

PROGRAMME

Plenary Session 1:

**Human and Post-human interventions
in Science Fiction: An Overview**

Dr. Gigi J Alex,
Asst. Professor,
Dept of Humanities, Indian Institute of
Space Science and Technology,
Thiruvananthapuram

Plenary Session 2

**A Non-modern Approach to the
Anthropocene: Introducing the
Philosophy of Bruno Lathour**

Aravind R. Nair,
Asst. Professor,
Dept of English,
SH College, Thevara

For Registration please contact
Tel: 94466 90336
Email: english@shcollege.ac.in

Registration Fee
Students: Rs 50/-
Teachers: Rs 100/-

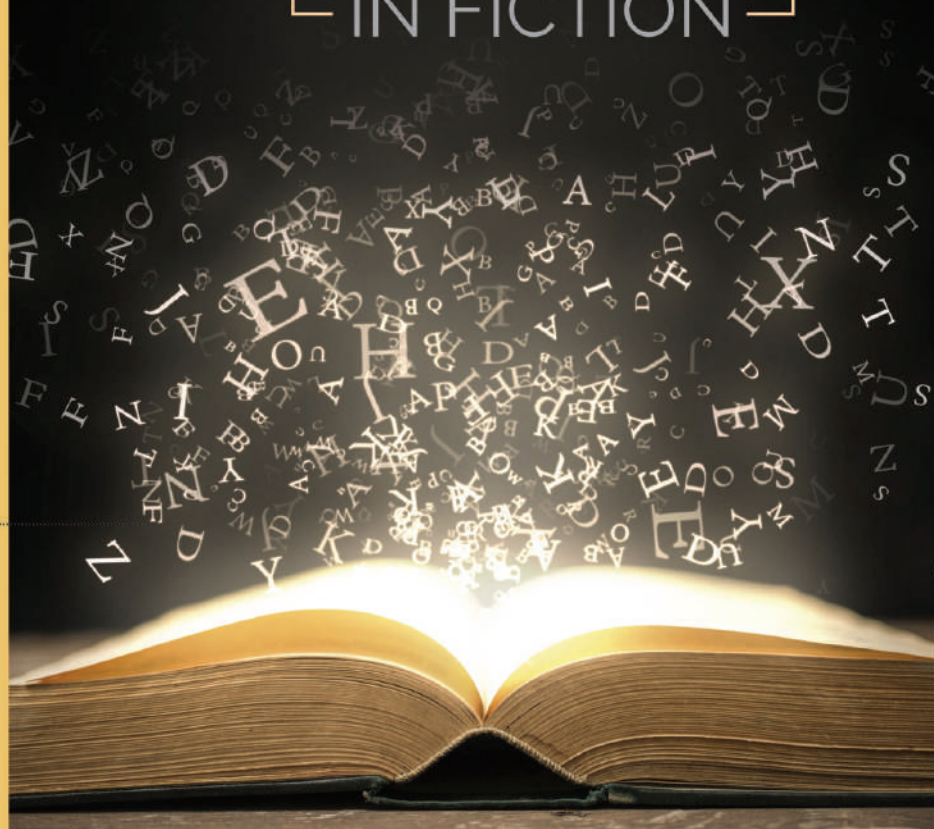
ORGANISED BY
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SUBHI TRESA SEBASTIAN MEMORIAL SEMINAR

MONDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY 2020

MAPPING
SCIENTIFIC
DISCOURSE
IN FICTION



MAPPING SCIENTIFIC DISCOURSE IN FICTION

More than any other epistemological feature it is the variety and ubiquity of scientific discourse that marks the present historical moment. Since its earliest provenance as a coherent praxis, science has achieved exponential growth, by "an estimated five orders of magnitude in three centuries" (Merton and Garfield, "Foreword"). Its products, institutions and laws have come to influence almost all life on the planet. The pervasiveness of scientific and technological interventions ordering contemporary lived experience may be read as signalling a paradigm shift to an increasingly post human future.

All texts too are inscribed with accounts of scientific artefacts, controversies or scientists. The elements of science that pervade texts are more often than not ignored by literary critical analyses. They are mostly relegated in favour of reflexive analyses which are concerned with the structural, semiotic or stylistic features of the text itself. The numerous scientific objects, references, and disciplines scattered throughout the text are mostly treated as window dressing. Even in the eponymous genre of sf (science fiction), contemporary criticism is content to relegate study of the textual science in favour of stylistic and structural elements. This seminar investigates the intersections between literature and science, and probes the methodologies and tools that may be deployed in opening up 'Science' to critical scrutiny. By scrutinizing science as what Donna Haraway terms "situated knowledges" where "object of knowledge is pictured an actor and agent, not as a screen or a ground or a resource, [and] never finally as slave to the master that closes off the dialectic in his unique agency and his authorship of "objective" knowledge", the seminar seeks to map the hitherto inchoate terrain between the humanities and the sciences.

Subhi Treasa Sebastian (1981-2016) had been a member of the faculty of English, S H College, Thevara from 2010 to 2016. The name, 'Subhi', has almost become a metaphor of unruffled calm and unalloyed commitment for all who had the good fortune to know her. Though the spell of her formal association with the college spanned less than a decade, she had always been the darling of the department through her dad, Prof. P.M. Sebastian. Her exemplary academic track record, juxtaposed with her unrealised aspirations, has made us reflect on a befitting tribute to her soul. A significant trail of literary events is thus conceived to add to the abiding aura of her memory.

SUBHI TRESA SEBASTIAN



Dept. of English

The Postgraduate Department and Centre for Research in English of Sacred Heart College, (Autonomous), Kochi is one among the prestigious centres of literary and cultural studies in the state, which attracts meritorious students from all over Kerala.

The department takes pride in the fact that since 1996 it has been diligently promoting research and exploration in frontier areas through the annual event,

Dan Memorial National Seminar. In addition to it, the department organizes state/national/international level seminars and workshops each year.

The department offers an innovative undergraduate programme, B.A. English (Copy Editor), a vocational degree programme for students who aspire for a career in publishing and journalism. The PG programme,

M.A. English Language and Literature follows an innovative syllabus of its own with a basket of choices under the electives. Besides these, the department offers an online diploma course in Postcolonial Writing and edits the Lakeview International Journal of Literature and Arts (online)