. The details regarding selection will be communicated within two days from the date of submission of abstract.
- The registration process has to be completed within three working days from the date of selection of the abstract.
- The complete research paper for presentation may be submitted on the conference day at the registration counter.

Address for Correspondence

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Registration Fees

Registration fees should be paid through NEFT/Online Payment within "three working days" as per the guidelines mentioned in the "SELECTION MAIL."

- **Registration up to 15th June 2017**
INR 2000/- (without accommodation)
INR 3000/- (with accommodation)
- **Registration after 15th June 2017**
INR 2500/- (without accommodation)
INR 3500/- (with accommodation)

- **SPOT REGISTRATION** does not include accommodation. However, spot registration with accommodation is permissible to 'foreign delegates only', subject to availability and obtaining prior permission.
- 'Moderate' accommodation on sharing basis will be provided for outstation delegates during conference days (15th & 16th). The stay before the conference day will be charged separately. Since limited number of rooms are available, delegates are requested to register well in advance. The rooms will be allocated on first-come-first-serve-basis.
- Registration fees covers Conference Kit, Breakfast, Tea and Lunch during conference days.
- Maharashtrian Vegetarian food will be served during conference days.
- A co-presenter or an accompanying person will have to make separate registration.
- No T.A./D.A. is paid to the Delegates.

Mode of Payment

Registration fees should be paid through NEFT/online payment only as per the guidelines mentioned in the "SELECTION MAIL."

Publication

The Registered Delegates are entitled to get their research paper published online in the *Journal of Higher Education & Research Society: A Refereed International* (ISSN 2349-0209) Oct 2017/April 2018 issue "subject to approval" by the reviewers.

- ✧ The "Selection Mail" following submission of ABSTRACT contains all the detailed guidelines regarding publication. The authors need to strictly follow them.
- ✧ The approved submissions to be presented in this conference *or some other relevant paper* should be mailed 'separately' ONLY AS PER THE GUIDELINES MENTIONED IN THE "SELECTION MAIL."
- ✧ *The only email for publication related communication is hersomumbai@gmail.com*
- ✧ The final decision regarding publication of the article resides with the Convener / Organizing Secretary.

Dr Sudhir Nikam
(Convener)

Dr Madhavi Nikam
(Organising Secretary)

❖ *Best Compliments* ❖

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