

TEACHER'S ACTIVITY REPORT 2016 - 2017

NAME OF THE ACTIVITY: International Federation of Modern Languages and Literatures XXVII			
DATE	FACULTY	DEPARTMENT/ COMMITTEE	COORDINATOR NAME
15-17 March 2017	Dr Meenakshi Bharat, Dr Ratna Raman, Ms Debarati Sen, Ms Ritika Singh, Ms Lallianpuii	English	Dr Meenakshi Bharat
TIME	VENUE	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	NATURE: Outdoor/ Indoor
9.30 am-5.30 pm every day	India International Centre	100+ (84 International Professors and scholars of repute).	Indoors/Outdoors
SUPPORT/ ASSISTANCE:	India International Centre, Raza Foundation, Embassy of Switzerland in India, John Benjamins Publishing Company of the Netherlands, Ratna Sagar P. Ltd., Sahitya Akademi, Amicare Holdings Ltd., Rasaja Foundation		

BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACTIVITY (CRITERION NO. -):):


TOPIC/SUBJECT OF THE ACTIVITY	The Familiar and the Exotic: The Politics and Representation in Languages and Literatures
OBJECTIVES	To gather experts and scholars from all over the world to exchange ideas and present perspectives on the theme in various literatures and languages of the world. The intent is to identify a best paper presentation and to bring out a publication on select papers presented, while also seeking additional papers on the theme.
METHODOLOGY	Paper presentations were backed by cultural activities like an Exhibition on the theme, and dance, dance drama and music components to comment on it. There were multiple sessions every day, of paper presentations and plenary addresses. The best paper was culled in two stages by two different internationally constituted panels for adjudging them. The first tier graded the papers and the second stage was a judgement on the top three presentations.

OUTCOMES	The John Benjamins Best Paper awarded to Dr Vibha Chauhan. A book, <i>Representing the Familiar and the Exotic</i> was published by John Benjamins, Netherlands in 2020.
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PROOFS & DOCUMENTS ATTACHED (Tick mark the proofs attached):

Notice & Letters Attached	Student list of participation 1. Ayushi Mehta - 2018 - 0215096 2. Deepannita Misra - 2018 - 0215185 3. Udit Kumar - 2018 - 0215219 4. Simarpreet Kaur - 2018 - 0215103 5. Shray Chaturvedi - 2017 - 1714182 6. Sanjeevani - 2017 - 0214049 7. Vaishali - 2017 - 0214029 8. Deachen - 2017 - 0214036 9. Neha Nara - 2018 - 0215205 10. Akanksha Gupta - 2017 - 0214045 11. Akanksha Chhetri - 2019	Activity report Attached	Photos Attached	Feedback form
Feedback analysis	News clip with details	Certificate	Any other	

IQAC Document No:SVC/2016-17/ENG/MB/5	Criterion No:III	Metric No:
Departmental file no	IQAC file No;	

NAME OF TEACHER & SIGNATURE	NAME OF HEAD/ COMMITTEE INCHARGE & SIGNATURE	IQAC COORDINATOR (SEAL & SIGNATURE)
 Dr. Meenakshi Bharat, Dr Ratna Raman, Ms Debarati Sen, Ms Ritika Singh, Ms Lallianpuii.	Dr. Meenakshi Bharat	

For Reference

Criterion I	Curricular Aspects (planning & Implementation)	Criterion V	Student Support & Progression
Criterion II	Teaching Learning & Evaluation	Criterion VI	Governance
Criterion III	Research, Innovations & Extension	Criterion VII	Institutional Values & Best Practices
Criterion IV	Learning Resources and Infrastructure		

XXVII FILLM CONGRESS REPORT

The XXVII FILLM Congress was held in New Delhi, India from 15th - 17th March, 2017. The picturesque setting of India International Centre, the venue of the Congress in the heart of the city, provided the perfect ambience for an invigorating exchange amongst the participants of the Congress. The thought-provoking theme *The Familiar and the Exotic in Language and Literature: The Politics of Perception and Representation* invited robust intellectual participation in a diversity of scholarly approaches as myriad as the twenty-odd countries from which the participants came from. The call for critical engagement with discernment and representation, definitions and aesthetic perception, the political and cultural division between the familiar and the exotic was well-explored by 62 paper presenters and 11 plenary speakers in 23 sessions spread across the three-day event.

DAY I:

The Inaugural session was held at the CD Deshmukh Auditorium at 9:30 am on 15th March 2017. The traditional invocation through Saraswati Vandana and the President of FILLM Dr. Meenakshi Bharat's speech opened the session where the keynote plenary address was delivered by Prof. Elleke Boehmer of Oxford University. Prof. Boehmer shared her interest in new moves in the postcolonial field to direct attention to structural and technical 'how' (reading and reception) rather than the themed 'what' (objects of difference) of representation. She

pointed out to the paradox of theory being said to be over, yet the need of the hour being these very verbal and structural dynamics through which issues concerning inequality and migration affect our world today.

Prof, Christel R. Devadawson preceded Prof. Boehmer's lectures where she brought forth theoretical concerns of the present time - who 'owns' a story and along what

lines are reading, writing and illustrative practices gendered. The Inaugural session also saw Mizo students performing the breath-taking dance called Cheraw, which demanded rhythmic grace and agility to step in and out of the long bamboo staves depicting characteristic elements of the folk life of the people of Mizoram in precolonial times.

Subsequent to the Inaugural session, the Congress had multiple breakout sessions for the rest of the day which ended in a sensorial experience through the visual paper presented by Sandhya Raman and Errol Pires in their exhibition names “The Enchanted Tree”.

DAY II:

The second day of the Congress ensued with similar ranging topics, from pedagogy to representation of the exotic and its politics, from the exotic in the Colony to contemporary cultural perception. The Honourable Swiss Ambassador to India and Bhutan

Graced the Swiss plenary session wherein Swiss-Italian creative writer Oliver Scharpf and his translator Dr. Babli Moitra Saraf argued that exoticising of the west by the non-western world is very much a reality; the “fetishizing process” thus turns the West into “saleable, exotic objects” to suit a variegated milieu of consumers - cultural, commercial and political.

The evening saw the second instalment of the cultural component of the Congress. A blend of the India classical dance forms of Kathak, Bharatnatyam and Odissi was presented in a choreography entitled Vividha. A collaborative work of dancers Monisa Nayak, Sneha Chakradhar and Shalakra Rai, Vividha is an exploration of the shared and distinctive aspects of these three dance forms, bring them together in paying obeisance to the five elements of nature.

Following the stellar dance performance was the grand Congress banquet in the Fountain Lawns of IIC hosted by the Swiss Embassy and Pro Helvetia, the Swiss Arts Council, New Delhi. It was in this cool and relaxing evening that the smooth transition of FILLM Presidentship from Dr. Meenakshi Bharat to Prof. Margaret Higonnet.

Day III

The concluding day of the Congress, 17th March 2017, began with a final round of 4 parallel sessions of paper presentation. This also marked the end of the rounds of judgement for the John Benjamins Award for Best Paper. The final cultural component of the Congress was delivered by noted danseuse Anita Ratnam. Entitled *A Million Sitas*, Dr. Ratnam’s solo performance was based on her exhaustive research of not only meta narratives of Sita, the wife of Rama in the epic *Ramayan* but also re-tellings in Kannada, Tamil, Telegu, Himachali, Oriya etc and even Thai and Indonesian traditions. Characters who were either

misunderstood, remained shadowy figures or tarred with a patriarchal brush are all excavated, interrogated and re-framed for this compelling “womanist” narrative.

The ultimate plenary talk was delivered by noted poet-critic and an indispensable force in the Indian arts and literature scholar, Mr. Ashok Vajpeyi. He talked about the aesthetic celebration of Indian plurality in literature and the arts. This notion of plurality provides a paradigm of diversity, accommodation and understanding. Unfortunately, even in India there are forces, socio-cultural-political, which are undermining the Indian plurality and are being courageously opposed by arts and literature.

The plenary was soon followed by Valedictory programme where the outgoing President of FILLM Dr. Meenakshi Bharat introduced the new President, Prof. Margaret Higonnet. Dr. Bharat also profusely thanked her core Organising Committee members who left no stone unturned in conceptualization, hospitality, logistics and conduction of the Congress to see to it that it was a raving success. The Local Organising Committee headed by Convenor Dr. Bharat were advised and aided in all walks by an incredible panel of advisors and student volunteers. Prof. Higonnet awarded Dr. Vibha Chauhan with the coveted first-even John Benjamins Award for best paper for her well-researched and equally well-argued paper ‘Challenging taxonomies of the ‘local’ and the ‘exotic’: The works of Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar.’ The recipient took home an official diploma and a cash award of 1500 Euros.

The Congress participants congratulated each other and bid adieu over a sumptuous lunch thereafter.



SRI VENKATESWARA COLLEGE
(University of Delhi)

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Prof C. Sheela Reddy
Principal
Sri Venkateswara College

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Shri D. Venkat Ramana
A.O(I/C)

This is to certify that the Activity report (Teacher/Department /Society/Association) has been submitted for documentation to IQAC, Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi.

IQAC Coordinator
Sri Venkateswara College

Coordinator, IQAC
Sri Venkateswara College
(University of Delhi)
Dhaura Kuan, New Delhi-110021

PRINCIPAL
Sri Venkateswara College

PRINCIPAL
Sri Venkateswara College
(University of Delhi)
Dhaura Kuan, New Delhi-110021