

## **EMINENT SPEAKERS:**



**Dr GJV Prasad,**  
**Professor, Centre for**  
**English Studies,**  
**Jawaharlal Nehru**  
**University, India**

**Dr Alan Johnson**  
**Professor of English**  
**Department of English and**  
**Philosophy**  
**Idaho State University, USA**



**Dr Melissa A. Fitch**  
**Professor, Department**  
**of Spanish and**  
**Portuguese, University**  
**of Arizona, USA**

**Dr Amy J. Cohen**  
**Professor of Law**  
**Moritz College of Law**  
**Ohio State University, USA**



**Dr Imtiaz Gulam Ahmed**  
**Professor of Law**  
**Sikkim University, India**



**Dr Himadri Lahiri**  
**Professor of English**  
**Burdwan University,**  
**India**



**How to reach Malda and the University:**  
Malda is a district town located at the heart of West Bengal and is well connected to the entire India through rail and bus services. The nearest rail station is Malda Town (IRCTC code: MLDT) and N.H. 34 connects it to the northern and the southern parts of Bengal. By road Malda is 326 kilometers away from Kolkata and 253 kilometers away from Siliguri.

The University is situated on N.H. 34 near Rabindra Bhavan. The Central Bus Terminus is adjacent to the University campus. City Buses, Auto/ Toto Rickshaws and Rickshaws on solo and sharing basis are available at reasonable rates throughout the day from the Railway station.

### **Seminar Organizing Committee**

**Professor Gopalchandra Misra**  
Vice Chancellor, University of Gour Banga  
Patron of the Seminar

**Professor Amit Bhattacharya**  
Professor and Head, Dept of English, UGB  
Convener of the Seminar

**Dr Samipendra Banerjee**, Asst. Professor of English, UGB: Joint Organizing Secretary

**Sri Sabuj Sarkar**, Asst. Professor of English, UGB: Joint Organizing Secretary

**Sri Bibek Adhikary**, Asst. Professor of English, UGB: Treasurer

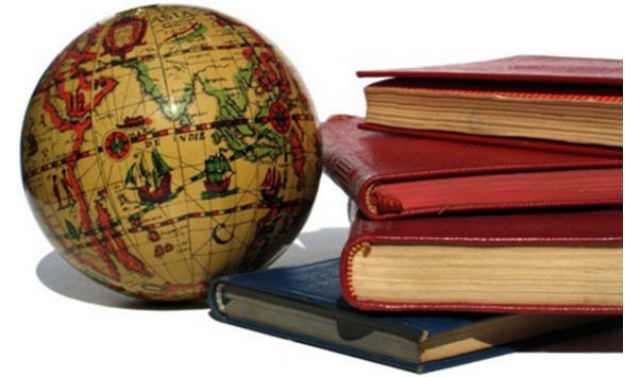
### **Registration Fees:**

**Delegates: ₹ 1500**

**Scholars and Others: ₹ 1200**

N. B.: The registration amount has to be paid in cash at the spot registration counter from 9.30 a.m. on 14.04.2017. Queries should be mailed to [ugbenglishseminar@gmail.com](mailto:ugbenglishseminar@gmail.com).

# *Two-day International Seminar Nation and Beyond: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*



*April 14 & 15, 2017*



*Organized by:  
Department of English  
University of  
Gour Banga*

*Venue:  
Department of English  
University of Gour Banga  
N.H. 34, Malda  
West Bengal, India 732103*

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that the Department of English, University of Gour Banga, is organizing an International Seminar on “Nation and Beyond: Interdisciplinary Perspectives” on April 14 & 15, 2017.

On behalf of the Seminar Organizing Committee, I cordially invite you to participate in the said seminar and share your views on the subject.

With warm regards,

Professor Amit Bhattacharya  
Convener  
Seminar Organizing Committee  
Dept. of English, UGB

### *Seminar Concept Note*

Ernest Renan famously observed that ‘[a] nation is a daily plebiscite.’ This observation reveals the contested nature of the modern nation. The imagination of a ‘nation’ depends on a wide consensus among the members of a ‘community’ (which itself a homogeneous term) and the national imaginary contingent on this consensus is vulnerable to critical scrutiny; for it is problematised by issues such as the right of secession, urge for state-formation, ethnic conflict, minority protection, control of resources, globalization, diasporicity, and trans-national formations, corporations and mechanisms. The objects and ideas having semiotic values (e.g. the national flag, certain sartorial style, particular food habit) are supposed to be constitutive elements of a nation or a national identity, but these are often simultaneously received as divisionary and exclusionary. The assertion of nationality often assumes aggressive masculine qualities. The immigration of new groups of people problematises the issue of the nationality, and the nation state often adopts a policy of, to use Giorgio Agamben’s phrase, ‘inclusive exclusion.’ The emergence of contestatory discourses of separatism and self-determination speak up against the forces of homogenization and hegemonisation. The question of whether to include or exclude the diasporic community within the scope and definition of the nation remains yet another gray area. The concept of nation thus invites debates and discussions.

In recent years, a more potent but conflictual discourse has come into prominence. On the one hand, it seeks to explode the myth of national identification as natural, primary, and permanent that claims to precede history and preclude dissent. On the other hand, it complements the problematic of the much-visited trope of ‘Nationalism’ from the perspectives of its varied cultural, historical and political backgrounds and compulsions. Now it has moved beyond the communitarian mutuality within a given geographical frontier and confronts a queer amalgam of socio-political and cultural constructs. National identities, ideologies and interests give shape to current economic, religious, ethnic and environmental crises. The question of nationalism is seen to promote both democracies and dictatorships, chauvinisms and egalitarianisms, and even localities and identities.

Within such a conceptual domain, at once encompassing diverse disciplines like economics, history, political science, sociology, philosophy, law, literature etc. and hegemonized by the local, the national and the global, there is ample scope for discussing many theoretical and empirical implications that may arise when we consider our specific allegiances and aversions to the national formations and their alternatives. The seminar will seek to investigate reasons why we are at once attracted to and annoyed by the question of nationality and what is its still indispensable content in the present temporality and uneven development that resists its demise. The necessity and efficacy of non-Western discourses of the nation and the national, as put forward by Samir Amin, Partha Chatterjee, Aijaz Ahmad, Naoko Shimazu etc., in supplementing the Western views on the same by such thinkers as Ernest Gellner, Eric Hobsbawm, Benedict Anderson, Anthony D. Smith etc. may also be discussed. The question of the ‘Others’ in the process of identity formation and the prevalence of a passionate polemic in the post 9/11 and post Arab Spring world are also issues that demand serious discussion and deliberation. The seminar abstracts may not be limited to the issues specified in the “subthemes” section. The Review Committee reserves the right to make the final selection.

### **SUB THEMES:**

- Nation: Concepts and Contexts
- Nation and Ethnicity
- Nation and Polity
- Nation and Memory
- Nation and History
- Nation and Narrative
- Nation and Culture
- Nation and Terrorism
- Nation and Conflict
- Nation and Nature
- Nation and Migration
- Nation and Law
- Shades of Nationalism
- Nation and Plebiscite
- Nation and Gender

### **CALL FOR PAPERS:**

Interested participants are to send an abstract within 350 words to [ugbenglishseminar@gmail.com](mailto:ugbenglishseminar@gmail.com) by March 20, 2017. Acceptance of abstracts will be communicated to the participants by March 24, 2017. Full papers, not exceeding 3000 words are to be submitted by April 10, 2017. Full papers with abstracts and short bio-notes of the author(s) should be mailed as a single MS word attachment, font size 12 in Times New Roman with 1.5 line spacing. Participants are to adhere to the guidelines provided in the MLA handbook (latest edition). Selected papers will be published in a Book with ISBN.

- On both the seminar days, lunch, refreshment and high tea will be provided to the participants.
- No TA/DA & other allowances will be provided to the participants for attending the seminar.
- The Seminar Organizing Committee is unable to provide accommodation to the outstation participants. However, assistance will be provided to find adequate hotel accommodation on prior request.
- In case of presentation made by joint authors, each of them should get registered separately.