

# Forum on Contemporary Theory

XXI International Conference

*Revisiting Cosmopolitanism*

Venue: The Chariot Hotel and Spa, Puri, Odisha

## Program Schedule

**Tuesday, December 18**

2:00-3:00 pm

**Registration**

3:00-4:00 pm

**Annual General Body Meeting of the Forum on Contemporary Theory**

Venue: Wave Hall

4:00-5:00 pm

**Reception and Tea**

5:30- 8:30 pm

**Inaugural Session**

Venue: Wave Hall

Chair: Bruce Robbins

5:30-5:40 pm: Welcome by Prafulla C. Kar, Convener, Forum on Contemporary Theory

5:40-5:50 pm: Welcome by William D. Pederson, Director, International Lincoln Center,  
Louisiana State University in Shreveport, USA

5:50- 6:05 pm: Thematic Introduction by Bruce Robbins, Academic Convener

6:05-6:20 pm: Thematic Introduction by Galin Tihanov, Academic Convener

6:20-6:30 pm: Introduction by Mohamed Mehdi, Editor of the Conference Volume

6:30-7:45 pm

**Inaugural Address**

Speaker: Homi K. Bhabha

Topic: “The Burdened Life: On Migration and the Humanities”

7:45-8:30 pm

**Felicitation of Jayanta Mahapatra & Readings from His Poems**

8:30-9:30 pm

**Dinner**

**Wednesday, December 19**

9:00-10:15 am

Venue: Wave Hall

Chair: Galin Tihanov

**Keynote Address**

Speaker: Bruce Robbins

Topic: “Diasporas and Atrocities: Cosmopolitanism Now”

10:15-10:30 am

**Tea/Coffee**

SECTION I

**History and Context: What is Cosmopolitanism, Who is a Cosmopolitan?**

10:30-12:00 noon

*Cosmopolitan Ethics*

Venue: Wave Hall

Chair: Mohamed Mehdi

1. James J. Winchester: "Liberalism's Failures and the Cosmopolitan Nightmare"
2. KBS Krishna: "The Curious Case of the Cult of Cosmopolitanism"
3. Akoijam Thoibisana: "Towards a Cosmopolitan Being: A Philosophical Study"
4. K.M. Johnson: "Questioning Cosmopolitanism: Towards a Philosophy of Eco-Cosmopolitanism"

10:30-12:00 noon

*Rereading the Canon: Instances from the Global North*

Venue: Harbor Hall

Chair: Bijay K. Danta

1. Balabhadra Tripathy: "Educating Emile: Rousseau and Cosmopolitanism"
2. Braja Kishore Sahoo: "George Orwell's 'Notes on Nationalism' in Our Time"
3. Bhima Charan Nayak: "Cosmopolitan Facet of E. M. Forster's Ethics of Tolerance"
4. Ajit Kumar Kullu: "Re-Reading Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* as a Cosmopolitan Text"

12:00-1:15 pm

**Plenary**

*Cosmopolitanism: Internal Diversity/ Teleological Unity*

Venue: Wave Hall

Chair: Prakash C. Sarangi

1. Adelina Angusheva: "The Citizen of the World and the Citizen of the Heavenly Jerusalem: Cosmopolitanism in the European Middle Ages"
2. Mohamed Mehdi: "Politicizing the Cosmos: Action and Emotion for the Stoics and Us"

1:15-2:15 pm

**Lunch**

2:15- 3:45 pm

*Rereading the Canon: Instances from the Global South*

Venue: Wave Hall

Chair: Kalidas Misra

1. Amritanand Nayak: "Opening the Space to Home and Outside: Visual Imprints in the Illustrated Manuscripts of Assam"
2. Sanjay Mukherjee: "Evaluating Cosmopolitanism through Literature & Criticism: A Working Paper"
3. N. Naga Raju: "Cosmopolitan Trajectories in Indian English Fiction: A Study of Tagore and Rushdie"
4. Nalinikanta Parhi: "Vernacular Cosmopolitanism: A Study through the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Odia Novel *Basanti*"

SECTION II

**Political Dimensions of Cosmopolitanism: Re-Calibrating the Polis in War and Peace**

2:15- 3:45 pm

*National Communities and their Cosmopolitan Disruptions*

Venue: Harbor Hall

Chair: Gananath Dash

1. Bini B.S.: "Cosmopolitanism and Nationalism: Histories of Incompatible/ Combative Coexistence"
2. Rositta Joseph Valiyamattam: "Infinite Possibilities, Immense Challenges: Critiquing Gandhian Cosmopolitanism in *Hind Swaraj*"
3. Md. Nizam Ul Hossain & Nodi Islam: "Muslim Cosmopolitanism in Rural Bangladesh: The Construction of Power Dynamics *vis-a-vis* Cosmopolitan Identity"
4. Ashik Kumar: "Cosmopolitanisms of Resistance: Ambedkar and Dubois"
5. Tanutrushna Panigrahi: "Artistic Cosmopolitanism, World(ing) Literature and the ICT Connect"

3:45-4:00 pm

**Tea/Coffee**

4:00-5:30 pm

*Normativity and Cosmopolitanism*

Venue: Wave Hall

Chair: Sunita Manian

1. Prakash C. Sarangi: "Cosmopolitanism, Nation-State and Democratic Theory"
2. Nikhil Moro: "Law and Ethics: Sources and Norms in India and the United States"
3. Prakash Kumar Meher: "Autobiographical Writing as a Site of Appropriating Cosmopolitan Culture: A Study of Frederick Douglass' Autobiographies"
4. Shrutishree Mohanty: "American by Birth, Cosmopolitan by Choice: Susan Sontag as a Crusader of Our Time"
5. Sneha Mahapatra: "Cosmopolitanism and the Oppressed: Benhabib, Butler, Davis and Spivak"

### SECTION III

#### **Cosmopolitan Cultures: World Literature, Fashion, Consumerism**

4:00-5:30 pm

*Literary Analyses: Indian English Fiction*

Venue: Harbor Hall

Chair: Anand Mahanand

1. Gayathri P J: "Dissolving Boundaries of Gender and Sexuality: Unfolding Gender Cosmopolitanism in Mahesh Dattani's Select Plays"
2. Babu Rajan P P: "*The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*: A Narrative of a Cosmopolitan Orientation"
3. Bibhuti Bhusan Padhy: "Beyond the Sense of 'Belonging': An Analysis of Anita Desai's novel *Fasting, Feasting*"
4. Neerja Pathak: "Cosmopolitanism within Partition: The Undercurrents of 'Us' and 'Them'"

5:30-8:00 pm

**Cultural Program**

Venue: Wave Hall

8:00-9:00 pm

**Dinner**

**Thursday, December 20**

9:00-10:15 am

Venue: Wave Hall

Chair: Gaurav Desai

**Keynote Address**

Speaker: Galin Tihanov:

Topic: "Two Types of Cosmopolitanism"

10:15- 10:30 am

**Tea/Coffee**

10:30- 12:00

*Performing a Cosmopolitan Space into Being*

Venue: Wave Hall

Chair: William D. Pederson

1. Manju Dhariwal: "Gender, Narration and Nation: A Critical Rereading of Alka Saraogi's *Kali-katha: Via Bypass*"
2. Tonisha Guin: "The Cosmopolitan Imagined Community and Its Identity Project(s): A Move Towards a Critical Cosmopolitanism"

3. Prantik Banerjee: “The Bengali’s “Provincial Cosmopolitanism”: Adda as a Cultural Discourse of Worldliness at Home”
4. Namita Laxmi Jagaddeb: “Amitav Ghosh’s *The Shadow Lines*: A Study in Cosmopolitanism”

10:30- 12:00

*Conversations with the Popular*

Venue: Harbor Hall

Chair: N. Nagaraju

1. Payal Jain: “Cosmopolitan Connections Across Species: A Reading of *Life of Pi* and ‘Luck’”
2. Rajan Joseph Barrett: “Cognition and the Cosmopolitan: *The Girl on the Train*”
3. Raj Thakur: “Cultural Economy of Cosmopolitanism and Indian Premiere League”
4. Antara Mukherjee: “Negotiating Problematic Cosmopolitanisms in Selected Popular Narrative”

12:00-1:15 pm

***Plenary***

*Archiving Migratory Configurations and Oriental Cosmopolitanisms*

Venue: Wave Hall

Chair: Ketu H. Katrak

1. Gaurav Desai: “Cosmopolitanism in the Archives: What Minor Histories May Teach Us about Major Theories”
2. Bina Gogineni: “Orientalism and Cosmopolitanism”

1:15-2:15 pm

**Lunch**

SECTION IV

**Cosmopolitan Trajectories: Exile, Border-Crossing, Memory**

2:15- 3:45 pm

*Embodied Practices: Memory and Exile*

Venue: Wave Hall

Chair: James J. Winchester

1. Bijay K. Danta: “Cosmopolitanism, Contamination, and Puri-ty: The Role of the *Anagarika* and the *Abadhuta* in the Age of Asylum”
2. Sushmita Sihwag: “Homecoming of the Exile as a ‘Cosmopolitan’ Tourist”
3. Mashrur Shahid Hossain: “Eating Into the Other: Re-Seasoning Gastronomic Cosmopolitanism”
4. S. Deepika: “Cosmopolitan Conduits: Language Memoir, *Bildungsroman* and Translation”

2:15- 3:45 pm

*Postcolonial Projects and Cosmopolitanism*

Venue: Harbor Hall

Chair: E. Raja Rao

1. Kailash C. Baral: “Derrida and Postcolonial Cosmopolitanism with Reference to India”
2. Lucy James: “Syncretic Religious and Cultural Practices in Goa, as a Consequence of Portuguese Colonization”
3. Maria Bhuiyan Maria: “Is Writing Cosmopolitanism Rewriting Colonialism?: A Critical Reading of South Asian Cosmopolitan Novels”
4. Prathyaksh Janardhanan: “Generations of Silence: Journeys of the Exiled in O V Vijayan’s *Talamurakal*”

3:45-4:00 pm

**Tea/Coffee**

4:00-5:00 pm

*Special Session on Lincoln’s Cosmopolitanism*

Venue: Wave Hall

Chair: Mashrur Shahid Hossain



1. William D. Pederson: “Cosmopolitanism in Abraham Lincoln”
2. Sunjay Letchuman: “Lincoln’s Cosmopolitanism in Contemporary Malaysia”
3. Kevin C. Procell & Melissa A. Rolfe: “Cosmopolitanism in Africa: An Emperor and a President”
4. Amiya Bhaumik: “Practical Implications of Lincoln’s Life and Philosophy in Action”

5:00-7:00 pm

***Special Session on Tagore’s “The Home and the World”***

Venue: Wave Hall

Chair: Kailash C. Baral

1. Kakali Dutta: “Erasing Boundaries of the Home and the World: A Move Towards Cosmopolitanism”
2. Kalidas Misra: “Tagore’s *The Home and the World* as an Iconogenerative Text”
3. Anand Mahanand: “The Home and the World Dichotomy: Reading Tagore’s *The Home and the World* (1919) as a Site of Cosmopolitanism”
4. Narendra Kumar: “Nationalism and Cosmopolitanism: Reading a Decolonial Discourse in Tagore’s *The Home and the World*”
5. Ruta Dharmadhikari: “Cosmopolitanism Awakened: Rereading Tagore’s *Home and the World*”
6. Laxmidhar Panda: “Bimala: Transformation of Self through Delusion and Deification”

7:00-8:30

***Film Screening and Discussion***

**“Angalia Ni Mimi”: A Performance by Marthe Djilo Kamga**

**Introduction by Frieda Ekotto**

Venue: Wave Hall

Chair: Frieda Ekotto

8:30-9:30 pm

**Dinner**

**Friday, December 21**

9:00-10:30 am

***Panel on Global South Dialogue on Cultural Production***

Venue: Wave Hall

Convener & Chair: Frieda Ekotto

This panel will explore what kind of dialogue can best shape or create subjectivity within a cultural imaginary specific to the Global South, including contemporary African, Asian and Latin American cultures and literatures. Our goal will be to examine how to decolonize a discourse that has been powerfully utilized to territorialize and deterritorialize entire geographical stretches through cultural mapping – a wide ranging process which spans many media, from literary texts and historical works, to contemporary media sources and films. In particular, we will discuss writers, filmmakers and cultural producers who are considering ideas and modalities for dialogue with other intellectuals and cultural producers across the African, Asian and Latin American continents. The panel will provide a comparative perspective on questions of cosmopolitanism within the "Global South" today. It will also allow for literary, visual and cinematic considerations of ways in which Africa, Asia and Latin America can be culturally and theoretically bridged.

1. Marina Berthet: “Cosmopolitan Experience: Reflections on Two Films by Sarah Maldoror, Monagambee and Sambizanga”
2. Shalmali Jadhav: “Translating *Antasphot*: Caste and Feminism in the Regional Indian Context”
3. Teddy Mattera: “Cinema from Within: Interrogating Black Identity and Representation in Mainly Feature Film Production in South Africa Cinema”
4. Ketu H. Katrak: “South African Jay Pather's Politics of Space in Site Performances”

10:30-10:45 am

**Tea/Coffee**

10:45-12:15 pm

*Cosmopolitanism: Gendered Queries*

Venue: Wave Hall

Chair: Sanjay Mukherjee

1. Gagana Bihari Purohit: “Cosmopolitanism of Gender: Transgender Trajectories in India”
2. Baishali Choudhuri: “‘Pinjra Tod’ or a ‘Cage Break’: Towards a Gendered Cosmopolitanism”
3. Sunita Manian: “Youth Sexuality and the Limitations of Cosmopolitanism”
4. Java Singh: “Interrogating a Gendered Ethics of Conjuring and Disapparation”

## SECTION V

### **Friends and Enemies, Or, What Future for Cosmopolitanism?**

10:45-12:15 pm

*Cosmopolitanism to Come!*

Venue: Harbor Hall

Chair: Nikhil Moro

1. Bhagaban Tripathy: “Self and the Other: An Ontological Response to the Challenges of Cosmopolitanism”
2. Harshil Shah: “Cosmopolitanism as an Idea from a New Generation”
3. E. Raja Rao: “Problematics of Cosmopolitanism: A Point of View”
4. Tanzia Mobarak Monisha & Samirah Tabassum: “Spacing Linguistic Cosmopolitanism in Bangladesh: Translocalism as an Alternative Paradigm”

### ***Open Session and Valedictory***

12:15-1:00 pm

Venue: Wave Hall

Chair: Prafulla C. Kar

1:00-2:00 pm

**Lunch**

