

# Newsletter

Department of English, Modern European and Other  
Foreign Languages

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"Madness stamped on  
our head becomes our  
emblem"  
Muskaan Kapoor

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# INTRODUCTION

People in the Department of English, Modern European and Other Foreign Languages strive to make every effort with sheer vitality and utmost dedication to invigorate various academic and Departmental accomplishments every year. But highlighting those accomplishments, while surviving the Pandemic is pivotal as almost every aspect of the entire functioning of the Department changed from face to face interaction to remote modes. While the eminence of zoom classes and Google meets strengthened, the three campuses of the university became eerily silent and vacant. Irrespective of the difficult times, the faculty of the Department left no stone unturned to nimble their creativity while transitioning to online platforms. Apart from being engaged in regular UG/PG classes, internal assessments, examination duties and other administrative responsibilities, we made every effort to enhance our academic resume. The Department is proud to announce that WHO is collaborating with our newly installed Language Lab to study and improve the effectiveness of Public Health communication campaigns. Please find the accomplishments of the faculty in the next page. We hope you enjoy reading the current issue of the Newsletter.

Stay tuned for more Departmental Updates!

# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

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Prof. Monika Gupta was invited as a Resource person and she delivered a lecture on "Writing Skills, Report Writing and Preparing Agenda and Writing Minutes" in an online workshop on Academic Writing organized by the Department of Education on 16th August, 2021. She is also appointed as the co-ordinator of Permanent cell for combating sexual harrasment against women. She is the advisory of Language Lab and cordinates the other cells of the university.

# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

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Dr. Savita Bhandari attended Prof. Nelufer Bharucha's lecture on Diaspora on 16th July, 2021. Being a member of BOS (Board of Studies), she actively participated in the latest meeting which approved synopsis of fifteen scholars with promising research. She is currently working on a Research paper which she plans to get published soon.

# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

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Dr. Nitesh Kumar Baunthiyal participated in a five day Faculty Development Programme on "Transcending Disciplines: New Directions in Language, Literature and Culture" starting from 16th August, 2021. It was organized by Amity Institute of English Studies and Research, Amity University, Kolkata. Apart from this, he is an active member of Student Support Cell and also a member of Admission Process Committee.

# Faculty Highlights

Dr. Arushi Uniyal is appointed as the co-ordinator of the Language Lab and Departmental CO-ordinator of IQAC (Internal Quality Assurance Cell) of the University. She recently translated the Higher Education section of the New Education Policy in Gharwali language which is soon to be published. As the Principal Investigator in the Research project, she is delighted to announce that the Language Lab will be collaborating with World Health Organization on a study which aims to explore the significance of vernacularisation as a strategy to improve effectiveness of Public Health Communication campaigns.

## गढ़वाल विवि में लैंग्वेज लैब में काम शुरू

श्रीनगर। गढ़वाल विश्वविद्यालय के अंग्रेजी व आधुनिक यूरोपीय भाषाओं समेत विदेशी भाषा विभाग की संचालित लैंग्वेज लैब ने काम करना शुरू कर दिया है। विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन की ओर से स्थानीय बोली भाषा में स्वास्थ्य संबंधी जागरूकता के लिए इस प्रोजेक्ट की सैद्धांतिक स्वीकृति दी गई है। विभाग की असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर डॉ. आरुषि इस प्रोजेक्ट की मुख्य अन्वेषक हैं जो स्थानीय बोली भाषा की उपयोगिता और सर्वेक्षण कर जन जागरूकता पर पड़ने वाले प्रभावों का अध्ययन करेंगी। विवि की लैंग्वेज लैब की सलाहकार प्रो. मोनिका गुप्ता ने कहा कि इस कार्य से अब छात्रों की विविध भाषा व बोलियों पर सर्वेक्षण व शोध करने में मदद मिलेगी। साथ ही नई शिक्षा नीति में स्थानीय भाषाओं को भी बल मिलेगा। सहाद

## गढ़वाल विवि की लैंग्वेज लैब में शैक्षणिक गतिविधियों के प्रयास शुरू

श्रीनगर। हेमवती नंदन बहुगुणा गढ़वाल विवि के अंग्रेजी, आधुनिक यूरोपीय भाषाएं तथा अन्य विदेशी भाषा विभाग के अंतर्गत संचालित लैंग्वेज लैब में विभिन्न शैक्षणिक गतिविधियों के प्रयास प्रारंभ कर दिए गए हैं। विश्वविद्यालय की लैंग्वेज लैब की सलाहकार प्रो. मोनिका गुप्ता ने बताया कि विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन से समन्वय कर सामुदायिक सहभागिता के क्रम में स्वास्थ्य संबंधी जागरूकता को स्थानीय बोली भाषा के माध्यम से लोकप्रिय बनाने के दृष्टिकोण से एक प्रोजेक्ट की सैद्धांतिक स्वीकृति विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन से प्राप्त हुई है। विभाग की असिस्टेंट प्रोफेसर डॉ. आरुषि इस प्रोजेक्ट की मुख्य अन्वेषक होंगी। इस प्रारूप से स्थानीय बोली भाषा की उपयोगिता का सर्वेक्षण तथा प्रभाव जन जागरूकता अभियानों पर पड़ सकता है का अध्ययन किया जाएगा। उल्लेखनीय है कि नई शिक्षा नीति में स्थानीय भाषाओं का प्रभावी उपयोग किए जाने हेतु प्रेरित किया गया है। प्रो. मोनिका गुप्ता ने बताया कि विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन के साथ विश्वविद्यालय का समन्वय होना एक उल्लेखनीय उपलब्धि है। किसी भी छात्र को विविध भाषा बोलियों पर कार्य सर्वेक्षण और शोध करने के लिए इसका लाभ प्राप्त होगा। गढ़वाल विवि ने छात्रों के लिए खोले आउटडोर स्टेडियम

# Faculty Highlights

Ms. Kunzang Angmo recently wrote an article titled, "Joblessness and Hopelessness among the Ladakhi Youth" for Ladhak Journal( a regional e-magazine). She participated in the Safe Campus Programme conducted by the Association of Indian Universities and Martha Farrell Foundation (29th -30th June,2021). She also attended an awareness workshop on "Waste Management" by Dr. J.C Kuniyal, Scientist 'G' & Group Head, Centre for Environmental Assessment and Climate Change, G.B Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment , Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change, India. The workshop was organized by IQAC and Green Plan Committee of the University on 17th September, 2021. Apart from this, she is also an active member of Foreign Students Office and a member of the IQAC Annual Report Committee for the current year.

# Faculty Highlights

Mr. Dharmendra Kumar completed a seven day Faculty Development Programme(FDP) on "Critical Theories and Their Modern Pedagogical Adequacy in the Humanities" organized by the Department of Languages, Manipal University in collaboration with the Indian Society for the Promotion of English Language and Literature ( 26th July -1st August, 2021). He also attended a National Webinar on " Concept of Indian Literature and Translation" on 31st August, 2021, organized by the centre of Indian Languages, SLL&CS, JNU, New Delhi. During these couple of months, he attended many lectures by notable scholars such as GN Devy, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Gauri Viswanathan, Madhav Hada, Nirmala Jain, Ashok Vajpayee and others. Apart from this, he is a member of University's career and Placement Cell. Also he is an active member of University's CARE Cell, which supports Swatch Bharat Mission, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Namami Gange, Green Campus and other works.



# Faculty Highlights

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Mr. Ashutosh Kant Prabhakar wrote commentary for a book on Dalit Narratives, which is soon to be published. He also translated the Higher Education section of the New Education Policy into a Garhwali document for regional dissemination along with Dr. Arushi Uniyal. He is a member of New Education Policy implementation committee of the university and also a member of the proctorial board in SRT Campus, Tehri.

He is currently locating resources for a workshop on Story telling for the Department, which is soon to follow after November, 2021.

# Faculty Highlights

Ms. Muskaan Kapoor recently submitted a write-up titled, "Mythology a strategy: Call for Retelling" for MITA Feature Writers Project, 2021. Also her paper, titled, "Humanizing Divinity: Reverberating Mythical Past in Shiva Trilogy" is under publication in a Peer-Reviewed Journal. Another Paper, titled, "Women Behind The Veil: A Study of Subalternity In The Poems Of Imtiaz Dharker" is under review process in Feminist Review Journal. She also worked on a Research project proposal for National Commission for Women's Grant of Financial Assistance for Undertaking Research Studies(2021), which she plans to get published after collecting data for the questionnaire. And now she is currently working on a proposal for Research Funding Programme 2021, funded by Azim Premji University, focusing on the process of Gram panchayat development planning and its contribution to development and social justice.

# Faculty Highlights

She also attended a talk by film maker and U.S Fullbright alum, Kavary Kaul on "Stories Matter: The Impact of Films on Breaking the Barriers Between Cultures" on 9th July, 2021. Also She participated in a National Webinar on " Gender Studies: Theory and Praxis" organized by the Department of English, Nistarini College, Purulia, West Bengal on 7th July, 2021. Apart from her academic engagements, she has been trusted with few administrative responsibilities such as being a member of Women Redressal Cell, SRT Campus, Tehri and also a member of the New Education Policy Implementation group of the university.

# Scholar's Corner

Research Scholars research in the Department of English, Modern European and Other Foreign Languages have been working on a wide variety of genres that span Literature, Rhetoric, History, Psychology, Philosophy and other interesting areas. Also in the recent BOS( Board of Studies) meeting, fifteen synopsis of new PhD candidates were approved with promising ideas. The proposals included Psychological and Historical study of Select contemporary works, Women Studies, Trauma Studies, Nationalism, War Fictions, Gender Studies, Tribal Literature, Indian Writing in English, Shakespeare, Dystopian Fiction, Mythology and few other studies.

The Department is also pleased to announce the academic achievements of the registered Scholars and congratulates Ms. Akanksha Nautiyal, PhD candidate working under Prof. Arun Pant( SRT Campus, Tehri) for securing second position in National Short Story competition with a cash prize of fifteen thousand rupees. Also we are delighted to announce that she has been appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at DAV College, Jalandhar, Punjab.

# Student's Corner

## We only live once

--- the story of an Under-confident guy

A mind full of irrational thoughts, low self-esteem and a murderer of his own happiness-this very well defines an under-confident guy. His favourite words being-'Shit! I should have done that ,I should have said that and I should have lived that' but unfortunately this 'should have' remain intact and barely does it convert to 'Yeah! I finally did'. This is a story of one such guy whose insecurities and shyness would have killed him, if given a chance to and this guy is not exclusive ,we all are this guy or at least we all were. That guy indeed had a good life-good in studies, good in sports and co-curricular activities,good in possibly everything but ironically all his life he just focused on this question whether why he was not good enough? There are 7 billion people on this earth and not even 2 of them have identical personalities, not even twins, then why we aspire to be someone else, people out there want to be us and we want to be someone else and this is what fuels disappointment in this whole world.If there was ever a competition in this world where the sorrows and griefs were to be shared, we would always lose, we will not even be in the top 7,100 or

Continued on next page.....

# Student's Corner

1000; fortunately there ain't any and I would not even want to participate in any such event but unfortunately there are people out there who want to win it. Think hard and please don't be one among those crybabies. I am not against growth but I am against comparison. We were all punched down by someone, somewhere and at some point of time, so if I will ever be given a chance to just impart one lesson to all, I would undoubtedly say that if we can't pull someone up, at least we should never punch them down because killing the self esteem of a person is nonetheless than killing the person, as a person with low self esteem is already dead inside. Music and writing served as my escape; and indeed they were magical healers. Whenever there is fire inside us, we just need to pick up a pen and bleed ink. It really calms us, as something which was eating us inside has now been spoken to the one person who understands us like no one else, ourselves. I am a huge fan of the concept of self-love, only a person who loves himself can spread love to others and in this generation of broken hearts and happy faces, love is a must. I'm a melophile and I adore these lines of 'The Nights' by Avicci- "One day we leave this world behind, so live a life you will remember". I personally don't want to hang out with angels in heaven, watching my life-tape on a big screen and hearing comments like this

Continued on next page.....

# Student's Corner

is boring, the hero is a coward, so now the hero of my life story is out for the adventure, yes maybe a bit late but it's better late than never.

God is our guardian angel, be grateful to him, trust him and he will definitely show us ways and sail through all the difficulties and if you ever get a chance to be god for someone, please be.

**By: Rishabh Semwal**  
**B.A 4th sem( SRT Campus)**

# Student's Corner

## Can Words Speak?

Its okay not to be okay. It's okay to be sad for no reasons. Its okay to be happy with conditions. Everything is fine but nothing's calm. My anxiety never lets me rest. Its been years now living with that. A simple call, a simple text, a simple tap, a simple hello, a simple glance, a simple laughter, a simple comment, a simple touch and even a simple smile can act as a trigger to my hypervigilant senses. There is no stopping to my sensory receptors and interpreting channels. I miss my longer nails. I miss my longer hair. I miss my older skin. I miss my older habits. I miss almost everything. My head space never seems to be vacant. Good enough to be bad but also bad enough to be worse.



# Student's Corner

I am always pre-occupied. To do, not to do. Wishlist.dreams.Aspirations. Relations. Boundaries.Past. Future. Everything seems so scrambled up together that my eyebrows seem to be carrying a load of rubble over them.So heavy and sticky that it doesn't leave; doesn't even stay. Emotions have become so tiring, repetitive and redundant that all seems to be one and also disparate at the same time. I wake up with a beaten up body. My limbs with such an excruciating pain that I almost feel drained all the time. Even the fingers and the jawsleave no stones unturned to show their play.I write poetry, music, I sing, I dance, I study, I laugh, I cry, I communicate but this is not enough.

# Student's Corner

I just want to come out of this labyrinth. I want to be helped but helping hands drown me. I'm apologetic and unapologetic. I'm loud and quiet. I'm emotional and unemotional. I am alone and occupied. My relations fall like dominos and it shatters my heart to let them fall. I feel like a demon that devours everything that comes it's way. But I also wear a cloak and a halo that helps in every other way. I am everything at the moment and then nothing at the other. Perhaps I oscillate in between the poles.

By: Paritosh Rawat  
M.A 4th sem (Birla Campus)

# Faculty Corner

**Madness stamped on our head becomes our emblem**

“For the madwoman, her madness is morally and mentally rejected as an other, classically and predictably, manipulated to preserve self-assurance for the accepted Self— the sane, the abled, the male or the male owned identity—a ‘corporeal reality.’” (Kristeva)

Over the years, the concept of literary madness has occupied a profound space for exploration in the genre of fiction, but even within this significant space, women have been represented in a dark light. The culturally complex figures of the mad female occupy an in-between space between an abled-Self and a mad-Other, which is abject. Such representations and their reliance on a binary relationship between self and other, abled and mad, highlight the oppression of women, fueled by patriarchal ideologies and gender-biased societies. Therefore, the need of the hour is to refashion the language which portrays women as weak, mad, docile and resist the age-old system of false representation.

# Faculty Corner

Historically, women have been identified with “emotion” and “the body,” rather than reason, which is often reflected in various literatures on madness. In order to respond to this, women have made efforts to assert their power and disrupt the forces that reinforce subjugation, but resisting such ideologies has never been an easy task. Although, there have been many literary representations of madwomen figures who contest the rigid and biased norms of patriarchal society. Among the most well-known of these is the ghostly figure of the madwoman in the attic who haunts Charlotte Bronte’s *Jane Eyre*. Such representations of madwomen make us ask certain questions, such as: what are the origins of this idea of madness? Are such characters born mad or is madness produced by mental and other abuses during the course of life?

Mad, monstrous, evil, and self-centered: such words are used to describe women who attempt to raise their voice against injustice. I am the reader who wonders if this is the result of imposed ideologies, isolation, inhuman treatment, and differentiation on the basis of gender, race, culture? I am the reader who re-tells and reframes the story of the madwoman. The reader who traces the lines that produce instability, that destabilizes the page.

# Faculty Corner

The rigid norms of heteronormativity that confine women's or any other suppressed individuals' bodies within fixed boundaries of gender stereotypes are also often carried out in certain kinds of patriarchal mythology. The madwoman is a point where myth and body combine and collaborate. Mythic fantasies become realities and realities reproduce fantasies. It's time to refashion the language, to retell the myths, to claim space in life and on the page. Through revising and reinterpreting madness in literature, we develop a strategy to use against biased mainstream narratives that continue to bind women to different ancient roles prescribed by men. Our writings form a medium of resistance against the misogynist and conventional orthodox views of society. We are the re-tellers; madness pours out of our pens.

# Faculty Corner

Our resistance highlights the subjugation of the suppressed and provides considerate voice to the powerless. There is always a power play between the act of resistance and domination, specifically in social and cultural contexts. For instance, the #metoo movement against sexual harassment clearly depicts the shift of power from the dominator/abuser to the women who decides to come forward, share their stories and emerge stronger and powerful. Thus, We can think of our resistance as being a consequence of the excesses of subjugation. We write in a state of utmost anguish against horrible atrocities, often unleashed by hegemonic powers. We write to retell. There are various methods employed by the subjugated victims to resist the regime of power structures and the most powerful weapon used is writing. That is the madwoman's weapon. The retelling is how a woman wages her war with patriarchal inscriptions and in their numerous attempts at reiterating different historical tales, epics and other canonical texts, they keep patriarchal fantasies of the madwoman alive by retelling her story again and again. However, women and other people suppressed in the name of gender across the world have raised revisionary men's to do battle with false portrayals.

# Faculty Corner

Writer-to-writer, a discourse on women's re-appropriation of narrative structures, such as revisiting myths and re-contextualizing plots, is a deliberate act of disobedience. We must continue to subvert conventional texts, to be the resisting readers and the disobedient writers. This late-20<sup>th</sup> Century retelling of writing, as a genre, positions us now to be able to continue to subvert and push against the logocentric representational system of phallogentric discourse, whether we are female-bodied madwomen writers or whether our disruption of logocentrism takes another shape.

# Faculty Corner

Women have often been associated with those characteristics that make them mad, that make them inferior, irrational, and weak. But their rage makes them masculine. A person's performance of emotion often comes to define their gender. Their rage is our rage. We must keep retelling our rage. The myths will make us pay for our rage, so we must insist, collectively, on new myths of our rage. Although language is persuasive and powerful, it still has the ability to transform and voice out the accumulated rage of madwomen from many years. Rage has made us mad, and patriarchal versions of madness have made us rage. It is still a time for us to rage and turn our anger into resistance writing. It is extremely important for any suppressed individual to let out their rage and emotions in the form of resistance to assert their subjectivity.



# Faculty Corner

Many mythological tales put forth claims regarding female emotions, where women were expected to be meek and feeble, and if they did voice against this representation, they were declared hysterical. We have mythological figures of overwhelming emotion to turn to for our retellings: Cassandra, Medusa, Clytemnestra, Medea, and Circe, to name a few. In these texts, the women were considered mad, monstrous, and dangerous. These are our mad, our monstrous. But even more, we are our mad and our monstrous. How will we write our myths so they will not be forgotten across a century?

# Faculty Corner

The agency of madness and mad women protagonists in literature have thus become important strategies for contesting the rigid patriarchal ideals that underlie grand narratives of suppression of women. Such texts do not provide a closure, but rather leave gaps for readers' imaginations to fill. The plots of revisionist texts are multilayered, with various inconsistencies. Strong madwomen characters do not need to be normal in any sense. We do not need to be normal. We can deviate. Our madness can be a potent force that sheds light on important discourses, such as those of race, gender, and social hierarchies. Our initiative of reclaiming and correcting myths, and re-appropriating the past will redefine portrayals of madwomen in myths to make mad culture.

THEREFORE WE MUST WRITE TO LIBERATE  
MALIGNED MAD WOMEN FROM THE LIMITATIONS  
OF IMPOSED IDENTITIES, WE MUST WRITE TO  
RETELL.

~MUSKAAN KAPOOR

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

SRT CAMPUS, Tehri

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- ➔ **Ongoing B.A First year Admissions 2021**
- ➔ **Upcoming Viva-Voce for the final batch of M.phil students**
- ➔ **Classes of B.A1st and 3rd semester soon to start**
- ➔ **Upcoming Workshop on the art of Storytelling, soon to follow after November, 2021.**

**Stay tuned for more Departmental updates!**