

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome back (after a hiatus)!

As you can see, this issue of the *NODE* comes with three big news: the very successful IIUI-UNCW conference that we organized in October last year; the publication of the first issue of the *Journal of Contemporary Poetics*; and the launch of the Contemporary Poetics Series under which the Department of English has been able to arrange talks with some wonderful scholars. We are also glad to see how our faculty and students are contributing to the production and dissemination of knowledge in the form of their paper presentations, paper and book publication, and by managing and running academic projects.

We would like to thank students for their amazing role in the success of the IIUI-UNCW conference, and we would like to congratulate the office bearers and the members of English Literary Society who have been frequently organizing reading sessions, and have kept the Wall Magazine publishing our students' creative work.

We request all our colleagues and students—not just from the department of English in the IIUI but also from all the departments of English in the country—to please share with us any academic news, announcement or idea you want to place on the pages of the *NODE*. Thank you!

AN INTERVIEW WITH PROF. DR. MUNAWAR IQBAL AHMAD, DEAN FLL

Mahmood: Thank you very much, sir, for taking out time from your busy schedule to speak to us for NODE. To begin with, we would like to know why you chose the profession of teaching for yourself. When you look back, how do you feel and what do you have to say about your lifelong affiliation with the department?

Dr. Munawar: Thank you. When I graduated from the University of Punjab, Lahore, I thought that now what field of life should I go to... There were two options which I considered. The

first was joining Pakistan Superior Services, through competitive examination that is CSS, and the second option was to join teaching. In fact, I went for both at the same time... I appeared for CSS examination and, applied to get the position of lecturer... Lectureship came first to me, so I immediately joined it. I joined at H-9 Federal Government Degree college, Islamabad.

In the meantime, I also went for the CSS and, in fact, I was through the whole process. But finally, the merit list, when it was declared, my name was not amongst those who were taken that year. There were quite favourable chances that I should go again for it, which I didn't opt. I mean... once, I joined teaching, I started liking it, I started enjoying it, and I abandoned the idea to go for another chance to compete for the CSS.

So that's how it was my first choice, my own personal choice, my own personal interest to become a teacher. Because, I always had a fascination to see my teachers at university. The way they carried themselves along in the university, and the way they delivered us lectures and we were so much impressed by their personalities. And then the literature that I studied myself, it also gave me a boost to follow this, you know, kind of life. So, it is just personal. First is my teachers at university and second it was personal liking.



And I have never regretted, you know... There were so many class fellows in my MA class who joined CSS. When I look to their life and I look to my own life and achievements on their part and my part, I never regret that I have missed anything. Al Hamd u Lillāh, I have had much more achievements as compared to my other friends. I do not see their children getting adjusted in good jobs or getting good education the way my own children have excelled in different professions. And then, I mean, I joined as lecturer and now I am serving as full professor in the university. I do not think, in terms of prestige or respect, I am inferior to anyone, those who joined CSS... Many of them come to me now, even, in my office, they visit me here, and they feel that yes, your decision was better. So, it's all because of Allāh's blessings and His mercy!

I was able to establish two academic links: one with the University of Wales, Newport, UK and the second with the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, USA. The benefits which the department reaped as a result of these two links in terms of developing academic, you know, partnerships—the research paradigms, the research methodology, teaching techniques, and the faculty development of our teachers is clear. So, all these things... because, whenever we went out to these two universities, like University of Wales in UK and University of North Carolina, we had extensive discussions, extensive exposure to a wide variety of activities. And that's how our teachers enriched their profiles as teachers, their capabilities as researchers, as academicians... and then, the broader outlook and insights which they gained as a result of these visits and interactions with so many people!



So, this has contributed a lot towards faculty development. I think these two links have a great importance, for us it has worked in a very proper manner, and such links are also important for future as well. I would suggest that the department of English needs to look for opportunities to develop links in other UK universities or in USA. And recently, Dr. Carrie also talked to me she told me that some opportunities are in the offering, and she would like to develop another partnership with IIUI, if at all any opportunity arises there, and she said that she is looking for different funding agencies and donors from the government side or from the university side. And, she in fact wanted to know my opinion, that would I also like to develop such a partnership or such an association in the future. I said yes, vehemently, yes!

So, let's see, let's see, in shā Allāh, hopefully there will be... if at all there is any opportunity, we will try to grab it...

Mahmood: That is very encouraging for us... Moving on, sir, what is the role of universities in today's Pakistan? Do you think that Pakistani universities are fulfilling their part in educating young minds and producing useful research?

Dr. Munawar: I think there is a remarkable difference between universities when I graduated and the universities where they stand today... Umm, universities didn't have a culture of establishing databases, having access to written databases, to internationalise themselves, to develop links with other universities of the world and other institutions of the world... So, universities were, you know, working at domestic level only. But now, universities, almost every university in Pakistan, they are working at international level... teachers now frequently visit the foreign countries for participations in conferences, reading their papers, arranging their workshops here, seminars here, because in my two years stay at Punjab University's department of English, we never heard that any professor from any other place would come and deliver us a lecture. But now, the universities have developed, they have got more internationalised, I would say...

And then, in terms of research, there was no particular research culture in the universities in the past. And, the credit goes to HEC, I would say. HEC has promoted, encouraged, and funded universities and teacher individually and departments collectively, and because of these findings and these grants, we—I mean, many teachers at different universities... and this is not relevant to the capital or the provincial capitals, across the country, to the remote areas! I know many professors, they got chances to go to abroad to conduct their research, get their PhD degrees from there, and now they are serving here in the country.

So, I think we have travelled remarkable distance and we have moved forward. And thinking futuristically, I would say that, if this pace of progress continues... Of course, there are problems, there have been some handicaps, some problems, some things which were irritating, but looking to the overall

situation, we have progressed a lot, and I see many universities in the country... they are moving in the right direction...

One thing that is dangerous and which needs to be checked and there are risks that if it further goes on to interfere, this may hamper the progress, and that is the political intervention. You know, the appointments of vice-chancellors and the appointments of the chairmen of Higher Education Commissions—maybe the federal or the provincial commissions—that should be purely on merit! If the governments at different times do not interfere in the affairs of the universities and they uphold merit in terms of appointment of vice-chancellors and the vice-chancellors uphold merit in terms of appointments within the universities—I mean the deans and the HODs and the other positions in the universities like the registrars and controllers and other QEC directors—so if we are able to develop a culture of merit and transparency within the universities, I am sure the universities would grow



tremendously, at a tremendous speed. But this menace of political intervention, political manoeuvring—this should be checked! This needs to be checked! Because it is happening...

Mahmood: We would now like to talk a little bit about your area of interest, that is, Pakistani Literature... And, it is good to know that you started your specialization in Pakistani literature fourteen years back and, if I am not wrong, that was the time when literatures coming out from the Non-Western

world were often given less weightage. So, where did this idea of working on Pakistani Literature in English come from?

Dr. Munawar: In fact, I read a few books by Pakistani authors, at that time. And then, I felt that they are not part of the critical acclaim which is given to the authors by academia. So, I thought they should be brought into the mainstream by carrying out research. So, this was my... because the names were buried, they were not known everywhere. Like, for example, Ghose and Sidhwa and Mohsin Hamid, even at that time, and other writers which I included in my PhD thesis... So, the main purpose was only to bring them up, because I found a merit in their works. Once I would compare their works with the works I had studied as part of my studies, the Western authors, I found, do not lack on any account. So, if the Western authors are now being acclaimed as great scholars, why should our own Pakistani authors not be claimed as international scholars? So, this triggered my ambition that I should try to bring them in the main research limelight... So that's why I opted for it...

Mahmood: In a way, this question is connected to the previous. How do you see the rise of Pakistani literature in English particularly in the last two decades or so? Do you think it has come of age? Can we form our own i.e. Pakistani canon of literature in English?

Dr. Munawar: I think when I did my PhD in Pakistani English literature, possibly, these literary festivals, this element, wasn't there. We see this progress in the last five six years only. Before that... because I started my PhD in 2005, so at that time there was no such concept of arranging literary festivals and giving people a platform where they come and show themselves, showcase their work, and...

Yeah... I mean, as in the case of universities, things have moved fast. The Pakistani writers in the diaspora and the Pakistani writers who are living in Pakistan... Again, the credit goes to the internationalisation of our, you know, educational sector... because many people got chances after 2004, I think, or 5, getting education, and then, of course, those who are already settled in the diaspora. Their next generation, started coming to the universities and they started joining different professions. So, you know, in case of Shamsie. Shamsie's mother was there and she got education there. And Mohsin Hamid also got a chance to get educated from the USA and others, I mean, almost all of them... They got a chance to get education and their degrees from the West and as a result of that they started coming up with their works, with their creative works. So now, we have a full crop of writers, but ten years ago or fifteen years ago there were a few names. So, I think, again, it is very encouraging to see these people coming up with a special genre in the form of Pakistani Literature in English.

Mahmood: How would you respond to the question of representation/misrepresentation? Because, many of these diasporic writers are, sometimes, accused of misrepresenting their target society(s).

Dr. Munawar: This is a real debate, this is a very general debate... I mean, I myself sometimes think about it that someone born in the West and having all their education from Western institutions is now talking about Pakistan... How can they be a true representative of Pakistan, whereas they never got a chance to live here in the society? Yes, that is the case, but after all they have their roots here in Pakistan—their families are here, some of them after getting their education have settled here in Pakistan, like Mohsin Hamid is now living in Lahore, and many others also! I mean, after getting education, now they are in Pakistan. And, they are writing about Pakistan. There could be a little more effort on their part to be true representatives of Pakistani society, but I think by and large they are doing justice to Pakistani society.

Munhib: About that, do they even have to represent any society?

Dr. Munawar: No, they need not represent, but they are from somewhere! So, this question itself, I mean this debate, is there, and the debate is to some extent genuine also... But I think they are Pakistanis and they are writing about Pakistan...and one thing I could feel is that Pakistani writers still need to grow... a lot! I mean, they have not so far been able to represent so many strata of the society, their representation of Pakistan and Pakistani society is greatly limited...so, Pakistan is much more than what is being represented in these works of fiction. But, you know, this is again a natural process. These are the pioneers, they are our first people, in the first, you know, cohort. The followers, of course, they will be possibly representing Pakistan on a much more broader scale as compared to these people. So yeah, these are beginnings.

Mahmood: How do you think are Pakistani writers being received in the universities and academia in Pakistan? Do you think there is ample space provided to our own writers in the syllabi?

Dr. Munawar: Actually, you know, time itself decides, time itself is a very decisive factor, or deciding factor... Umm, if you look to the Western history, the history of the Western writers, many of them were not recognized even in their lifetime, like Jane Austen herself. I mean, most of her books are posthumous, they were published after her death! And same is the case with many other authors. So, I think with the passage of time, recognition will grow, their inclusion in the syllabus will also grow, so we need not to hurry and we need not to... I mean, we should follow the natural course. So, naturally, the people will be included and they will grow further, and more universities will offer such courses, and then, instead of just offering one course on Pakistani literature, there will be courses hopefully on Pakistani poetry, on Pakistani fiction, on Pakistani short story—on all these genres, there would be separate courses. But, time will decide...

Mahmood: And at later stage, there might be degree programs offered in South Asian and Pakistani literatures in English!

Dr. Munawar: Degree programs, yes! I am very hopeful.

Munhib: I think it is Hanif Kureishi who says that he is not a Pakistani writer but everyone just calls him a Pakistani writer, so, what criteria do you think will be used to decide who is a Pakistani writer and who is not?

Dr. Munawar: In fact, their works will decide. If their works are more representative about Pakistan, then they would be included in the syllabus. So, it's not on the behest of few people, but the works themselves. Because, you see, the worth of a writer is through his work, right?

Munhib: Sir, you like to teach, and you're also doing research, right? So, do you see yourself as a researcher who is teaching or a teacher who is doing research?

Dr. Munawar: Hmm, very intelligent question, heheheh! Yeah, umm... Sometimes, my teaching aspect overwhelms, it dominates my research aspect, and sometimes I think, I feel, that I should put more into the research side and less to the teaching side... But both complement one another! I mean, by the end of the day, I see that my research is complimenting my teaching and my teaching, of course, compliments my research. So, they, you know, contribute towards one another, towards each other. So exclusively, I cannot say that my research dominates my teaching, at the same time, I cannot say that my teaching totally dominates my research. So, both go hand in hand.

Mahmood: The last question, sir, being the dean of FLL what is your vision for the development of the faculty and particularly the department of English that, I am sure, is so dear to you?

Dr. Munawar: I have tried to introduce another department in the faculty, which is in the form of the department of Chinese Language and Civilization... And, initially, I have established the Centre of Excellence for Modern Languages with a chunk for the Chinese Language programme in it. This centre will grow into a department, of course, it will keep functioning independently, but in the days to come, I am working on the establishment of a full-fledged Chinese department. So, this will be a new addition and the purpose of launching this department is ...(Interruption)... Because, you know, many Chinese would come to Pakistan [in the context of CPEC,] and many Pakistani's would have to interact with so many Chinese, and looking also to the global dynamics of the international politics... So, this department will also be one of the very vibrant places where people will be able to learn about China, their civilization, their language, and then they will have their contribution in the national life and international life.

And then I also wish that we produce PhDs in various disciplines and they join us here after that, and I wish that more programmes are offered in the faculty. At a later stage, I also see that a department of Pakistani Languages could be established...

So, these are my plans and I am working on it... Let's hope that I have success in this regard.

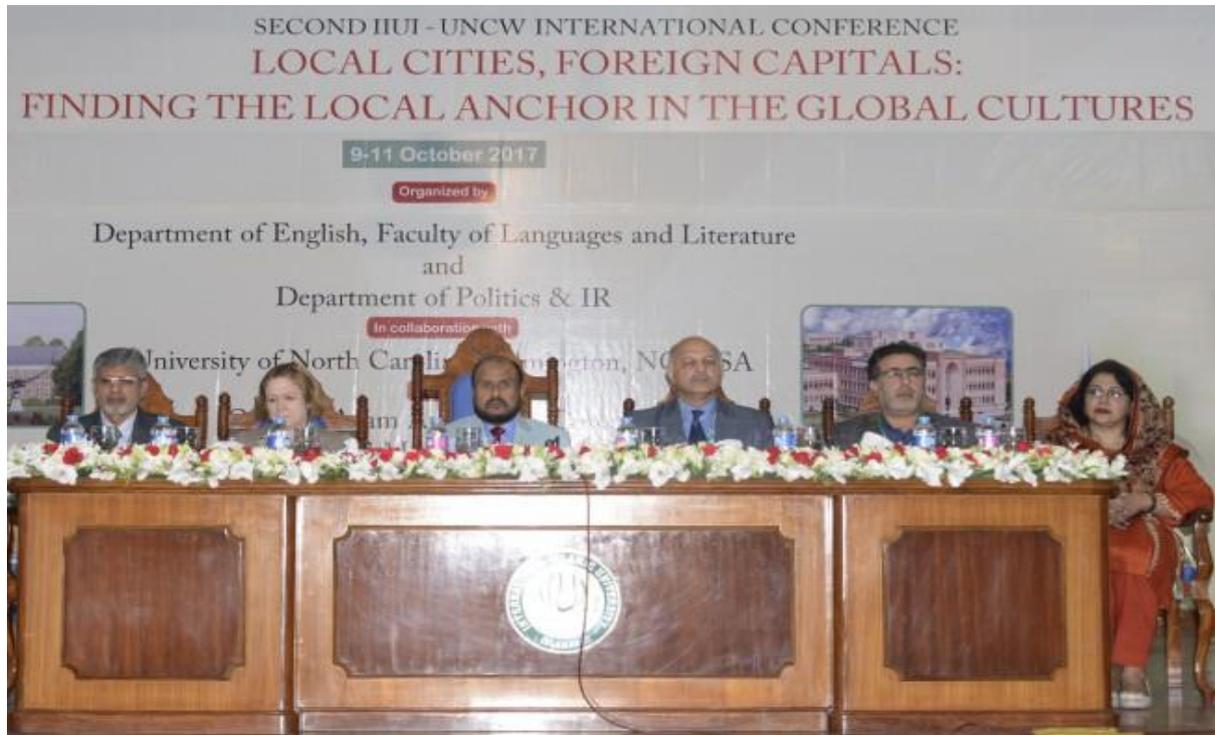
Mahmood: Thank you very much, sir, that was so nice of you!

Dr. Munawar: Thank you! I am pleased to speak out these things I have in my mind, I am happy.
Thank you!



NEWS

The Second IIUI-UNCW International Conference







@SRK.SNAPS







During the three days of the Second IIUI-UNCW Conference hosted jointly by Departments of English and Politics & IR in collaboration with the University of North Carolina Wilmington and in the sponsorship of the US Department of State and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, about one hundred papers were presented that explored the various forms of impact that globalization has had and continues to exert on religions, politics, societies and cultures.

The papers included numerous disciplines that crossed, blurred, defied, and redefined disciplinary boundaries within globalization studies and global translations of national and regional cultures and subcultures, and which employed creative interdisciplinary methods and perspectives to examine contemporary debates on globalization and the local.

The Conference Inauguration



The inauguration session of the conference began with a recitation from the Holy Qur'ān. Hafir Abdur Rahman Al Bazi recited verses twenty-two and twenty-three from Surah az-Zumar (Chapter 39), which talk about God's spreading of knowledge and guidance and comment on how some people learn from this guidance while others stubbornly refuse to think. After this recitation, Dr. Husnul Amin welcomed the audience and explained the theme of the conference, which was about globalisation and local identities, and the world that is emerging from this process. He also paid homage to his mentor Prof. Mumtaz Ahmad, who was responsible for the inter-university partnership that had resulted in this conference.

After this introductory remark on the conference and its purposes, Dr. Munawwar Iqbal and Dr. Caroline Clements welcomed the students and the speakers on behalf of both universities. They also expressed their gratitude to all present and commented on both the importance and the urgency of the topic as well as how the partnership between the universities had been a good experience for both institutes. Following them, Senator Mushahid Hussain expressed his remarks and stressed the importance of dialogue and discussion. He fore-grounded Pakistan's role in the struggle to create world-peace and discussed the country's importance in the international scene. He ended by condemning all forms of religious and ethnic racism and called for dialogue and discussion. He also invited the UNCW guests to visit the parliament and expressed his hopes for the conference.

Finally, the president of the university, Dr. Ahmad bin Yousif al-Draiweesh gave his welcoming address. He welcomed everyone to the conference and said that he was honoured to have it hosted in the university. He thanked all of the organisers and stressed that such conferences are important, both for intellectual growth and for political and cultural understanding. He expressed hope that the conference would bring nations together and allow connections to be made between the countries. He ended by condemning all forms of extremism and by stressing the fact that peace and dialogue are the only ways to ensure the betterment of human societies. He said that Islam is a religion of peace that encourages dialogue and learning and once again thanked both universities for arranging this conference. After the president's speech, souvenirs were presented to the guests.

The Closing Ceremony

The concluding ceremony of the conference was held on Wednesday, October 11, 2017. Rector IIUI, Prof. Dr. Masoom Yousufzai, was the chief guest of the ceremony who said that peace and dialogue were pre-requisites to keep societies prosperous, developed and full of values in this age of globalization.



He further said that universities were the ultimate platforms to disseminate peace, values and humanity across the globe. He maintained that Islam was a religion of peace which had no place for terrorism. “IIUI, as per Islam’s message of peace and tranquillity keen to have joint ventures with other universities” Dr. Masoom told.

Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz Dasti, secretary of the conference, gave concluding remarks on the conference stating that if we want humanities to be genuinely relevant to the contemporary issues then the primary focus of all research should be the widening economic divides between classes, nations and the worlds. He said it was unfortunate that the focus of about 99% of academic work in the third world humanities is culture while the core issue is the lack of resources.

The closing ceremony was also addressed and joined by Dr. Caroline Clements, UNCW, USA, Dr. Munawar Iqbal Gondal, Dean Faculty of Languages and Literature, Dr. Amna Mehmood, Chairperson Department of Politics and IR, Dr. Ayaz Afsar, Chairman Department of English, Dr. Manzoor Afridi, Head of Department, Politics and IR, IIUI, Deans, Directors and, faculty members other high ups of the university.

More than a hundred papers were presented by researchers from various countries on issues as diverse as globalization, Diaspora Studies, Religious Identities, global politics, world literature, linguistics and many more. The conference also addressed the myriad and seminal forms of impact that globalization has had and continues to exert on the many facets of religion, politics, society and culture in the world.

Prof. Cara Cilano Gives Her Keynote Speech on “Detecting Difference: Advanced Global Capitalism in Omar Shahid Hamid’s Genre Fiction”

In her keynote speech, delivered on the first day of the conference, Dr. Cara Cilano analysed Omar Shahid Hamid’s work from a postcolonial perspective. For this, she placed Shahid’s novels—which are detective fiction, in perspective of genre and history. She noted that the popular culture is an outcome of the socio-economic conditions which according to Russell Nye are connected to Industrial Revolution. Thus, the emergence of popular culture in the US and Europe can be better understood by locating it in the 18th and 19th centuries.



By considering the historical and social context of the genre, Dr. Cilano brought attention to the historicity and the history of detective fiction as a popular cultural form and explored how and to what effect the genre has travelled in time and across places. And this is what brought the discussion to her analysis of Omar Shahid Hamid’s arrival on the Pakistani English-language literature scene. For that purpose, she analysed all three novels by Hamid i.e. *The Prisoner* (2014), *The Spinners Tale* (2015), and *The Party Worker* (2017). Hamid’s novels, she said, examine the origin of extremist forces, diasporic issues, conflicts of interests, politics and power relations in a city marred by numerous contemporary issues the world is facing. She then tried to build a relationship between the places and the characters’ abilities to move through them.

Faculty Members Present Papers in the 2nd IIUI-UNCW Conference Held at IIUI

Several faculty members from the Department of English participated in the 2nd IIUI-UNCW International Conference “Local Cities, Foreign Capitals: Finding the Local Anchors in the Global Cultures” and presented their papers on several issues of contemporary significance as listed below:

Prof. Munawar Iqbal Ahmad: “East-West Acculturative Interface: A Study of *American Dervish*”

Prof. Ayaz Afsar: “From Scriptures to Cultures: The Image of Potiphar’s wife in Muslim and Western Literatures”

Dr. Fauzia Janjua: “Politeness at Work in Editorials: A Systemic Functional Analysis”

Dr. Aroosa Kanwal & Dr. Saiyma Aslam: “Challenges of Glocal Restructuring and the Canon Controversy”

Ms. Asma Mansoor: “Cyborgs are neither Post-racial nor Post-gendered, Ms. Haraway!

Ms. Amal Sayyid: “Postcolonial Appropriation of Modernity in Islamicate Contexts: Cosmopolitan Visions in the Fiction of Kahf and Yassin-Kassab”

Ms. Komal Shahzadi: “Glocalizing the Myth of Reincarnation: Fictional World of Sidhwa, Achebe and Tarar”

Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz: “No More Full Stop: New Indexicalities of Linguistic Hybridity in South Asian Popular Media”

Dr. Ahsan Bashir: “Formality/Informality in the English Classroom: Comparisons between Pakistan and US”

Dr. Khalid Mehmood: “Teaching English Literature through Corpus Linguistic Tools: Advances in Literary Pedagogy”

Mr. Rizwan Aftab: “Lexical Choice and History: A Socio-cultural History of African American Fiction”

Mr. Farrukh Nadeem: “Structuralism and Dastan Narratives: “Exes of Knowledge Desire and Power” in Hoshruha (The Land and the Tilsim, Book-I)

Ms. Sofia Hussain: Social Media and Fetishization of the Female Figure: A Feminist Review of the Qandeel Baoch Affair”

Ms. Sadaf Mehmood: “*Inconvenience in Progress: Allegories of Dispossession in Aravinda Adiga’s Last Man in Tower*”

Mr. Mahmood ul Hassan: “Colonial Legacy and English Studies in Pakistani Public-Sector Universities”

Dr. Rahul Parson Gives Inaugural Talk in Contemporary Poetics Series



Dr. Rahul Parson, Assistant Professor of the Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations at CU Boulder, visited the department on the 12th of October 2017. He gave a short presentation on his analysis of an Indian novel, during which he showed how concepts from western theory can often prove inept. He demonstrated this in his analysis by showing how the literary image of the “flaneur” cannot be used in some situations and suggested the use of “faqir” in its stead. Later, in the question answer session, he suggested that a local element should be introduced into the literary sphere and terms and concepts should be incorporated from the local traditions

as well. He suggested that such an addition to literary theory and criticism would benefit not only in analysing local texts, but would also add to critical discussions everywhere. His suggestions included the appropriation, adaptation, or even rejection of theory where it falls short, and also looking into local aestheticists and ideas for further growth. He also answered the students' queries regarding the learning of the Hindi script and the Sanskrit language.



Prof. Ayaz Presents Papers at the International Conferences

Prof. Ayaz Afsar presented a paper on *Analyzing Supreme Court Judgments with Halliday's Textual Metafunction: A Corpus-based Study* at the CAES International Conference on Faces of English 2: Teaching and Researching Academic and Professional English held during 1-3 June 2017 in Hong Kong. He read another paper on “The



Ideological Representation of ‘self’ and ‘other’ in Post 9/11 Discourse in British Newspapers” at the 9th International Corpus Linguistics Conference that took place from Monday 24 to Friday 28 July 2017 at



the University of Birmingham. The objective of his study was to investigate linguistically the ways in which systems of meaning are constructed in British newspaper editorials to represent 'self' and 'other' through currently circulating discourse of 'war on terror' in ideology formation.

The study explores the newspaper editorials' role in shaping stereotypical images and ideologies as a result of the events of September 11, 2001, which are still on their way in the form of 'war on terror' discourse.

A Lecture by Dr Claire Chambers



Department of English (FLL) arranged a lecture by Dr. Claire Chambers from the University of York on 8th of November 2017, at the Quaid e Azam Auditorium (Old Campus). The session began with the recitation of the Holy Quran, after which Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar, the chairman Department of English, welcomed everyone and introduced Dr. Chambers to the audience. Dr. Chambers' talk dealt with Pakistani Anglophone Literature and its development since the partition. She discussed, how Pakistani Anglophone Literature began with the writings of an English speaking Indian elite before the partition of the sub-continent and how these writers had subsequently become writers of the two countries. Most prominent in the works of these writers is the issue of the partition and its effects. The second generation of Pakistani writers,

she explained, was of the people who were born after or during the 1971 war. This second partition, the era of General Zia, and then the Afghan war brought a different set of issues into the works of these writers. They deal with minority issues, class divisions, and the issue of 1971 that led to creation of Bangladesh and the inner breakdown the nation had experienced.

Finally, Dr. Chambers discussed the latest generation of Pakistani writers, whose works deal with many popular themes and enters the zone of Genre fiction (also called “pulp” fiction by its detractors). These writers wrote crime fiction, romance, and chic lit., blending together common place popular themes with a Pakistani background and bringing Pakistani fiction into the zone of contemporary popular writings. Thus, she showed that Pakistani fiction shows a wide variety of forms and themes and cannot be limited to one or two areas. She concluded by saying that Pakistan English Literature is showing a developing maturity and will probably have a major place in the contemporary reading world.

Prof. Dr. Munawar Iqbal Ahmad, dean Faculty of Languages & Literature, in his concluding remarks, said that Pakistani diasporic writers often represent only a particular section of Pakistani society and their portrayals may not be inclusive. He congratulated the organizers of the lecture and thanked Dr. Chambers for her erudite talk.



Dr. Neelam Jabeen Gave a Lecture on “Women and the Environment of the Global South: Toward a Postcolonial Ecofeminism”

Department of English arranged a lecture by Dr. Neelam Jabeen who is a Lecturer in the department of English, IIUI (FC). Dr. Jabeen did her PhD from the UK recently. The talk was based on her PhD dissertation. The lecture was held in the Central Library’s Lincoln Corner on Thursday, May 25, 2017 and was attended by the faculty members as well as the students of MS and PhD.

Dr. Jabeen said that mainstream ecofeminism was inadequate to translate the experiences of the women of the Third World, therefore, she proposed postcolonial ecofeminism—that focuses on the ecofeminist assumption of women’s relationship of care and compassion with nature. Through textual examples, she showed the complexity of relationships between South-Asian women, and their natural environment, and claimed that these relations are based on their material conditions and social status rather than necessarily being that of care and compassion. She also highlighted the acute nature of women-nature connection in the South-Asian societies where women are treated as land: their bodies are used to reproduce, and at times leased out to earn sustenance. Then she discussed the multiple South-Asian texts she had analysed in her study employing the model of what she termed postcolonial ecofeminism. She said that all the texts not only challenge the main-stream feminism but also highlight the need for a postcolonial ecofeminist perspective. The presentation was followed by an interesting discussion around the topic.

Critical Thinking Forum's Academic and Cultural Exchange Program, London, UK



Five members of the Critical Thinking Forum (CTF) visited London, UK as a part of the CTF's two-year project on “Consciousness Raising of Pakistani Women on Contemporary Academic and Social Issues (2015 – 2017)” that was carried out in collaboration with the Department of State, US Embassy, Islamabad.



The purpose of the program was to provide an opportunity to CTF members to exchange ideas and learn from the expertise of South Asian scholars and interact with the South Asian community (predominantly women) in academic as well as socio-cultural settings. Besides, the program also aimed to dismantle the misconceptions and stereotypes on both sides through inter-cultural dialogue. Thus, this exchange program was envisioned to be an effective means to break stereotypes and misconceptions of foreign cultures through people to people interaction and strengthen the ties between these two countries.

The Critical Thinking Forum arranged some scholarly sessions in the UK with British and Indian civil society, activists, academics and students for mutual sharing of ideas and communicating personal narratives.

Dr. Munazza Yaqoob (Founder, CTF & Project Director, IIUI), Ms. Sofia Hussain (Project Assistant & Asst. Prof., IIUI), Ms. Sonia Irum (Coordinator, CTF), Ms. Sumaira Batool (Lecturer, Govt. Viqar-un-Nisa College for Women), Ms. Sadaf Mehmood (Teaching/Research Associate, IIUI) were the participants of this exchange visit.

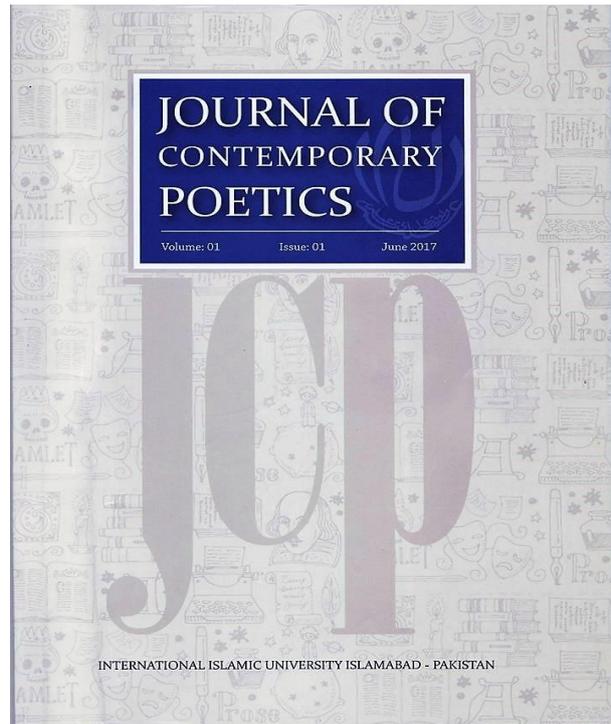
Below is the list of the academic panels arranged by the CTF and the collaborating parties in the UK during the CTF visit:

- Contemporary South Asian Women Narratives: Subversion, Resilience and Shifting Responses (At Oxford City)
- India-Pakistan-UK: Political vs. Personal (At Senate House University of London, Blooms berry London)
- Violence against Women in Media and Literature from India, Pakistan and UK (at Tara Theatre, Earlsfield, UK)
- What it means to be a Feminist in 21st Century India, Pakistan, and UK (at Senate House, University of London, Bloomsbury, London)

The CTF also had a meeting with the Pakistan High Commission and The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), London. Pakistani High Commissioner, H.E. Syed Ibn e Abbas praised the CTF delegation for their endeavours to empower women of Pakistan through education, research and other necessary skill sets.

Department of English (FLL) Launches its Research Journal, *Journal of Contemporary Poetics (JCP)*

The Department of English (FLL) has proudly launched its first biannual research journal, **Journal of Contemporary Poetics (JCP)**. Prof. Ayaz Afsar, chairman of the department and editor of the journal hopes that the launch of the research journal will promote the research culture in the department and will bring the department and university a good name. He said that the launch of the journal had been his earnest desire for many years. He called it coming true of a dream that required an unprecedented effort. He thanked the faculty




Editor
 Prof. Ayaz Afsar
 Chairman, Department of English
 International Islamic University
 Islamabad

Co-Editors
 Aroosa Kanwal
 Zulfqar Hyder
 Muhammad Sheeraz

Advisory Board

Adrienne Janus
 Université Franco-Rabelais (France)

Cara Cilano
 Michigan State University (USA)

Caroline Tagg
 The Open University (UK)

Heather Mydosh
 Independence Community College (USA)

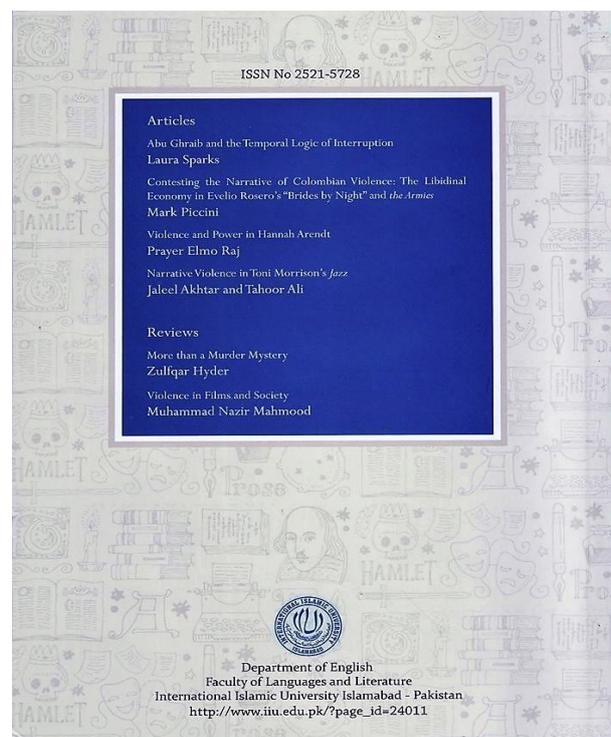
Marina Bondi
 Università Degli Studi Di Modena e Reggio
 Emilia (Italy)

Paul Thompson
 University of Birmingham (UK)

Rizwan Akhtar
 University of the Punjab (Pakistan)

Saeed ur Rehman
 Forman Christian College University (Pakistan)

Shahid Siddiqui
 Allama Iqbal Open University (Pakistan)



members who have worked tirelessly in bringing together the journal that include: Dr. Aroosa Kanwal, Dr. Zulfqar Hyder and Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz. The journal is aimed at publishing quality research in the fields on literature, linguistics and language as reflected in the first volume of the first issue published for June 2017.

Orientation for the New Students of the Department of English



An orientation session for newly admitted students of BS, MA and MS of the Department of English was held in the Seminar Room Block-I on Monday, September 11, 2017. The session began with the recitation of the Holy Quran. Dr. Akhtar Aziz, Coordinator Undergraduate Studies, welcomed the students on behalf of the president of the university. He, the, introduced the students to the department; its brief history and traditions. He advised the students to polish their English language skills because, he said, being good in English was a prerequisite for all the students of the department. Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz, Assistant Professor, of the Department gave a comprehensive briefing about semester-system, evaluation process and the recourses available to the students.

Dr. Tariq Javed, Student Advisor (Male), welcoming the students introduced them to the students' advisor office. He underlined the importance of co-curricular activities in grooming a balanced personality. He asked the students to contact the respective offices for taking part in sports, literary and cultural activities. It was followed by a brief introduction of the entire teaching faculty as well as the staff of the department.

Prof. Ayaz Afsar, Chairman Department of English, in his address congratulated the students on securing admission in one of the leading departments of English in the country. He said that the aim of the foundation of International Islamic University was to integrate and understand modern knowledge in the light of Islamic teachings. He said that his faculty and staff were committed to help students in their academic and non-academic matters. He



emphasized upon the students of MS to engage in research from the very beginning as, he said, the department is committed in promoting research culture.

Dr. Khalid Mehmood and Mr. Ameer Sultan Join the Department

Dr. Khalid Mehmood has joined the Department as Lecturer. His PhD is in Linguistics from the same department. His study interests include: Critical Discourse Analysis, Corpus Linguistics, Post 9/11 Discourse and Representation of Muslims and Islam in Literature.

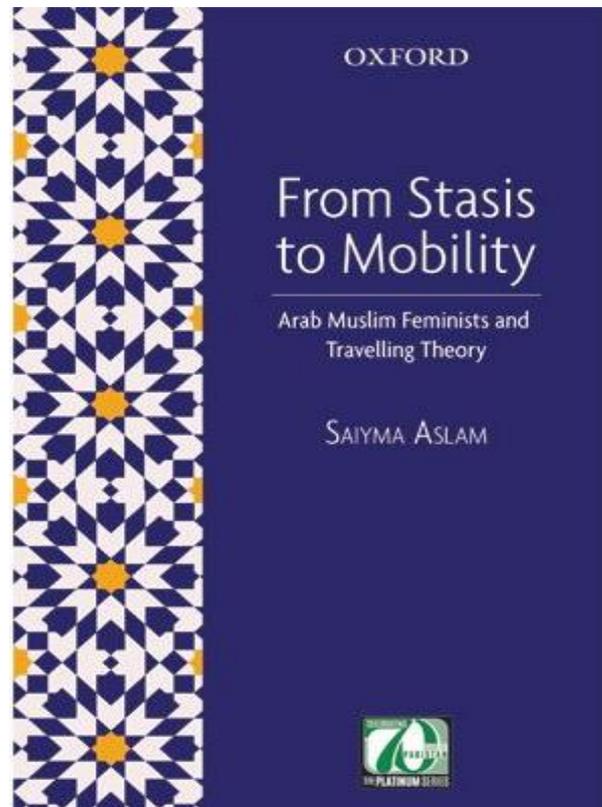


Mr. Ameer Sultan, who joined the department as Lecturer, is pursuing his PhD in Linguistics from the same department. He has been associated with the department as visiting faculty for several years. He is interested in Corpus Linguistics, Computer Assisted Language Learning/Teaching, English for Specific Purposes and Narratology.



Dr. Saiyma Aslam's Book, *From Stasis to Mobility: Arab Muslim Feminist and Travelling Theory*, Published

Dr. Saiyma Aslam, Assistant Professor of the department has got her first book, *From Stasis to Mobility: Arab Muslim Feminist and Travelling Theory*, published. The book is published by the Oxford University Press, Pakistan (OUP, Pakistan). Challenging the stereotypes, the book discusses the role and status of Arab Muslim women in the contemporary times. Dr. Saiyma Aslam studies the works of Fatima Mernissi, a Moroccan anthropologist and Nawal El Saadawi, an Egyptian novelist, for that purpose. She brings forth the diversity and fluidity of Arab Muslim Women culture. She believes that Arab Feminists have been conscious of the global feminist developments and that they have been incorporated in various ways within the fabric of their own society. The faculty and students of the department congratulate Dr. Saiyma Aslam for this success.



MEET OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Mutoakel Mohammad Ahmed Alahnomi, an MS scholar of the department, is from Yemen. He was born in Sana'a, the capital city of Yemen. He got his early education from Government Al- Hassan Ibn-e- Ali Elementary School in Amran. After completing his secondary school education from Al-Irshad Secondary School of Amran he did his bachelor's in English from Amran University, Yemen. While talking to NODE he said that he



always dreamt of studying in a foreign country where he could meet people of different nationalities and cultures and enhance his understanding and knowledge.

When asked what brought him to literature, he said, “Since my childhood, I used to enshroud myself in the fictional world of stories; where I could dwell, and cherish the most precious moments of my life. The time, I engrossed myself with the ambivalent bitterness and sweetness of literature, it metamorphosed my whole existence into a new self, and took me to the celestial heaven, where I shrugged off the ingrained prejudice, and found myself with a new perception of the world at the threshold of literature. As said by Nietzsche, ‘when you look into an abyss, the abyss looks back into you’. The more I delved deep inside the belly of literature, the more I became thirsty, and the only way to quench my thirst, and satiate my unfilled belly, was to go for specialization in English literature under the aegis of talented teachers.”

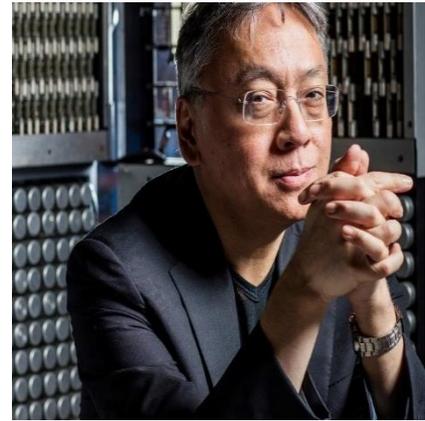
He further said that he has been hankering after knowledge, and for that purpose, he searched every nook and cranny to get acquainted with some of the best universities, and fortunately, he said, he came across International Islamic University Islamabad which accepted him in its cradle, and that cradle of learning proved up to the mark. He further said that the Department of English at IIUI had been blessed with erudite scholars and hardworking teachers who never leave a stone unturned to let the students baptize themselves with the sacred water of literature and its knowledge.

Speaking about his affiliation with IIUI and the department of English, in particular, he said, “at times, it seems that I have lived an eternal life in these few years, and all this could not be possible without the concerted and devoted efforts of my teachers, and the halcyon ambience of this university. I wish I could give a vent to my feelings in words to express my gratitude for all the beautiful moments that this university has bestowed upon me. All I know is that when I fly back to Yemen, these unforgettable memories would haunt me, and I would wallow in its warmth.”

FROM THE WORLD OF LITERATURE

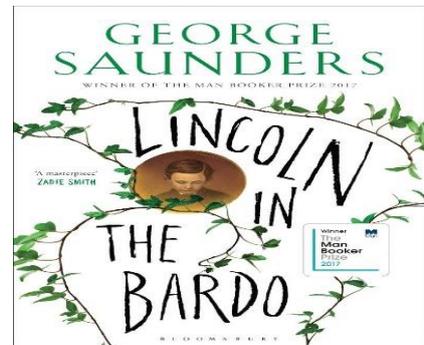
Kazuo Ishiguro Wins the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2017

The British writer of Japanese origin has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for the year 2017. He has written numerous novels that deal with human emotions and connectedness. Kazuo Ishiguro said that he was pleased but surprised at the same time for having won the most distinguished prize in literature.



The Man Booker Prize for 2017

The Man Booker Prize for the year 2017, was won by the American short story writer, George Saunders. The prize was awarded to him for his first novel, *Lincoln in the Bardo*. The novel is based on a real story about Abraham Lincoln and is written in dialogue format. The novel's text also includes certain historical texts, biographies and letters. While accepting the prize, Saunders said that culture was important and that in the mist of all the negativity and violence understanding culture can help us in accepting each other and in making this world a better place to live.



Colson Whitehead wins Pulitzer prize for *The Underground Railroad* for 2017

Whitehead's novel shows the journey of a young woman caught in slavery. His stories about the contemporary American society have been on the bestselling list.



HEC RECOGNIZED AND NEW JOURNALS

Some important HEC recognized and new local journals on English language, literature and linguistics:

Kashmir Journal of Language Research	1028-6640	Department of English, University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Muzaffarabad	www.ajku.edu.pk
ELF Annual Research Journal	1026-7026	Department of English, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur	http://www.salu.edu.pk/publications/research_journals/ELF
Journal of Research (Humanities)	0555-7666	Department of English, University of the Punjab (New Campus), Lahore	http://www.pu.edu.pk/english/jrh/instructionsforauthor.htm
Me'yar (Bi-lingual)	2074-675X	Department of Urdu, International Islamic University, Islamabad	http://www.iiu.edu.pk/mayar.php
Journal of Contemporary Poetics (JCP)	2521-5728	Department of English, International Islamic University, Islamabad	http://www.iiu.edu.pk/?page_id=24011
ELF Annual Research Journal		Department of English, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur	http://elf.salu.edu.pk/
Annual Journal of Language, Linguistics and Literature		Department of English, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi	http://www.fjwu.edu.pk/annual-journal-of-journal-of-language-linguistics-and-literature/
Pakistan Journal of Languages and Translation Studies		Centre for Languages and Translation Studies, University of Gujrat	http://uog.edu.pk/research/journals
Journal of English Pedagogy		Department of English Graduate Studies, National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad	https://numl.edu.pk/JEP/JEPHome.aspx
Pakistan Journal of Social Sciences		Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad	https://qau.edu.pk/pakistan-journal-of-social-sciences-launched-at-qau/

WRITING A RESPONSE PAPER

A response paper is a short essay which conveys the writer's reaction to one or several texts that he or she has read. This kind of assignment is usually given to students after they have read a number of articles, or a work of fiction.

A response paper is often structured in the following way:

- In the introduction, the book(s)/article(s), etc. that has been read is introduced and the focus of the response paper is stated
- In the Body, one or several specific issues are brought up for examination
- In the Conclusion, the argument (the 'response' to the texts that have been read) is summed up and some conclusion is offered

Depending on the teacher's instructions, response papers may or may not require the use of external sources.

Note that response papers are not reviews; the writer is not supposed to offer a value statement on the text that is being discussed. Instead, the response paper (which is sometimes called 'reaction paper') is a kind of critical close reading of a specific aspect of one or several texts.

How to write a response paper

Step 1: Pre-writing activities (i.e. what to do before you start writing)

As you read the text on which you are to base your response paper, mark sections that strike you as important and make notes. One way of doing that is to keep a reading journal where you write down your reactions and ideas as you read. These notes will be helpful in deciding what to focus on in your response paper.

Step 2: Decide on a topic

When deciding what to write about in your response paper, look at your notes, your under-linings, etc. To find a focus, try to establish what interested you in the text(s). One way of defining a suitable topic is to ask questions about the text(s) you have read.

Step 3: Starting to write: Open with an introductory paragraph

Questions Answered in a Response Paper:

1. What (meanings, values, etc.) was the author trying to promote?

2. What is my personal position relative to the author's?

3. How has reading and reflecting on this affected my lived world experience?

<http://web.sonoma.edu>

When you have decided what to focus on, write an introductory passage where you introduce the text(s). Here, you tell the reader which text(s) by which author(s) you will be discussing in your response paper. In this paragraph you should also clearly state what you will focus on in your response paper.

Make sure that the title of your response paper is informative.

Step 4: Writing the body of the response paper

After the introductory paragraph comes the body of the text, which is the part of the essay where you will discuss the topic you have chosen. Divide your essay into paragraphs. Remember to start a new paragraph when you begin to discuss something new. Since the response paper is such a short paper, there is usually no need for headings in the text.

Step 5: Writing the conclusion

End your response paper with a concluding paragraph, where you sum up what you have said and draw some conclusion. Like the introduction, the conclusion should be brief – a few sentences will usually do.

Step 6: Formalities

Although a response paper might be more personal than other kinds of academic essays, it must nonetheless follow the general rules of essay writing.

(<http://awelu.srv.lu.se/>)

Do not Forget!

- Apply the four basic standards of effective writing (unity, support, coherence, and clear, error-free sentences).
- Make sure each major paragraph presents and then develops a single main point.
- Support any general points you make or attitudes you express with specific reasons and details.
- Organize your material. Make use of transitions to make the relationships among ideas in the paper clear.
- Edit the paper carefully for errors in grammar, mechanics, punctuation, word use, and spelling.
- Provide references and citations for paraphrased or quoted material from the book or article you are writing about, or from any other works. If you are unsure what documentation style is required or recommended, ask your instructor.

- Do not rely on quotations too much use them only to emphasize key ideas.

***Reading Techniques:
The SQ3R Method***

S - Survey. Glance through the whole chapter, section, or article.

Q - Question. Formulate Questions.

R1 - Read. Read the material section by section.

R2 - Recall. Recall the important points – say these aloud or write them in the margins or in a diary.

R3 - Review.

[\(http://learnline.cdu.edu.au/\)](http://learnline.cdu.edu.au/)

[\(http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/\)](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/)

(Adopted from the websites mentioned against each entry)

EVENTS OF ENGLISH LITERARY SOCIETY DURING 2017

1) Reading Circles

- “The Oval Portrait” by Edgar Alan Poe (9th March, 2017)
- “A Little Cloud” by James Joyce (10th May, 2017)



ELS' reading Circles are very popular among the students. This is where they get to express their views and discuss literary and popular texts without any interventions from the teachers' side. The activity is also popular among teachers, who are known to frequent these sessions, and are sometimes given a chance to express themselves towards the end of the session. ? reading circles were held during the semester, which were moderated by ELS members and in which discussions were held in an open-floor fashion.



2) Seminars and Study Tours

The ELS tries to arrange seminars and discussions with various scholars and writers. The purpose of these activities is to increase the interaction of students, to engage them in critical dialogue, and to bring to them ideas from sources beyond their classrooms. This semester, the ELS arranged the following sessions:

- *Kitāb Beenī awr ‘Ilm Dostī*, with Zahid Kazmi (15th March 2017)
- *Crisis of Visual Culture in Pakistan*, with Dr. Hassan Zafar (15th May, 2017)
- *On the Appreciation of Art*, with Zaraar Babri (3rd May, 2017)
- *On the Creative Process*, with Zafar Syed (18th May, 2017)

Apart from this, the ELS also provided students with transport facilities during the Literature Carnival, which was held at the Allama Iqbal Open University on the 11th and the 12 of April, 2017, and the 5th Islamabad Literature Festival, which was held at Hotel

Margalla on the 14th, 15th, and the 16th of April, 2017. Some of the university's faculty members also participated as speakers in these festivals.

The ELS on Social Media

ELS has its own Facebook page which is followed by more than 1600 people. The page is managed by the students and all updates regarding activities and events are posted over there.

www.facebook.com/els.iiui

Wall Magazine

ELS also manages a Wall Magazine (or Wall Mag), where students can share their critical and creative works. Students who are interested in writing or who wish to share their reflections or even some quotes from the books they have read are encouraged to post their writings there.

CONTACT US:

Editor: Dr. Muhammad Sheeraz Dasti, Assistant Professor, Department of English

m.sheeraz@iiu.edu.pk

Assistant Editor: Mahmood-ul-Hassan, Lecturer, Department of English

mahmood.hassan@iiu.edu.pk

Student Editor: Munhib Shah, Student of MS, Department of English

Munhibshah96@hotmail.com