Seminar on Cultural Studies for Post Graduate Students and Research Scholars

The Department of English and Cultural Studies, Panjab University Chandigarh has always offered support and encouragement to young researchers. This seminar is another step in this direction. The plan is to invite research papers (4000-6000 words in length) on themes related to Cultural Studies. At the one-day seminar, around 15 papers will be presented; experts will assess the papers and give detailed feedback to the presenters. The bi-annual journal of the department, dialog, will publish the best papers presented at this seminar which will be organized on February 20, 2020 in the department. MA students, M.Phil students and Ph.D research scholars are invited to send their research papers before February 10, 2020 to chairperson_english@pu.ac.in

CONCEPT NOTE

Culture as a concept is often used synonymously with ‘civilization’, ‘religion’ or even ‘ideology’. The objective of Cultural Studies is to explore the concept of culture in terms of its relationship with the discourse of civilization, religion, everyday life, science and ideology. The distinctions are subtle, but not oppositional in fundamental ways. Culture, however, tends to subsume all other discourses of life, be it religious, ideological or civilizational. As an interdisciplinary enterprise, the field draws its theoretical impetus largely from the practices of Frankfurt and Birmingham. Indian culture displays its distinct configurations and its approaches to culture too are very different and have their own compelling indigenous frameworks. Right from Vedanta to bhakti period, and then from Gandhism to Ambedkarism, there is a vast array of cultural approaches, which demand critical attention. Various cultural regions within India too have their own aesthetic poetics and ethical viewpoints.

The seminar can focus on various mediums of communication that inform and shape culture in fundamental ways. From the arrival of radio to YouTube, the production, circulation and reception of culture as a whole has undergone paradigmatic shifts. Mediums like television or film have generated and ossified their own cultural fields over the years, creating cultures within culture. The seminar papers can explore these various layers of cultures that begin to emerge due to the intervention of new technologies in the life of people. Papers in the seminar can range from a canonical understanding of culture to the arrival of popular culture and within it various other subcultures that playfully subvert the dominance of the classical culture; such as ‘mass culture’ or ‘celebrity culture’ that in the name of entertainment, pleasure or leisure often stupefy masses into a mode of uncritical consumerism.

RSVP

Department of English and Cultural Studies
Panjab University
Chandigarh 160014