

Aryabhata College

*Department of English*

*(Annual Report for the Academic session 2018 -19)*

**Name of Teacher in Charge: Dr Preeti Gacche** teaches English in the Department of English, Aryabhata College, University of Delhi. Her area of research is the issue of gender and disability.

**Brief details of Faculty members:**

**Dr. Pamela Anwer** is an Associate Professor in the English Department with more than 30 years of teaching experience in Delhi University. She did her MA and M.Phil from Delhi University with a PhD from JMI. Her specialization is in Shakespearean drama and her areas of special interest cover a wide range from sixteenth century drama to nineteenth century novel. She has presented papers at national and international conferences and has published articles in her areas of interest and specialization.

**Dr Rajesh Kumar Dwivedi** is an Associate Professor of English at Aryabhata College, University of Delhi. His PhD is on 'Self in Crisis in the Modern Novel'. Apart from modernism, he is interested in scholarship on Vivekananda and has delivered talks and invited lectures on the same at various forum and national and international conferences.

**Dr.B Mangalam** is Assistant Professor at the Department of English, Aryabhata College, University of Delhi. Her research work pertains to gender and caste intersectionality in Tamil Dalit fiction. She has published critical editions of *Pride and Prejudice* (1999), *Paradise Lost*, Book 9 (2000), *The Balcony* (2001), and *The Book of Vanci* (2015). She has published articles on Dalit Literature, Performance Studies, Translation Studies in journals and critical volumes. She has presented Papers at National and International Conferences and been an invited Speaker on her research domain at colleges of University of Delhi. She has scripted, directed plays for the college theatre Society. She translates from Tamil and Hindi to English. She is also teaching MA Cooperative classes, South Campus

**Dr. Geeta Budhraj** is Associate Professor at Aryabhata College, Delhi University. With over 25 years of teaching experience, she has been actively involved with students and college life in the areas of Art and Culture, Theatre and other administrative responsibilities. She works actively in theatre production and Gender studies and has contributed articles on Feminist Theory, Performance theory and book reviews in National and International journals. She has also been an invited speaker on Culture Studies on International and National forums. She writes poetry and non fiction.

**Dr Kamayani Kumar**

Dr. Kamayani Kumar is an Assistant Professor of English, Aryabhata College, University of Delhi, India. She completed her PhD from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, India. Her thesis focuses on child as a victim of Partition and transgenerational transmission of Partition trauma. She has worked extensively on the cinema of Ritwik Ghatak, trauma studies, memory studies and Partition and cinema. She is at presently authoring a book which focusses on how artists have used art as a medium to represent Partition and its continuing impact through paintings, video art, modes of representation. She has published chapters in several books, journals and presented papers in National and International Conferences. Her area of interest includes Partition Studies, Childhood Studies, Film Studies, Trauma Studies, Visual narratives of Partition.

### **Binoy Bhushan Agarwal**

Binoy Bhushan Agarwal is an Assistant Professor of English at Aryabhata College, University of Delhi. With research interests in the history of gender, travel and colonial India, he has been a two time recipient of the Charles Wallace India Trust Research Grant (2013). Mr. Agarwal has published papers and presented his research on popular culture and cultural transactions in colonial India at various international conferences and workshops in UK, USA & Europe. He is also the co-editor of *Sasian Journey*, a two volume book on South Asia.

**Miss Roshni** has been working as an Assistant Professor in the department of English at Aryabhata College for more than six years now. Her areas of interest include Classical Indian Literature, Indian Philosophy, Translation Studies and Popular Culture. For her M.Phil dissertation, she examined the role of popular culture in making mythology more palatable to contemporary Indian readers with reference to Amish Tripathi's Shiva Trilogy. She has published two research papers on the representation of Draupadi in Modern Indian English literature. Presently she is working on her Ph.D thesis which extensively explores representations of Draupadi in literary works produced by authors across the country in the past fifty years.

**Dr Madhulika Nirmal** has over 10 years of research and teaching experience across genres such as Indian Literature, Marginalized Women Narratives, Dalit Personal Narratives, etc. Since January 2018, she has been working as an Assistant Professor in the English Department at Aryabhata College, University of Delhi. She has presented numerous papers on Salman Rushdie, Ismat Chughtai, Dalit Literature, Sexualities in Indian Visual Cultures etc. at renowned conferences across the country. In addition, she has a number of publications under her name specifically on women narratives and Dalit life stories. Outside of her research and teaching endeavors, Dr Madhulika

has led/ worked on several committees at Aryabhata College. Notable ones include- NAAC Profile Committee (2021), Add-on Courses Cell (2018-present) where she launched the language courses in liaison with the Embassies of those nations, Member of Proctoral Board (2019-2021), Admissions Committee (2018-2019, 2021), etc.

### **Student Strength**

First Year	Second Year	Third Year
52	61	44

### **Details of publication work by the faculty members:**

#### **Dr.Kamayani Kumar**

1. Book Review: Nima Naghibi's Women Write Iran: Nostalgia and Human Rights from the Diaspora (2016) published in Millennial Asia, 9(1), 109–111. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0976399617753756>
2. Contributed a chapter 'The Partition of India: Beyond Improbable Lines' in Refugee: The Elusive Nutan Badi Editor(s):Daniela Rogobete, Elisabe\_a Marino ISBN-13:978-1- 5275-0846-0 ISBN-10:1-5275-0846-3. Published 01 June 2018.
3. Guest Editor: Café Dissensus- Revisiting the Partition of India, 1947 (Issue 48) <https://cafedissensus.com/2018/12/28/contents-revisiting-the-partition-of-india1947-issue-48/>

### **Participation of faculty members in seminars/workshops ,etc**

#### **Dr.Kamayani Kumar**

- Convener, a two-day UGC Sponsored National Conference on 'Nostalgia in Twentieth Century Literature, Cinema and Art' on 7-8 March 2019.

#### **Mr. Binoy Bhushan Agarwal, Assistant Professor**

- (Returning) Senior Judge for The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2019 held under the aegis of The Royal Commonwealth Society, London.
- Recipient of The Charles Wallace Research Grant, London, UK. 2018.
- Invited speaker on 'The Past and its Narration: An Inquiry into Disciplinary Concerns and Questions of Form in History' at the 'Between History and Literature: Enquiries into Colonial Modernity' conference at the Department of English, University of Hyderabad in collaboration with Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies 17-19 March 2019.

- Presented paper titled 'Of Cross Cultural Consumption:(Re)imaging Popular Culture' at the 'Telling and Retelling Stories: (Re)imagining Popular Culture' at the Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, USA. 1-3 March 2019.
- Presented 'Of Global Influences and Indigenous Adaptations: The Cult of Superheroes in India' at the international conference 'A Hero of Our Time: (Inter)national symbolic public figures and their cult in the age of (post)modernity' organized by the European University at St. Petersburg, Moscow, Russia, 1-3 June 2018.
- Participated in Faculty Development Program on Travel Writing organized by the department of English in association with IQAC Kalindi College, University of Delhi. 6 April 2019.
- 20th Refresher Course organized by UGC-Human Resource Development Centre at the University of Hyderabad, Telangana State. 07-27 December 2018.
- Architect and Convener of Special Lectures and Workshop series. Invited Dr Siddharth Pandey, Fellow in Global History at Ludwigs Maxmillians University, Munich, Germany, in association with PICWIC, the Photography Society for a lecture on Indian Hill Stations (26 February 2019), and award winning author and poet Janice Pariat in association with Nibs and Brushes for a creative writing workshop (29 March 2019).
- Convener of a Special lecture on Toni Morrison and 'Bystander Intervention Program', conducted by Professor Bonnie Zare and her 8 member team from Virginia Tech (USA) in joint collaboration with the Department of English and Gender Sensitizing Committee on 15 January 2019.
- Chaired sessions at various national conferences in Delhi and Hyderabad. 2019.
- Convener, International Astronomy Day in collaboration with Development Commissioner, Handicrafts and National Centre for Design and Product Development, Delhi in April, 2019. Dr Madhulika Nirmal, Assistant Professor
- Awarded Ph.D in English Literature for thesis titled '(In) visible Identity: A Study of Dalit Liberation in Independent India' from English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad on 28th February, 2019.
- As a member of Add-on courses cell, introduced French Language Course in collaboration with Alliance Française Delhi (affiliated to French embassy in India) since 1st February 2019.

### **Achievement of Students including their participation in various societies**

Student's Name	Society	Position
Archisa mohanty	Rangmanch	
Varsha	Chess	Third
Kajal	Chess	Fifth
Waseem	Photography	
Tushar	Photography	
Aarav Singh	Painting	
Aishwarya Raj	Theatre	
Shivesh Singh	Photography	

Shrilal Pokhriyal	Dance
Meenakshi Verm	Volley Ball
Alwin Sabu	Music
Sourav Debnath	Painting
Varsha Sundariyal	Creative Writing
Priya Charan	Debate
Menakshi Verma	Volley Ball

### **Co-curricular Programmes conducted by the Department**

#### **English Literary Society**

The English department organized a two day UGC Sponsored National Conference on Nostalgia in Twentieth Century Literature, Cinema and Arts on 7-8 March 2019. The conference was initiated in the presence of our Principal, Dr. and was followed by intensive and engaging sessions pertaining to Nostalgia vis a vis exile narratives, Partition narratives, art, cartooning, childhood, refugee accounts. Academicians from disciplines of literature, philosophy, history and art gave insightful and interactive presentations for two days. Next, Calypso – The Annual Literary Fest of Aryabhata College was conducted with unprecedented fanfare on February 6-7, 2019 within the college premises. It was a two day fest, which included seven different events. Day one was marked by three most exciting and thrilling event while day two was more about subtle art and creativity. With the purpose of art being the common language for all the humans to dive in, creative writing and open – mic was kept bilingual. Moreover, open-mic was open for all forms of talent from beat-boxing to stand-up comedy and from poetry to story narration. The fest wasn't all about art and creativity but rather enjoyment and learning apart from the text. The Literary Association, thus also came up with idea of putting up game – stalls for students who aren't into writing and literature, thereby making it an event for all the students of various disciplines.

**SPECIAL LECTURES AND WORKSHOP SERIES** Transcending departmental boundaries, some of the events had the entire college faculty participating in it to create a more holistic environment. An interdisciplinary forum in the form of workshops and special lectures has been envisaged for an interactive collaboration across departments and disciplines to create common meeting grounds for sharing of knowledge. Along these lines a Special lecture and a workshop was conducted by Dr Bonnie Zare and her excellent team of students from Virginia Tech. The Department of English hosted the special lecture on 15th January 2019. For this occasion, the lecture was delivered on Toni Morrison, the much acclaimed African-American novelist, whose powerful writings on slavery, gender and race have been a source of hope and courage for many across the world. The event was jointly held by the Department and the Gender Sensitizing Committee in collaboration with Virginia Tech (USA). Pointing to its rich potential the Principal of the College said, 'special lectures like these would enrich our understanding on the issues 25 concerned by virtue of having multiple perspectives by academics from universities across the world'. The speaker Dr Zare is an Associate

Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Virginia Tech (USA). Her research focuses on discourse of identity, feminism and activism in contemporary India and in South Asian women's fiction. Her articles have appeared in Women's Studies International Forum, International Journal of Cultural Studies and the Journal of Commonwealth Literature, among others. In 2008, she founded the 'Keep Girls in School' Project which helps support low-income girls in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Her lecture for the day was titled 'Bodies in Beloved: Eroding White Supremacy through Embodied Knowledge'. In this, she was joined by Hayley Oliver who also presented a paper on 'Ownership, Personhood and Love: an analysis of Toni Morrison's Beloved'. Under Dr Zare's supervision, the Virginia team members namely Alana Calhoun, Eryn Peters, Hayley Oliver, Ashley Mattson, Payton Johnson, Jordan Faulkner, Kelsey McGregor and Rebecca Sutton conducted the workshop on bystander intervention program to prevent gender and sexual violence. Our students also put up performances that portrayed different shades of gender based violence both in domestic and public spaces which was much appreciated by the audience. Overall, the lecture and the workshop witnessed full participation and much appreciation from students and faculty alike. Taking cue from its remarkable success more special lectures were hosted with international guests as speakers. On February 26, 2018, Picwic, the Photography and Film Society of Aryabhata College, organized another Special Lecture by Dr. Siddharth Pandey, a landscape photographer and an academic on the topic 'On Knowing a Place: The Verbal, the Visual, and the Experiential in the Understanding of Indian Hill Stations'. Dr. Pandey's expertise lies in English Literature and Materiality Studies, in which he recently earned his PhD as a Cambridge International Scholar from the University of Cambridge, UK. He is currently Fellow in Global History at Ludwig Maxmillians University, Munich in Germany. His lecture for Picwic however drew on his eclectic understanding of photography in both practical and philosophical terms, shedding light on the ways in which photography can help us understand our individual and collective identity in relation to natural and built landscapes. By specifically focusing on the hill station of Shimla – Dr. Pandey's homeland – the talk drew numerous connections between the photographic image and architecture, culture, cinema, and literature. Dr. Pandey spoke to an audience of around 60 students and staff members from various disciplines, who enthusiastically engaged with the topic that was close to many of them, hill stations being popular touristic destinations. The talk meandered through around 50 critically acclaimed photographs of Dr. Pandey that have been exhibited in leading museums and galleries such as the Gaiety Theatre (Shimla) and the Oriental Museum (Durham, UK), each of which had a story to tell. Apart from giving a flavour of distinctive cultures of hill stations, the presentation also made the audience aware of the importance of self- 26 reflexivity while engaging with landscape art, ending on the need to think about artistic practices as both individual and socially committed forms of human engagement. The deliberate conversational, non-academic style achieved the objective of interdisciplinary participation, as evinced by the numerous interesting questions and comments put forward by the staff and students afterwards. Overall, the presentation was a hugely successful affair, helping initiate new ways of thinking and appreciating the world we inhabit. Further, under the aegis of the Nibs & Brushes, the creative wing of the College, a Creative Writing Workshop was organized for the students with the twin aim of nurturing their creative talent as well for their academic benefit who incidentally also have a paper on Creative Writing as part of their Skill Enhancement Course. The workshop was conducted by an award winning author and a poet Janice Pariat, in the seminar room on 29th March 2019. Janice Pariat is an alumnae of St. Stephen's College and School of Oriental and African Studies, London. She also teaches Creative Writing and History of Art at the Ashoka University. Among other awards and recognition for her literary works, she has won the 2013

Sahitya Akademy Young Writer Award for a work in English and the 2013 Crossword Book Award for her book Boats on Land. Her works have also been shortlisted and long listed for numerous other prestigious awards including The Hindu Literary Prize and the Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize and Tata Literature Live. Her other literary works include Sea Horse: a novel, The Nine-Chambered Heart, and collections of poetry namely The Yellow Nib Modern English Poetry and Kavi Kala: The Visual Poetry Project. Attended by students from across disciplines, the workshop began with Parlat shedding light on the creative processes involved in fiction writing. As part of the workshop, students were exposed to reading and writing strategies focusing on how to read like a writer, and the importance of careful poetic choices and literary constructions and such. The aim being to allow them to explore their own imaginative potential and literary flair for creative writing. The students responded well by actively participating in the activities. The session also had discussions on other facets of writing, publishing and the future of creative writing in the present age of digital media and artificial intelligence- all of which made the whole experience an enriching one. The invigorating workshop continued with the author being trailed for more answers and deliberations even after the workshop had technically ended with inquisitive participants following her down the staircase and along the beautiful corridors painted in Madhubani style thus making it both a fulfilling and a rewarding day.

### **Library Budget sanctioned for the Department**

**80,000/-**

### **(Strength ,Weakness , Opportunities, Challenges) SWOC Analysis of the Department)**

#### **Strength**

- UGC Sponsored National Conference: Nostalgia in Twentieth Century Literature, Cinema and Art
- SPECIAL LECTURES AND WORKSHOP SERIES: Special Lecture by Prof.Bonnie Zare.

#### **Weakness**

1. Need for MA Course
2. Absence of Language Lab

### **Future Plans of the Department**

To hold more such conferences, and lecture series for student's enrichment and enhancing the academic rigor.

