



ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR

Proceedings of “Four-day International Webinar on Post-truth and Literature:

Perspectives and Reality (22nd-25th March, 2022)”

Day-II

First Technical Session

Time: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

Date: 23rd March 2022

Moderator: Mr Fayaz Sultan

Chairperson: Prof Nishat Zaidi

The first technical session of the Webinar started with a formal introduction of the Chairperson, Prof. Nishat Zaidi by moderator Mr Fayaz Sultan, Sr. Assistant Professor of Department of English, IUST, Awantipora. Prof. Zaidi formally welcomed the paper presenters and invited the paper presenters; Prof. Krishnan Unni P to present his paper titled “Deep Circuits, Convolutions and Transgressions in the Narratives of Post-truth.” Prof. Krishnan deliberated on how the genealogy of post-truth is the product of a system of dissembling the structures and thoughts of human condition. Prof. Krishnan further argued that Post-truth is a methodology that would disseminate the “other” of the rationality; there is space to try to provide an argument that within the corpus of Western narratology, there were traces of the post-truth.

Since the post sixties, in the form of disguise, disillusion and as Umberto Eco would say “Serendipities” may beguile us. Looking at a span of American and European writers such as Sinclair Lewis, Don DeLillo, Jonathan Franzen, Zoran Zivcovic and a few others, it becomes clear that the Post-truth narratives offer the other side of late capitalism to enervate the structures of power. Post-truth prioritized emotions and beliefs over facts and truth, marketing false and fake news. It also focuses on false perceptions and personal beliefs appealing directly to emotions rather than facts and truth.

The second paper presenter was Mr. Yumnam Rocky who presented his paper entitled, “Poetry of Witness: Narratives of Trauma and Violence in the Works of Robin S Ngangom.” The young scholar from Vivekananda College, University of Delhi touched upon the tropes of the militaristic approaches of the Government of India in suppressing secessionist ventures and violent uprisings, which not only hamper its aspirations for peace but also fissures ethnic identity and cultures. He further argued that, ultimately marred by conflicts and the culture of violence, the writings from the North East regions do not capture the social and historical events. It would also be inappropriate to look at the various forms of writings of this region from a homogenised perspective, curving these expressions within its narrow confines.

Mr Yumnam further argued that one can easily find the stark display of anger, fear, pain and endurance triggered by the oppressive reality in its contemporary writings. In his Essay, “Poetry in the Time of Terror” Robin S Ngangom, states the need for the poets of the north east regions to write with a sense of immediacy and acceptance and appeals to perform the complex conflict between themselves and the milieu.

Third paper presenter, Ms Musarrat Nizami, research scholar at Seacom University, West Bengal presented her paper entitled, “Post-truth and Comics.” The young scholar touched upon the various vistas of comics and post-truth. She postulated that the phenomenon can be traced back decades to the golden era of comics when the Internet and social media had not emerged.



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During Second World War, American children were brainwashed and targeted through some of the super heroes of the most prominent comics such as Captain America, Superman, Batman, and several others. The main target of comics of that period was to sell war bonds. In short, her paper revolved around the nuances of comics as a medium to peddle lies and propaganda.

Prof Zaidi then opened the forum for questions. The paper presenters responded to the questions and the session finally ended with a formal vote of thanks from the moderator, Mr Fayaz Sultan.

Second Technical Session

Time: 1:30 am to 3:00 pm

Date: 23rd March 2022

Moderator: Dr Shuaib Mohammad Bhat

Chairperson: Prof Saugata Bhaduri

The second technical session of the Webinar was chaired by Prof Saugata Bhaduri, Centre for English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Dr Shuaib Mohammad Bhat, Lecturer, Department of English Language and Literature, IUST, Awantipora, moderator of the session, formally introduced the chair to the participants. Prof Bhaduri then introduced the three paper presenters. He formally welcomed the paper presenters and invited the first paper presenter Prof Ameena Kazi to present her paper titled “21st Century’s Tower of Babel: Truth, Post-Truth, Literature.” Prof Kazi deliberated on how in contemporary era naming process has got coinage and familiarizes us with terms like pre/post war, modernism, postmodernism, colonialism etc. She argued that academia crossly juggled with such periodizations in order to draw a line of demarcation between these terms. She added that in the second decade of 20th century political discourse was swept away by the echoes of post-truth that perhaps owe their fame and propagation to men like Donald Trump who demolished the existence of verifiable fact, and voiced ‘alternative facts’ as the new paradigm of discourse. Prof Kazi’s presentation critiques some of the paradigms and markers of Post-truth from a literary perspective, making a case for the fact that literary creativity has long resonated with post-truth through its medium of the word. Prof Bhaduri then invited the second paper presenter Mr. Ahsan Ul Haq Magray, Assistant Professor in Higher Education Department to present his paper entitled, “Faiz Ahmed Faiz and Rawalpindi Conspiracy Case: The Truth beyond Post-Truth.” Mr Ahsan Ul Haq deliberated on the historical event of Rawalpindi Conspiracy Case (1951-1955) in which one of the most famous Urdu poets, Faiz Ahmad Faiz was hatched on false charges and put behind bars for four years. These four years proved fruitful to Faiz in literary sense, however, the scholar contested on the role of the media, and how media manipulate the truth to serve their ends. He also explored how the official version of truth ran contrary to the facts much before the term Post-truth gained currency.

Prof Bhadurii finally invited Ms. Ishrat Fatima, research scholar at Islamic University of Science and Technology Awantipora to present her paper, “Post-Truth: An Irrefutable Facilitation to Postmodernism.” In her presentation, she highlighted the close affinity between Post-truth and Postmodernism by discussing the commonality between them. She further argued that Postmodernism relies on unstable, jagged, ambiguous,



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inconclusive, fragmented and internally contradicting existence of entities while post-truth too makes one doubt similar concords of subsistence.

Prof Bhaduri then opened the forum for questions to which the paper presenters answered and the session finally ended up with a formal vote of thanks from the moderator of the session, Dr Shuaib Mohammad Bhat.

Third Technical Session (Plenary Session)

Time: 03:15 pm to 04:15 pm

Date: 23rd March 2022

Moderator: Ms Isma Hamid

Chairperson: Prof. Ameena Kazi Ansari

The first plenary session of the Webinar was chaired by Prof. Ameena Kazi Ansari, Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia and moderated by Ms Isma Hamid, Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, IUST, Awantipora. The chair formally welcomed and introduced the speaker of the session, Dr. Alexander Carter, Bye-Fellow at Fitzwilliam College and Academic Director for Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Cambridge. Dr Carter presented a lecture on “Philosophy and Post-Truth.” He deliberated upon the nuances of philosophical enquiry. He emphasized on how the domain of philosophical enquiry is truth itself and how thereby it responds to Post-truth phenomena. In his extensive talk, he outlined the ways of understanding this phenomenon and explained why those utilising Post-truth and alternative facts for their own ends are wrong to do so.

A question-and-answer session followed the lecture where Dr. Carter answered the questions and observations, raised by the participants. The session ended with a vote of thanks by the moderator, Ms Isma Hamid.

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