

## Report on Special Lecture Series 2.0

*Nibs & Brushes in association with the English Literary Association*

The Special Lecture Series was initiated last year as an interdisciplinary collaboration, cutting across departments and disciplines, to create common grounds for sharing of knowledge on topics of interest and importance. Building on its last year's success, *Nibs & Brushes* hosted this year's special lectures on 'Travel' in association with the English Literary Association on 07th February 2020

In this regard, three international academic scholars were invited to deliver special lectures:

Dr. Alexandra Verini, Department of English, Ashoka University (Ph.D University of California, Los Angeles)

Dr. Alexander Phillips, Department of English, Ashoka University (Ph.D Cornell University)

Dr. Siddharth Pandey, Visiting Scholar, Yale University's Centre for British Art. (Ph.D Cambridge University).

Being a medieval specialist, Dr. Alexandra Verini spoke on Margery Kemp and John Mandeville's travel narratives and the idea of pilgrimage as travel/religion and travel focusing on medieval Europe. Dr. Alexander Phillips with his research specialization in the field of literature, environment and eco-criticism opened up new lines of inquiry with his paper titled 'Warmer Climes, Tourism and the Venetian Atmosphere in Thomas Mann's *Death in Venice* and Amitav Ghosh's *Gun Island*. Dr. Siddharth Pandey with his specialization in fantasy and materiality studies spoke on the porosity of travel writing and reflected on the theoretical possibilities of travel writing. In the process, he also talked about writers and texts prescribed in the travel writing course that is offered to our undergraduate students, thereby weaving together the many strands of thoughts and ideas that emerged from the presentations and discussions thereby making it relevant and clear for the benefit of our students/audience for whom many of these ideas and concepts are, perhaps, new but of utmost importance.

Binoy Bhushan Agarwal  
Assistant Professor of English  
Convener: Special Lectures Series  
Aryabhata College



