



**Rajasthan Association
for
Studies in English (RASE)**

**XIX Annual Conference
on
Negotiating Love, Combating Hatred:
Exploring Love in World Literatures**

November 20-21, 2022



Organised by
Department of English
Govt. Lohia College, Churu
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About Churu City

Churu was founded around 1620 AD by Chuhru, a chieftain of the Jats (an agrarian community of north India). Before India's independence in 1947, it was a part of Bikaner State. Churu District came into existence in 1948. It is known as the gate way to the great Thar Desert of Rajasthan. Churu lies on the National High Way 52 and is well connected to all the major cities of Rajasthan by rail and road. Churu railway station is directly connected to Bikaner, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Sri Ganganagar and Delhi. Churu district shares its boundaries with Hanumangarh and Sri Ganganagar districts to the north, Hayana state on the east, Jhunjhunu and Sikar districts to the south, Nagaur and Bikaner districts to the west. Geographically, Churu district lies in 28° 18' N Latitude and 74° 58' E Longitude. Churu is a historical city having beautiful painted havelis such as Kothari and Surana havelis and the Malji's haveli.

About the Institution

Government Lohia college, Churu is one of the oldest and best-known co- educational institutions of Rajasthan. Late Seth Shri Kanhaiya Lal Lohiya ji got constructed the grand building of the college in his hometown. Established in 1945, the college had its modest beginning with just 47 students. Now it is one of the model colleges of Rajasthan and runs in its full- fledged form in its huge and splendid double storeyed building having spacious and well- ventilated classrooms and well- equipped laboratories. Now the college is a reputed multi- faculty institution offering postgraduate courses in 15 subjects and undergraduate courses in 18 subjects. VMOU Kota and IGNOU New Delhi have their study centres in this college. In the current session total enrollment in the college has crossed 8500 and thus it is one of the biggest colleges of Rajasthan.

Concept Note

Negotiating Love, Combating Hatred: Exploring Love in World Literatures

“Those who are hardest to love, need it the most”, said Socrates. 21st century man is perhaps the hardest to love and hence needs it the most. An age in which love is lost in the mazes of worldly strife and people tend to embrace hatred in order to succeed; when progress means accumulation and power means the authority to rule others; when on the other side of the coin of wealth lies hunger and squalor; when the price of peace is high and turmoil is let loose here and there on the streets, it is worth its while to delve deep into the vast oceans of world literature and bring forth the pearls of love treasured therein. If hatred can make one mad, why not shun it. Let love take the reins. Hatred has made men mad in history. It has led to racialism, communalism and caste based violence. More than anything else in the world hatred has led to massive dehumanization of communities. More so when the state or the ruling establishments use hatred as a strategy to polarize people and capture power by playing with their emotions. It has caused deadly riots and widespread wars. It demeans the perpetrator as much as it destroys the victim. The greed to capture natural resources and to expand one's territory have also been responsible for genesis of hatred towards people whom one doesn't even know. Love, on the other hand makes one mad too. But it does it in an exactly opposite way. Homer, the great Greek poet, says, “There is the heat of love/the pulsing rush of longing/the lover's whisper/irresistible/magic to make the sanest man go mad.”

The ancient Latin poet Ovid is considered the most prolific among poets of the world who have written on the theme of love. His collections of poems titled Amores (Loves), Ars Amatoria (The Art of Love) and Remedia Amoris (Cures for Love) depict love in its various manifestations. French literature has abundant works of fiction famous all over the world as French Romances. Victor Hugo, Gustav Flaubert and Balzac are well known names in French Literature who have treated this theme in their works of fiction. Works like The Lover by Marguerite Duras, Madam Bovary by Gustav Flaubert and Bel – Ami by

Guy De Maupassant may be taken as examples of literature of love in French Literature. The Literature in English produced in England and elsewhere in the Anglophone world provides hundreds of poets, novelists and essayists who have written on this theme. Francis Bacon , in his very popular essay “ Of Love” says, “It is impossible to love and to be wise.” His observations on love have become popular quotes. For example the lines “Nuptial love makes mankind; friendly love perfects it; but wanton love corrupts and debases it” carries a meaning which is almost didactic. Similarly in the sentence like “The speaking in a perpetual hyperbole is comely in nothing but love” his observation is very realistic. The sentence “Why should a man be in love with his fetters, though of gold?” would have inspired many a freedom fighter all over the world.

In Chinese literature love has been depicted as a very powerful force. Known as the greatest playwright of China Tang Xianzu (1550-1616) says, “ We do not know the origins of love, but once it starts, it runs deep: those who are alive can die and those who are dead can be reborn by it.” Another author Zhang Qi goes to the extent of saying “ a man without love is not a true man [...] Love is something that makes use of ears and eyes, modifies the divine principles, makes one forget light and darkness, makes one ignore hunger and cold, dominates the entire empire and beyond, traversing the eight desert lands, even penetrates metal and stone, moves heaven and earth, guides all beings, through it is born what has life and dies what can die”.

Alexander Pushkin's The Belkin Tales, Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina, Alexander Grin's Scarlet Sails, and Anton Chekov's tales are but a few examples of Russian Literature which may be treated as texts where love has been depicted. Mikhail Lermontov's “The Sail”, Aleksandr Pushkin's “To *** (I Still Recall the Wondrous Moment”, Ivan Krylov's. “The Dragonfly & the Ant”, Alexander Blok's “Night, street, lamp, drugstore...” and Sergei Yesenin. “The Birch Tree” are some of the very famous love poems of Russian literature.

Literature of the indigenous peoples of the world remains neglected. But if examined closely, one may find brilliant poetry in which they have expressed their love to Mother Nature, plants, trees, hills and also birds and animals besides their love for other human beings. Jake Skeets, Tanaya Winder, Amber McCrary, Kinsale Hueston etc. are some of the indigenous poets of the present generation who have penned down their love and concern for their surroundings and the loss of natural habitats.

Indian Literatures including Indian Literature in English, literature composed in twenty two languages included in the eight schedule as well as literature composed in hundreds of dialects spoken in different regions of the country are rich treasures of literature of love. Great Indian classics in Sanskrit, Persian, Pali, Prakrit and literature composed in the medieval ages by great saint poets like Kabir, Tulsi Das, Meera Bai, Ras Khan, Abdul Rahim Khankhana can be explored to see depiction of varieties of feelings of love in their texts.

To combat the vicious propaganda of hate, it would be interesting to explore the rich tradition of Sufi poetry beginning with Amir Khusro and followed by a galaxy of writers and poets like Amrita Pritam and Adam Gondavi. The Urdu poets beginning with Mir, Ghalib and Nazeer Akbarabadi to Faiz, Iqbal and Sahir provide immensely popular verses of love and harmony.

The objective of the conference is to bring to centre stage the harmonious feelings of love, cooperation, sharing and caring. It will be attempted through a discussion of the literatures of the world. In a strife - torn world where wars continue to devastate countries and fanatic forces use all means to propagate poisonous hatred through the speeches of so-called religious leaders against targeted communities and amplified by a sold-out media, we aim at beginning a discourse on love.

Conference Committee

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Call for Papers

Academic research papers are invited from scholars across the world to put forward their ideas on various aspects of the central theme of the conference. The papers should be written in English though literature of any language can be discussed. Scholars should adhere to the MLA handbook IX edition in all matters of citing references and preparing the bibliography. Research papers could relate to the following themes but it is not mandatory. These topics are just suggestive.

1. The Philosophy of Love
2. Eros, Philia and Agape
3. Love in Classical Literature
4. Love in the literature of the Medieval Ages
5. The fallacy of associating languages with religion
6. Combating Hatred with tales of love
7. Institutional Intervention in Propagation of Love
8. Imperialism and Global Land-Grabbing
9. War and Love
10. Capitalism and Human Emotions
11. Love in Digital Age
12. Impact of Technology on Human Relationship
13. Learning to love human beings, other creatures and Nature

Please send the abstract of your papers to raseconchuru@gmail.com by 10th November, 2022 and complete research papers by 20th November, 2022. Please follow MLA Handbook IX edition for citing references.

Registration Fee:

Before the conference – Rs.2000

Research Scholars - Rs.1500

Spot Registration - Rs. 2500

RASE Membership is compulsory for participation in the conference.

Annual membership fee – Rs. 200 Life membership Fee - Rs. 2000

Account for submission of registration fee:

Sanju Jhajharia

IFSC Code: BARB0BRGBXX

Bank Name: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin

Bank Branch: Churu

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