

February 14, 2023

Press Release

JMI organizes Thirtieth Lecture of the Distinguished Lecture Series Prof. Ranjan Ghosh on "The Plastic Turn"

The Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia, organized the thirty-first lecture of the Distinguished Lecture Series, "The Plastic Turn" by Prof. Ranjan Ghosh, Professor, Department of English, University of North Bengal, on Friday, 10th February, 2023, 7:30-8:30 PM IST on Zoom. Supported by the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC), Ministry of Education, Government of India, the talk was organized as part of the ongoing academic collaboration with the Department of English and American Studies, University of Würzburg, Germany, and promises to be one in a line of successively pertinent lectures.

The talk was conducted by, Ms. Zahra Rizvi, Ms. Suman Bhagchandani, and Ms. Aparna Pathak Ph.D. scholars, Department of English, JMI, and was enthusiastically attended by a large crowd of scholars, students, and faculty from all over the world and across various time-zones.

Prof. Simi Malhotra, H.O.D., Department of English, JMI, Indian PI, delivered the welcome address, greeting the invited speaker, faculty, scholars, and students. She spoke about the discussion as a part of the ongoing collaborative project between the Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia and the Department of English and American Studies, University of Würzburg, on "New Terrains of Consciousness: Globalization, Sensory Environments and Local Cultures of Knowledge", supported by the Ministry of Education's initiative SPARC, "Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration" which aims to facilitate academic and research collaboration between higher education institutes in India and abroad. She, then, introduced the esteemed speaker, Prof. Ranjan Ghosh, who was greeted by a round of applause.

In his lecture Prof. Ranjan Gosh offered a novel way of looking at plastic as he identified plastic the defining material of our age and therefore connects the plasticity of plastic as an innovative technique for 20th century modernist literature. Through the concept of material aesthetics, Professor Ranjan Ghosh traces the creation and development of plastic polymers along the same historical trajectory as modernism in literature. Breaking away from the studies that focus on the material acculturation of plastics and polymers in the Anthropocene, Professor Gosh moves away from the issues of globalization, environment, culture, and other sociological impact to take his proposed "turn" towards plastics as a material-aesthetic metonym that helps in developing a detailed understanding of the behavioural patterns of plastics through polymer chain reaction. He evaluates 20th-century modernist poetry through the properties, structures, and complexities of polymerization so as to build a new experience of reading poetry in the Anthropocene.

His idea of polymer-poetics, as presented in the lecture, was aimed at understanding the role of plastic in creating a semiotic consciousness in literature through its rare property of plasticity, which offers a structural analogy in reading modernist literature. This analogy, Professor Gosh argues, helps in formulating offers a new way of understanding the affect of plastics through its growth, formation, dissemination and subsequent consumption.

This was followed by an engaging, in-depth Q/A session coordinated by Ms. Grace Raju, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of English, JMI. The event was brought to an end with a Vote of Thanks by Ms. Aparna Pathak.

To ensure a wide range of viewership and participation, the event was also live streamed on YouTube, and was attended by over a hundred participants.

Public Relations Office
Jamia Millia Islamia




