



## Two Day International Conference

on

### “Performing the Nation: Memory and Desire in Contemporary Literature”

8-9 February, 2019

Post Graduate Department of English

Berhampur University, Odisha, India.

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#### Call for Papers

Nation, nationality, nationhood are constructs that begin with the definition of nation and the history of its conception. A nation is a geographical and political construct traditionally reflected in a map comprising people of a common heritage, language, religion, ethnicity, literature and history. It is based on ideals of democracy and personal liberty. Given the current critical climate, it becomes problematic to imagine a nation cartographed by a physical boundary and constructed thus. In the current scenario a nation becomes a multifarious construct diversifying beyond the simplistic imagination. One can reasonably presume that the concept of a nation is a consequence of the people becoming increasingly conscious of the need for autonomy, their individual rights to preserve their culture, ethnicity, language, etc. This notion, that nations are intended for self preservation within one geographical boundary with the right to sovereignty of its people, and that such self preservation is mutually recognized and respected between nations, has become debatable today.

Over the past few decades the concepts of diaspora and transnationalism have been gaining ground, overriding any presumption of form and geographical and political boundary that the traditional notion of nation had imposed. The concept of nation is performing itself in global, multicultural cross-border social formations, rendering the notion of nation as an ideology and fixed space obsolete. Transnationalism, per se, involves migrants, dispersed communities, and all sorts of social formations, such as transnationally active networks, groups and organisations and reflects various intellectual genealogies. Constructed to manage diversity, nation is enacted both at the horizontal and vertical levels built on the idea of a collective historical and mythological memory and is a process through which it is momentarily and powerfully realised through literatures of the world. Literature raises and addresses pertinent questions like how is a nation born? How is it preserved? How is it performed? And, is the concept of nation becoming redundant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

This conference will address seminal issues/sub- themes like (but not restricted to):

- Nation and colonization
- Narrating the nation in the postcolonial perspective
- Nation and gender
- Indigenous people in the national dynamics

- Sustainable development
- Nation and individual rights
- Homeland in diasporic imaginary
- Memory of war and peace
- Partition and psychodynamics of nation
- Transnationalism
- Borders and Refugees
- Politics of Language and Language teaching
- Nation in travel writing
- Secularism and Nationality
- Nationhood inscribed in myth, culture and religion
- Post-nation

**Abstracts/proposals for the conference must follow the guidelines of MLA Handbook 8<sup>th</sup> Edition and should not exceed 300 words with 5 keywords. Please attach a short Bio of 150 words. Selected papers will be peer reviewed and published in a volume with ISBN Number.**

### **Important Dates**

**Date of the Conference: 8<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> February, 2019**

**Last Date of receiving Abstracts: 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2018**

**Intimation of acceptance of Papers: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

**Full Paper Submission: 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

**Registration by: 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**Registration Fee: Rs. 2000/- [*Participants will be informed about remittance after the acceptance of their Abstracts have been notified*]**

**Registration fees will include Conference Kit, 02 lunches during the conference, Tea/Coffee and Snacks and certificates [Registration Fee does not include Accommodation]**

**Outstation participants may make their own arrangements or take the help of the organizers.**

**Convenor: Dr Balabhadra Tripathy**

**Co-Convenor: Dr Shruti Das**

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