

recovered: Futh seeks substitute mother figures, Lewis wants to undo time and explore the option that was on the table when he was young, and Jessie (in *Missing*) is seeking a lost child, but none of them can truly reclaim what has been lost to the past: people leave; time passes. In *Missing*, I use imagery comparing this loss with ejection from the Garden of Eden, and being unable to get back in.

About the Author

Sukhpal Sharma is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in the Department of English at Punjabi University, Patiala. His research focuses on diverse areas such as fiction, science fiction, music, folklore, and philosophy. With an M.Phil. in English, his dissertation titled “Memory and Desire Loop: Analyzing Alison Moore’s *The Lighthouse and He Wants*” reflects his academic expertise and interests.

A Report on the 5-Day International Capacity Building Program on Poetry, Pedagogy, and Profession Organized by Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab: August 20-25, 2022

Navleen Multani

Public Relations and Department of English, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab (RGNUL), Punjab in collaboration with Mary Immaculate College (MIC), University of Limerick, Ireland, Intercultural Poetry and Performance Library (IPPL), Kolkata, State Bank of India, Patiala and Manipal University, Jaipur organised 5-day International Capacity Building Program (CBP) on “Poetry, Pedagogy and Profession: Understanding Rhyme and Reason across Cultures” from 20th - 25th August, 2022. This unique program was organized with the objective to promote reading, writing and teaching of poetry. The 5-day program advanced National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 mandate regarding building of competencies. Mr Sudeep Sen, an internationally acclaimed poet and contemporary voice of Indian Poetry, was Chief Guest for the inaugural session.

Prof. G.S. Bajpai, Vice-Chancellor, RGNUL welcomed the guests. Citing Dylan Thomas, Prof. Bajpai remarked, “A good poem is a contribution to reality. It helps to change the shape of universe.” While addressing academicians, researchers, students and professionals, he observed that poetry immensely maximized talent and critical abilities. Voicing concern regarding artificial intelligence and impact of new technologies, Prof. Bajpai said that the knack of interpreting

poetry and understanding complex issues can fortify competencies.

Mr. Sudeep Sen read poems from his books, *Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion and Consolation* and *Fractals* (2021). In a conversation with Dr Navleen Multani, Assistant Professor in English and Public Relation Officer, RGNUL and Dr Jhila Chattaraj, Assistant Professor, RBVRR Women's College Hyderabad, poet Sudeep Sen spoke about creative process, artistic defamiliarization and language usage in poetry. Sen also referred to his recently edited anthology *Converse* (2022) and contemplated on Indian writings. While responding to question regarding challenges in writing poems on social and cultural issues, Mr Sudeep Sen alluded to poet's subtle blurring of semiotic boundaries that explore promises, perils and create an alternative discourse. He also delved into the kind of poetry prominently figuring on Facebook in the present times.

Prof Eugene O' Brien, Director, Mary Immaculate Institute of Irish Studies; Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta, Convenor, Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi; Dr Anjana Neira Dev, Gargi College, Delhi and Dr Basudhara Roy, Karim City College, Jamshedpur; Dr Jaydeep Sarangi, Vice-President IPPL; Dr Nishi Pulugurtha, Secretary, IPPL; Dr Nabanita Sengupta, University of Calcutta; Prof Desmond L Kharmawphlang, NEHU, Shillong; Dr Manju, CU; Dr Sunaina Jain, MCM Chandigarh; Prof Prasannanshu, NLU Delhi, Prof Pramod Kumar, IGNOU and Prof Bootheina Majoul, University of Carthage were resource persons for the technical sessions.

Prof. Eugene O' Brien delivered a discourse on "Poetic Thinking: Towards an Understanding of Language of the Unconscious" during the first technical session. "Poetic thinking is all about

knowledge and truth. Poetry accesses the realm of repressed emotions, unconscious desires and prejudices," observed Prof. Brien. Elucidating the conceptualizations of Martin Heidegger, Jacques Derrida, Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, Prof. Eugene O' Brien said, "Poetry deconstructs binaries, allows interaction of rational/irrational and makes space for philosophy." Prof. Brien focused on the poetry of Seamus Heaney. Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta deliberated on poetry as a learning experience. Dr. Anjana Neira Dev, Dr. Navleen Multani and Dr. Basudhara Roy responded to the presentations.

Dr Jaydeep Sarangi expanded on new poets in Indian English poetry. Dr Nishi Pulugurtha delved into poetry and activism. She also raised a concern for dementia and recited her poems on this issue. Dr Nabanita Sengupta responded to the presentations on the second day of the program. Dr Anjana Neira Dev elaborated on the geometry of poetry. Prof Desmond read a few of his compositions on folklore and alluded to poetry as identity. Distinguished Poet, Dinesh Devghariya, presented poems on freedom fighters and epics during the RGNUL and SBI Poetry session on the third day. RGNUL students, faculty members and members of teaching staff presented self-composed poems.

Dr Sunaina Jain delineated pathway of holistic growth through reading and understanding of poetry. Poetry workshop was conducted by Prof Prasannanshu. Multilingual poetry session in collaboration with P3 group was also held on the fourth day of the program.

Prof Parmod Kumar dwelled on poetry as world literature. Prof Majoul talked about the paramount importance of poetry in the

digital era. Prof Eugene O' Brien made observations on bog bodies and The Northern Irish Troubles with reference to the poetry of Seamus Heaney. Dr S Chitra, Assistant Professor, Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan, presented concluding remarks during the last session of the event. She eulogised the significant academic endeavour of RGNUL to promote study of poetry for the holistic development of teachers and learners.

Prof. Anand Pawar, Registrar, RGNUL, faculty members, research scholars, research associates, students and academicians from various institutes, India and abroad, were also present during the deliberations. Dr Navleen Multani, Coordinator, extended a vote of thanks.

A total of 60 participants from Adamas University; Hansraj College, University of Delhi; Hislop College Nagpur; B.N.P.G.College, Udaipur; Panjab University, Chandigarh; Delhi University; MCM DAV College for Women, Chandigarh; IASE, Pune, Maharashtra; Department of English, University of Delhi; Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning; National Law University, Delhi; Govt. Degree College for Women, Pulwama ; Symbiosis Law School, Pune; Xavier Business School Sxuk, Kolkata; IGNOU; Sherubtse College, Bhutan; St. Stephens' College, DU and RGNUL, Punjab attended the 5 day program.

About the Author

Navleen Multani is the Head of the School of Languages and Director of the Public Relations Cell at Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, Patiala. Additionally, she holds the position of Area Editor at Oxford Online Bibliographies.