



**FORUM ON CONTEMPORARY THEORY, BARODA**  
(Member of the Consortium of Humanities Centers &  
Institutes)

In collaboration with

**The Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University  
(MSCB University),**  
formerly North Orissa University (NOU), Baripada,  
Mayurbhanj

Organize a **National Seminar**

**Dates: 11-13 February 2023**

**Venue: The Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University (MSCB University), formerly  
North Orissa University (NOU)**

**Theme: “Autobiography as Affective Archaeology: Exploring Jayanta Mahapatra's Creative Oeuvre”**

Concept Note

The two-day National Seminar is intended to celebrate the bi-lingual writer Jayanta Mahapatra's creative engagement through a critical reflection of his work spanning over half a century. It is difficult to find a bilingual writer in India who is equally fluent in both the local language and English and produced in equal measure works in both languages. His “Autobiography,” recently completed in Odia, could be considered as an apotheosis of his creative journey. It is a superb attempt to sum up in flashback his life in words lived with passion and intensity. We have called his poetic journey as “affective archaeology” to suggest that like a contemporary archaeologist trying to make sense of the life around from the scattered fragments of the ruins not easily deciphered, the poet here is not perhaps interested in creating structures in his imagination but in acutely observing the dynamic fluidity of images crisscrossing with each other from the collage of time. However, such disjunctive images emerge sporadically from his creative palimpsest, which is largely the state of Odisha, and closely the city of Cuttack where he lives. In the last part of his Autobiography these images, almost like a musical movement, come together in a crescendo-like epiphany in which moments of joy and grief blend contrapuntally to celebrate life's ultimate fulfilment.



**Abstract Submission Deadline**

An abstract or proposal not exceeding 300 words is due by January 20, 2023. The abstract should have a title along with the name and institutional affiliation of the presenter. Please send the abstract as an email attachment to Kalidas Misra (kalidasmisra@yahoo.com). The language of the abstract can be in English or Odia.

**Registration Fee and Deadline**

The last date for receiving the registration fee is January 25, 2023. All participants need to register online directly with our bank, the details of which will be provided on request. The registration fee is non-refundable.

(1) Outstation Participant from India with accommodation: ₹ 3000 (Three thousand Indian rupees)

(2) Participant from India without accommodation: ₹1500 (One thousand five hundred Indian rupees)

**For further information please contact: Kalidas Misra (kalidasmisra@yahoo.com)**

Former Professor of English  
Sambalpur University, Odisha  
Academic Convener of the Seminar