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Report on Dr Bonnie Zare's Special Lecture and Workshop

On 15th January 2019 the department of English hosted a special lecture on Toni Morrison, the much-acclaimed 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 English department and the Gender Sensitizing Committee of Aryabhata College in collaboration with Virginia Tech (USA).

The special lecture and 'Bringing in the Bystander' workshop- a program for prevention of sexual and gender violence was conducted by Dr Bonnie Zare and her excellent team of students from Virginia Tech who graciously accepted the invitation extended by Binoy Bhushan Agarwal to visit Aryabhata College for an international collaboration. A first of its kind, this initiative is conceived of as special lecture series by distinguished international faculty members from across the world to engage and collaborate on interdisciplinary and inter-departmental levels to promote scholastic exchange and learn from the best academic practices. In his opening remarks, the Principal of the College, Dr Manoj Sinha, pointing to its rich potential said, 'special lectures like these would enrich our understanding by virtue of having multiple perspectives on issues concerned by academics from universities across the world'.

Dr Zare is an Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Virginia Tech. 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*'.

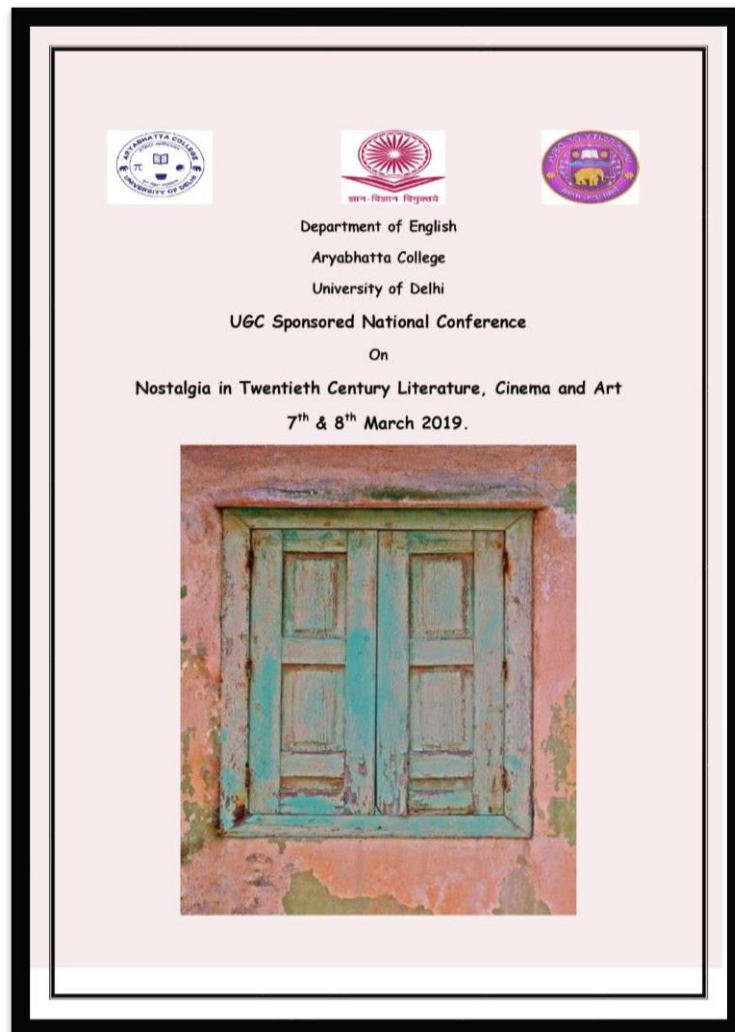
Under Dr Zare's supervision, the team members namely Alana Calhoun, Eryn Peters, Hayley Oliver, Ashley Mattson, Payton Johnson, Jordan Faulkner, Kelsey McGregor and Rebecca Sutton conducted the workshop on bystander intervention program to prevent gender and sexual violence. The Aryabhata student team led by Dr B. Mangalam also put up a striking performance that portrayed different shades of gender-based violence both in domestic and public spaces which was much appreciated by the audience including the American guests.

Overall, the lecture and the workshop witnessed more than 75 enthusiastic participants in addition to 8-9 department teachers. Taking cue from its remarkable success, effort is on to host more international guests for special lectures in the days to come.

Binoy Bhushan Agarwal
Assistant Professor (English), Special Lecture Coordinator



A Report on a two-day UGC Sponsored National Conference on *Nostalgia in Twentieth Century Literature, Cinema and Arts*



Department of English organized a two-day UGC Sponsored National Conference on *Nostalgia in Twentieth Century Literature, Cinema and Arts* on 7-8 March 2019. The Conference began with the inspiring address of our Principal, Dr. Manoj Sinha without whose guidance and mentorship the Conference would not have been possible. It was followed by intensive and engaging Plenary Session by Dr. Anjana Neira Dev, Professor, Department of HUSS, IIT Kharagpur. Dr. Dev spoke at length about how nostalgia informs our literature and shapes our cinematic and artistic sensibilities. The sessions that followed pertained to different perspectives of Nostalgia vis a vis exile narrative, Partition narratives, art, cartooning, childhood, refugee accounts. Academicians from disciplines of literature, philosophy, history and art gave insightful and interactive presentations for the two days. Some of the eminent speakers who were part of this conference were poet and activist, Tenzin

Tsundue, Writer, filmmaker Sohail Hashmi, Professor Nishat Haider, filmmaker Surbhi Diwan along with several other paper presenters each of which added a very rich dimension to the conceptual theme of this conference. Dr Ketaki Dutta's paper for instance spoke of how childhood is a domain which we nostalgically revisit as we inhabit adulthood. Professor Dev spoke of how cultural memory of Partition, while Surbhi Diwan's film screening 'A Thin Wall' also recounted the nostalgia steeped memories of people who were rendered refugees on account of 1947. Poet and activist Tenzin Tsundue spoke of the haunting trauma and nostalgia that informs the people of Tibet who were rendered refugees in the wake of Tibet being occupied by China in 1951 through his profound poems.

A participation of more than 55 candidates was observed and 9 faculty members attended the two days national conference.