



UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW

CALL FOR SCHOLARLY PAPERS

MARCH 03-05, 2022

MYTHS, LEGENDS, FOLKLORES AND ITIHAAS IN INDIAN AND INDENTURE LITERATURE

INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY AND MULTILINGUAL CONFERENCE

ORGANISED BY

CENTRE OF INDIAN DIASPORA AND CULTURAL STUDIES,

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND MODERN EUROPEAN LANGUAGES,
UNIVERSITY OF LUCKNOW.**

In Indian school of thought Itihaas has its importance in the way of telling the truth with five objectives- Dharma, Artha, Kama, Moksha and Upadesh (message). During the colonial period the British carried the *girmityas* as indenture labourers to different parts of the world and that society carried Indian cultural baggage along with them; they also constructed their own power structures, political histories and national. In the year 1833 when the abolition of slavery was being celebrated, another system of servitude was underway: indentureship. Indenture labour resulted in the transportation of more than one million Indians – called *coolies* – into British and French colonies in Caribbean countries like Suriname, Fiji, Mauritius, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago. Since most of these people were poor and illiterate, once they had signed the agreement or *gimit* as they called it, they had signed away their freedom. They called themselves *girmitya* and worked on plantations, living in “a new form of slavery” as Hugh Tinker says. The only difference was that indentureship was for a period of five years. After that they could go back to India or sign up for another period of indenture. The British Government did not abide the contract so they were forced to stay in the adopted land even after five years.

For the families of the *coolies* who migrated from India, ‘home’ and ‘origin’ may work at odds with each other. Having been brought there to populate the islands, their histories bring with them memories of other origins. The descendants of the people who once travelled to the Caribbean islands as *coolies* are caught between cultures. Myths, legends, folktales and Itihaas of their root country play a pivotal role in bridging the emotional and psychological gap that is caused because of physical distance. To create this bond with the root country, the migrants explore, revisit and try to dig deep into the past to have an understanding of the history and heritage of their root nation.

Considering the growing importance of diasporic communities and their involvement in world culture, the conference envisions engaging in advanced research and exploration of the significant aspects of diasporic social, cultural, economic, historical, political and anthropological shifts from its beginnings through different languages, to the present post-colonial and globalised scenario affecting patterns of complex forms of adjustments and involvement of migrant populations. It also envisions the troubles and travails, difficulties and challenges, exilic sensibility, longing for belongingness, nostalgia, multiculturalism, post-coloniality, concept of nation state, psychoanalytical studies of the *Girmitya* who carried forward the baggage of Indian culture in the form of moral

thoughts, honesty, diligence, religious rites and rituals, folk culture and so on which determined them to think about the adopted nation and ruled over the government of the countries through the passage of time.

Objectives

- To trace the root of the indentured labours working in the host land
- To explore the troubles and travails faced by the indentured in the host land
- To study the socio- economic background of the indentured workers
- To explore the influence of the indentured labours on the economy and culture of the host land
- To analyse the mode and manner of the indentured to preserve their culture and religion
- To explore the quest for identity of the indentured workers
- To analyse the methods used by the indentured in maintaining their bond with their root nation and ancestral families
- To understand the role of Indian myths in preserving Indian culture in host land
- To explore the role of legends and folklores in Indian culture
- To rewrite Indian Itihaas in the right perspective in order to glorify the greatness and magnanimity of Indian culture.

The goal of the international conference is to conduct research and advanced studies while contextualizing contemporary diasporic identities within the geo-political, economic and demographic shifts of the twentieth and the twenty-first century as a progression of Indians from Giritiya to government. It aims to closely study the factors influencing diasporic populations across nations and cultures for investigating specific reasons i.e. social and cultural, for the gap or split in psychological or emotional responses of previous and present generations.

The conference will be conducted in both online and offline modes.

Keynote Speaker

SATISH RAI

Satish Rai is Sydney based academician, film/TV producer, journalist and community development worker. He was born in Fiji where he received his tertiary education at University of South Pacific & Fiji School of Medicine. He migrated to the UK in 1980 and after working as a Metropolitan police officer for five years, (1982-1987) he retired to complete his BA (Hons) degree in Sociology, majoring in race equality issues. He became a politician (elected councillor in London Borough of Greenwich, 1990-94), and a community development officer, becoming a Principal Race Equality Officer for a London Borough Council. He also substantially completed his MA degree in Social Policy and Administration at the Goldsmiths College, University of London before migrating to Australia in 1995. He did MA in Communication and Cultural Studies at University of Western Sydney in 1997. In 2011, he completed a professional Doctor of Creative Arts degree (in film production) from the same university.



Rai has made many films and television programs and has written widely on Fiji and Global Girit issues. Presently, he is producing films, writing, and coordinating international efforts on several projects for the global giritiya communities in the diaspora and in India.

He is the Director of Indian Diaspora Council Australia Inc. and President of Global Girit Association Inc. Currently he is completing his 5th book *Romancing with Cinema* and running *Raivision Dialogues Zoom Sessions*.

Expected Guest Speakers

- Lord Bhikhu Parekh
- Satendra Nandan
- Vijay Mishra
- Gaiutra Bahadur
- Anand Mulloo
- Dhananjay Singh
- Dennis Ramdahin
- Vishnu Bisram
- Suresh Ram
- Pramodh Rai
- Shekhar Kumar
- Ajay Chhabra
- Sunil Kumar
- Swasti Bheekha Bolay
- Shardhanand Singh
- Deepika Mukherjee
- Meena T. Pillai
- Neerja A. Gupta
- Amit Mishra
- Savita Budhoo
- Pradeep Trikha
- Rajendra Arun
- Surya Prasad Dixit
- Maya Shankar Pandey
- Asim Siddiqui

Academicians, research scholars, faculty members and professionals are invited to submit their original and unpublished paper for the same. The papers in the seminar would be on the following subjects which are only indicative and can go beyond the stated themes.

Themes

- Relevance of Indian Mythology in Contemporary Society
- Rewriting Indian Itihaas for Global Representation
- Localization and Globalization of Folklore in Indenture Literature
- Shifts in Race, Culture and Ethnicity in Giritiya Community
- Trauma and resilience in Indenture Literature
- Post Indentureship Movements and Trends
- Ethnocentrism, Ethnic Labelling and Stereotyping of Giritiya

Send your abstracts and papers at indentureconference.lu@gmail.com

Important Dates

Last date for Abstract Submission – January 15, 2022

Acceptance of Paper – January 25, 2022

Last Date for Registration- January 31, 2022

Last Date for Full-length Paper Submission: February 15, 2022

(Payment link will be sent to you along with the acceptance of paper)

Registration Fee

Category	Online	Offline
Students/Research Scholars	700	900
Faculty Member	1000	1200

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