



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-III

First Technical Session (Plenary session)

Time: 10:00 am to 11:00 am

Date: 24th March 2022

Speaker: Prof Feroza Jussawalla

Chairperson: Prof Lily Want

Moderator: Mr Fayaz Sultan

The first plenary session started with a formal introduction of the Chairperson of the session Prof Lily Want. After the introduction the moderator of the session Mr Fayaz Sultan, Sr. Assistant professor English Language and Literature, IUST, handed over the proceedings to Prof Want. She welcomed all the participants and introduced the speaker of the Plenary session Prof Feroza Jussawalla, Professor Emerita from University of New Mexico. Prof Jussawalla presented her paper entitled, “Seeking Truth in a Post-Truth World.”

Professor Jussawalla analysed the nuances of Post-truth. She proposed that cases of the shifting signifier lead to misinterpretations of novels and poems, leaving several victims of the condition of “postmodernity,” where meanings are taken from the hands of author and put in the hands and minds of warring readers, leaving behind defences such as, saying like Prufrock, “this is not What I meant at all.” She further asserted that we are not in a “post-modern moment” now. We live in a dangerous “post-truth” world, where lives are lost based on how we interpret circumstances, the slants politicians put on history and immediate circumstances, and our beautiful Shangri-las turn into grave yards. The rise of totalitarianism is a pan continental phenomenon she further added.

A question-and-answer session followed the lecture where Prof Feroza Jussawalla answered the questions and observations, raised by the participants. The session ended with a vote of thanks by the moderator, Mr Fayaz Sultan.

Second Technical Session

Time: 11:15 am to 12:45 pm

Date: 24th March 2022

Moderator: Dr Aneesa Mushtaq

Chairperson: Prof Krishnan Unni P

The second technical session started with a formal introduction of the Chairperson Prof Krishnan Unni P by moderator Dr Aneesa Mushtaq, Lecturer in the Department of English Language and Literature, IUST, Awantipora. After that Prof Krishnan took over the proceedings and introduced the three paper presenters. He formally welcomed the paper presenters and invited the first paper presenter Dr Rumana Ashraf, Associate Professor at Nawakadal College to present her paper entitled, “Navigating the Loss: A Girlhood in Kashmir- Rumours of Spring.” Dr Rumana deliberated on the lived experiences of the conflict and its consequences. She emphasised on the two different aspects of existence bringing home the divergent modes of existence and thinking patterns.

Prof Krishnan then invited the second paper presenter, Dr Suraya Jan, Lecturer in the Department of English Language and Literature, IUST, Awantipora to present her paper entitled, “Revisiting George Orwell in Contemporary Times: Nineteen Eighty-Four and the Post truth Politics.” She touched upon the tropes of political discourse in which objective facts are less important than fake news or factual inaccuracies. She emphasised that distortion of truth is done for political gains, how language serves as an instrument of political power, and how the use of technology spreads misinformation.

Prof Krishnan finally invited Ms Nehad Fatima, a research scholar at University of Kashmir to present her paper entitled, “Emotional Histories and Post-truth: Narratives in Svetlana Alexievich.” The young scholar touched upon the various truths that attempt to give rise to an interesting new genre of non-fiction writing. She emphasised on Alexievich, a journalist by training, but her writings attempt to rewrite the history of the Soviet era through emotional histories and how they become a counter-narrative to the official Soviet historiography.

Prof Krishnan then opened the forum for questions to which the paper presenters responded and the session finally ended with a formal vote of thanks from the moderator of the session Dr Aneesa Mushtaq.



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Third Technical Session

Time: 01:15 am to 02:45 pm

Date: 24th March 2022

Moderator: Dr Naeemul Haq

Chairperson: Prof Smita Jha

The third technical session started with a formal introduction of the Chairperson Prof Smita Jha, Professor of English Literature at Department of HSS, IIT Roorkee, India, by moderator Dr Naeemul Haq, Lecturer in the Department of English Language and Literature, IUST. After that she took over the proceedings and introduced the two paper presenters. She formally welcomed the paper presenters and invited the first paper presenter Prof Ipshita Chanda, Professor in the Department of Comparative Literature, The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad to present her paper entitled “Deep Post Truth: Half-Truths, Untruths...and Literature.” She attempted to show that fiction, by discovering a realm that is at a polar opposite from “reality,” exposed the fact that “post truth” erases the ontological dimension of truth and reduces it to a mediated mechanics of correspondence with “objective” reality. She juxtaposed Wole Soyinka’s *Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth* with contemporary Indian media narratives that construct and manipulate hegemonic narratives of image/identity of marginalised communities for political gain. She highlighted how the characterisation of “post-truth” as adequate to contemporary reality appears to be a dangerous “untruth” obfuscating our conceptual categories, treating truth as a purely epistemological notion without relevance to the human world of values– and literature alerts us to this danger.

Prof Smita Jha then invited the second paper presenter Ms Isma Hamid, Asst. Professor in the Department of English Language and Literature, IUST to present her paper “Truth, Memoir and Post-Truth.” She observed that memoir writers apparently tell a true story about themselves, filtering it through their memory and crafting it to only to those points that they would like to keep in the public domain. Although the propriety of the genre allows one to express true version of one’s story, yet at the same time it also creates a possibility for falsification and manipulation. She also highlighted memoir writing with focus on misery memoir, author-reader and genre market relationships in the post-truth era.

Prof Smita Jha then opened the forum for questions to which the paper presenters responded and the session finally ended up upon with a formal vote of thanks from the moderator of the session Dr Naeemul Haq.

Fourth Technical Session

Time: 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Date: 24th March 2022

Moderator: Dr Suraya Jan

Chairperson: Prof Ipshita Chanda

The fourth technical session of the Webinar started with a formal introduction of the Chairperson, Prof Ipshita Chanda by the moderator Dr Suraya Jan, Lecturer in the Department of English Language and Literature, IUST. After that the chairperson took over the proceedings and introduced the two paper presenters. She formally welcomed the paper presenters and invited the first speaker, Mr Fayaz Sultan to present his paper entitled, “Tristan Tzara and the Avant-garde Art of Dadaism as a Prelude to Post-truth.” Mr Fayaz Sultan started his paper by tracing the genesis of the word “post-truth” and related it to current world politics. He talked about the domination of geopolitics in the 21st century by post-truth. He mostly talked about post-truth in the context of Tristan Tzara’s views on art as an avant-garde medium to break away from the conventional visual art/truth through the rebellious colours on the canvas. In his analysis of the same, he compared Tzara with Plato.

Prof Chanda then invited the second speaker, Ms Najma to present her paper entitled “The Truth of Lies: A Reading of The War of the End of the World.” Ms Najma started her presentation by analysing how the novel *The War of the End of the World* is set against the backdrop of the *War of Canudos* and fictionalizes the conflict in the nineteenth century Brazil. She further elaborated how the novel explores the north-eastern state of Bahia being torn between the army, the civilian democrats, and the local landlords, all of whom are combating with each other for power. She also stated how Vargas Llosa pertinently highlights the challenges that a journalist or a historian faces in delineating the truth about an event. This representation also sheds light on the discourse of history and its falsifications. She analysed how the state-sponsored history is pitted against both the alternative facts of the citizens and the verifiable objective details of a journalist. Her paper



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explored how Vargas Llosa espouses an end of an absolutist point of view rather than an end of history or ideology. She related Vargas Llosa's notion of "truth of lies" to some kind of panacea in the post-truth era.

Prof Ipshita then opened the forum for questions to which the paper presenters responded and the session finally ended with a formal vote of thanks from the moderator of the session, Dr. Suraya Jan. The session also marked the end of day three of the webinar.

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