

January 12, 2023

Minutes of the Editorial Committee Meeting held online on 08 January 2023

The first meeting of the Editorial Committee (comprising Bijay Kumar Danta as Editor-in-Chief; Samik Malla as Managing Editor; Nandana Dutta as Member; Prasad Pannian as Member; Sanjay Mukherjee as Member) was held on Google Meet on January 08, 2023. All, except Prof Mukherjee, were present.

The following items were discussed and agreed upon:

1. Constitution of the Advisory Committee (Members and Reviewers)

Further to the decisions taken at the Annual General Body (AGM) Meeting of the Forum on Contemporary Theory at Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati, on 20 December 2022, it was suggested that the Advisory Committee be expanded to include more reviewers and advisors. However, as the constitution of the committee has to be approved by the AGM, it was agreed that the previous advisory board be retained for the initial issues, adding Prafulla C Kar as well as two new members (Kailash C Baral and D Venkat Rao) elected by the AGM at Guwahati to the board.

It was agreed that every editorial committee member would suggest 4 or 5 scholars who could potentially be included in the advisory board and the panel of reviewers. Furthermore, care is to be taken in ensuring the interdisciplinary thrust of the journal. The deadline agreed upon for this item was 22 Jan 2023 when the board of editors intend to reconvene.

2. Series and Numbering

It was noted that the committee could opt to either continue with the old series and its numbering or start afresh. Starting a new series would help ease the transition and explain the gap of five years since the final issue was published. Retaining the old numbering, on the contrary, would bring a sense of history and continuity.

It was agreed that a new series is to be launched with minor changes in layout and design, as necessary. However, the old numbering is to be continued with a note of explanation in the editorial section.

3. Call for Papers (CFP)

It was suggested that the first two issues of the journal be kept thematically open, with special issues being potentially considered for later issues. It was agreed that the CFP ought to be sent out by mid-February.

Articles are to be solicited from established scholars, albeit without waving the need for peer review. Promising papers presented at the recent FCT conference in Guwahati are to be invited for review. It was noted that Prof Roland Greene has agreed to revise and submit his paper. A few other papers from the conference were tentatively discussed.

It was agreed that the CFP is to be circulated on H-Net, UPenn and other forums for higher visibility.

4. Timeline

Articles are to be accepted till the middle of June, at which point the blind peer review is to begin, lasting about six to eight weeks. Once the reviews are in, the authors may be asked to revise and submit their papers in about two weeks.

The process of copy-editing may start in early September such that the process of typesetting and printing may be completed by November. As agreed upon earlier, every effort is to be made to have the printed volume in hand before the next annual conference of the Forum.

5. Funding

The editorial committee understands that the Forum on Contemporary Theory has offered to cover the expenses of the first issue. For the issues that would follow, sources of funding are to be discussed in future meetings.

6. Printing

It was noted that it would be most convenient to retain the existing printing house at Anand, Gujarat. Sanjay Mukherjee has agreed to take care of the logistics related to printing the journal in coordination with the FCT.

7. Indexing

It was suggested that the board directly try to get the journal indexed on Scopus instead of initially targeting UGC-CARE. Other indexes such as MLA, Web of Science, Arts and Humanities Citation Index, Social Science Citation Index, et cetera were also considered. It was agreed that a wider range of indexing would bring better visibility to the journal.

8. Journal Website

The committee discussed and unanimously agreed that a separate website for the journal would be necessary. This particular item is to be taken up for further discussions with the Forum.

9. Digitisation of Back Volumes

Given the rich history of noted scholarship that has appeared on the pages of the journal, it would be useful to figure out a way to digitise the back volumes, perhaps

with an OCR scan that would render the texts searchable. This would help avoid the complications arising from scanning volumes into image files that make them nearly impossible to find online. A recommendation was made to look into the possibility of creating a bibliography of all articles published in the journal.

It was also suggested that select articles from the journal's archives may be independently published as edited books.

10. Searching for a Publishing House

It was agreed that publishers such as Springer, Elsevier, Wiley-Blackwell or Taylor & Francis are to be contacted to discuss the future of the journal. The preference of the committee is to have a strong digital presence, but also with the possibility of procuring printed volumes of the journal.

The committee has agreed to reconvene online on 22 January 2023. The Editor-in-Chief thanked the members and the meeting came to an end.

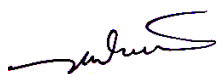
Editorial Committee,

Journal of Contemporary Thought




Bijay Kumar Danta

Editor-in-Chief



Nandana Dutta

Member



Samik Malla

Managing Editor & Convener of the EC Meeting



Prasad Pannian

Member

(Absent with intimation)

Sanjay Mukherjee

Member