



State Level Seminar on
Going Popular: Politics, Culture and Canon

19-20 March 2020

Organized by
The Department of English
University of Calcutta

Concept Note

Popular and Culture are two ideas that have mostly located themselves as mutually exclusive. With the rise of the present theoretical phase where the newer notions of class, virtues and virtual realities necessitated a reimagining of the earlier paradigms, popular culture became a field that demanded greater attention. Culture and the culture industry evolved with the times, particularly with technology, as did the politics that guided their equations. Generic identities were reinvented. Hybrid forms came within popular acceptance. The critical establishment was forced to assess these shifts with more attention than ever. All the arts – across the media – had to reconfigure their identities so as to survive in the digital age. High culture, along with canon, did not offer greater democracy. But the awareness that the fringe or/and marginal presences now need acknowledgement was no longer limited to the sociological reality that we live in. Strangely enough, instead of assimilation what ensued was the formation of fringe canons. Popular Culture, including Popular Literature, became a canon by its own right, thereby not only dissociating it from the larger canon, but also successfully creating a separated paradigm that continues to disallow any possibility of assimilation.

This Seminar would like to address the above issues and examine them within the fields of literature and other arts such as theatre, cinema, music and such. The location of the Popular will be theoretically addressed and along with urban ‘high’ popular, the idea of the ‘folk’ popular will also be considered. In fact, the theoretical dislocation of folk is often avoided by literary deliberation; turning the folk into a kind of other. Whether the canon of Popular Culture can or should exist disregarding folk is a matter that needs scrutiny.

The Seminar would like to invite papers from **research scholars** and **postgraduate students** on the following themes:

- The Popular Culture of Cinema
- The Idea of Popular Theatre
- The Canon of Popular Literature
- Folk and the Culture of the Popular
- Popular Performance
- The Culture of Music
- Classical as Cultural: Defining Dancing
- The Gender of the Popular

- ✓ Abstracts of no more than 500 words are to be submitted within 01 March 2020 to drsiddharthabiswas@gmail.com.
- ✓ Acceptance or rejection will be notified via e-mail.
- ✓ Abstracts should clearly mention institutional affiliations and have keywords and a non-plagiarism statement.
- ✓ Submission of abstract does not guarantee acceptance.

Those who would like to attend must register their names by sending an e-mail

with name, position and institution to drsiddharthabiswas@gmail.com

within 14 March 2020.

THERE WOULD BE NO SPOT REGISTRATION.