

Revisiting History through Literature: Religion, Politics, and Propaganda

24 -25 March 2023 (Fri-Sat) Organised by

Department of English and Modern European Languages, University of Allahabad

Registration Open

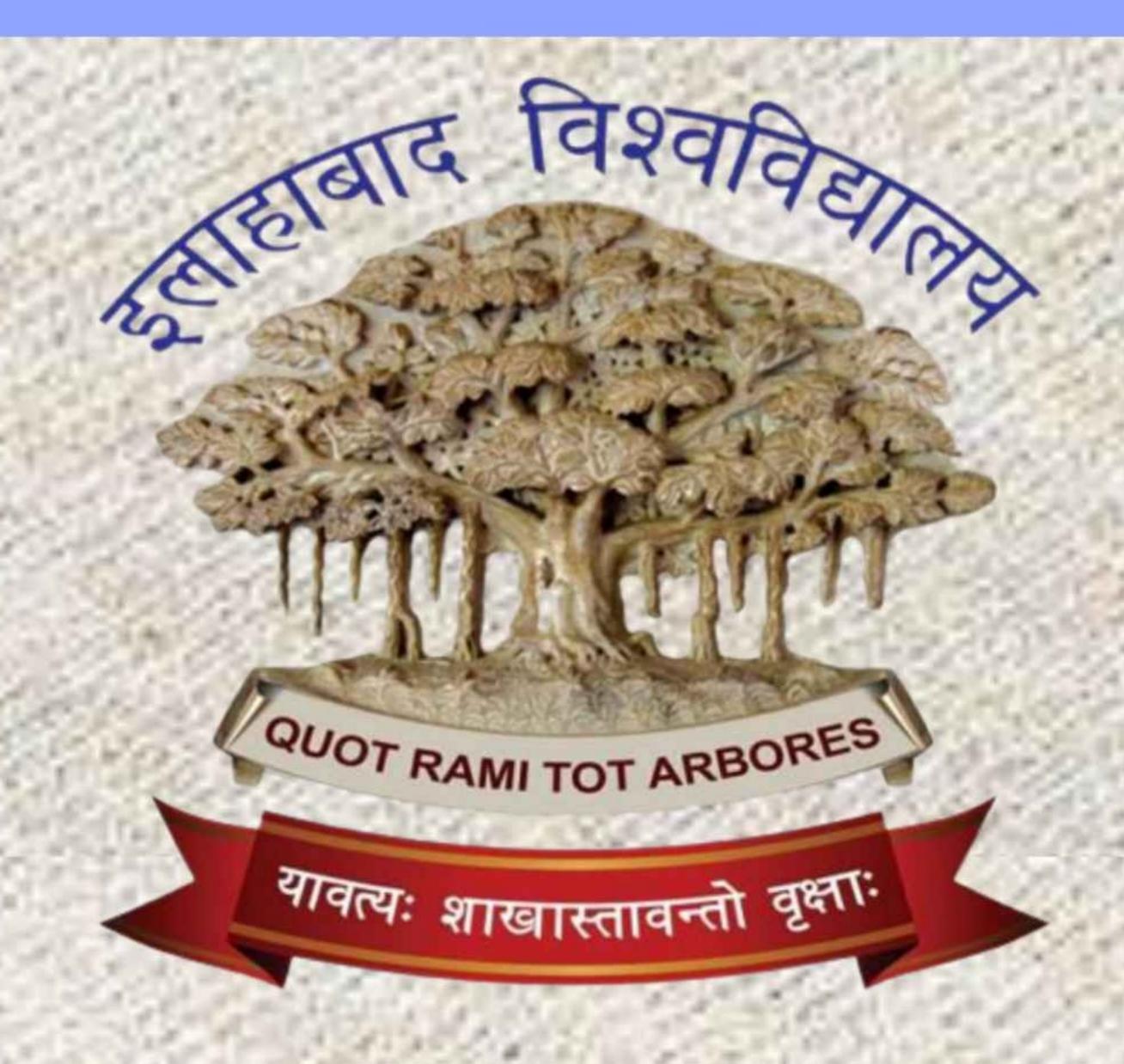
Abstract Submission (Last date): 19.03.2023 | Paper Submission (Last date): 22.03.2023

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Concept

In recent years, scholars and writers across the globe have shown renewed enthusiasm for revisiting history and rewriting it in light of new facts and new interpretations. To achieve this objective, they have heavily relied on the literature of the period. There are scholars who believe that there is more history contained in literature than in history itself. Analysing literary texts of the period is an effective method for knowing history. The revisiting of history also leads to revisions of long-settled debates and accounts. Unquestionably, the events of a particular period are hugely influenced by the prevalent politics and also by the emerging religion. The account of such events not only reflects the politics and religion, but also the methods used by state machineries to churn out propaganda that could strengthen the ruler's control. Many a time, literary texts themselves become viable mediums for such politics and propaganda. Writers, scholars, and critics all have their own agendas to achieve. Such agendas force such practitioners of literature to hail a particular kind of literature or write a certain kind of literature. More often than not, the political leanings of a writer are reflected in such literary productions. Many writers consciously make it a point to showcase their political affiliations. Some readers may find it unsettling that there are writers who are devoted to making their literary works a platform for propaganda.

To claim that history was never revisited with the aim of rewriting it is to live in a fool's paradise. The revisiting of history with an intention to rewrite it often meets with robust opposition. In many geographical extensions, such revisions have been termed right wing propaganda, whereas the opposing groups call it the return of real history. Those who long for such revisions see the old history as compromised accounts of past events, and in many cases, they also label it colonial history. What has paced the revisiting of history is unlimited access to the Internet, which is undoubtedly the biggest reservoir of information. With such access to information, people have chosen sides that align with their political affinities. Their affiliations are often mirrored in their literary works. In the revisiting of history, such connections are exposed, which gives a dent to their opposition to such revisions and rewritings. Such revisions have sometimes worked in favour of religion, politics, and the propaganda that ruling dispensations want to spread. It would be naïve to claim that it is only political parties that do it for political gains. Scholars and writers too, at times, actively participate in propaganda.

Riveting upon the alleged connections among history, politics, and propaganda in revisions of history, our seminar calls for a "revisiting" of not only history, but also of literary texts to dig out unexplored aspects and veiled interpretations. The Department of English at the University of Allahabad has successfully organised many national and international seminars. This time, the Department is going to organise a national seminar on the topic "Revisiting History through Literature: Religion, Politics, and Propaganda". This seminar aims to provide a platform to engage scholars, writers, and researchers from across the country to deliberate on different aspects of revisions of history.

Academicians, research scholars and students are invited to submit their abstract and full length papers on any related theme. The topics may include (but not limited to) the following sub-themes:

- 1. History and Literature
- 2. Religion, Politics, and Literature
- 3. Re-interpretation of history
- 4. History and Realism
- 5. The philosophical discourse on rewriting history The abstract and papers must contain:
- 6. Literature and Agenda
- 7. Revisiting history and social transformations
- 8. Literature and Religious Fundamentalism
- 9. Social Media, History, Politics, and Propaganda

You can submit your abstract/paper to nationalseminar0323@gmail.com

> Link for Registration https://bit.ly/EngDeptUoA

Word limit

Abstract: 250-300 words Full-length paper: 3000 words

- Title
- Author information (Affiliation and Email id)

Kindly mention (your name) in the subject line of the e-mail.

Format Essentialities:

- File format: MS Word (PDFs shall not be accepted.)
- Font: Times New Roman, 12 point type.
- Text: double-spaced, left justified, with 1-inch margins on all sides, page numbers at the bottom center, and no header/footer.

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Prof. Harish Trivedi

Former Student and Faculty
University of Allahabad
Professor (Retd.) Department of English
University of Delhi



Prof. Makarand R. Paranjape

Professor, Centre for English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University Former Director, IIAS, Shimla



Prof. Pramod K Nayar

Renowned Author
Professor,
Department of English,
University of Hyderabad



Prof. Hitendra K Patel

Professor,
Department of History,
Rabindra Bharti University



Prof. Neelum Saran Gour

Writer And Academician Professor (Retd.), Department of English, University of Allahabad



Prof. Prakash Sinha

Professor (Retd.), Department of Ancient History and Archeology, University of Allahabad



Prof Baran Farooqi

Professor (Retd.), Department of English, Jamia Milia University



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Professor (Retd.), Department of Medieval and Modern History, University of Allahabad



Prof. Ashish Saxena

Head, Department of Sociology, University of Allahabad

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