

Young Scholars' Seminar-2020
on
Cross Cultural Interactions: Exploring Arabic themes in Indian Writings

March 26-27, 2020

India Arab Cultural Centre (IACC), Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi is planning to organize the **First Young Scholars' Seminar (YSS)** to be held on March 26-27, 2020 to provide a platform to young scholars and academia to share their research on the core theme of *"Looking Afresh at Cross-Cultural Interactions: Exploring Arabic Themes in Indian Writings"*.

The study of Islam and of Arab's cultural interaction with Asian and African countries as a phenomenon has changed profoundly in recent years in part because of a focus on post-colonial and post orientalist scholarships in a post-modern condition which not only encompass multiple areas but also look afresh at processes and interrelations among those areas. The conventional approach to looking at Indo-Arab interaction has been that metropolitan developments flowed from a center, which is Arab in our case, to a periphery, India, or the whole South Asia, for that matter. The fallacy of this approach is that it, essentially, maintains a hierarchical relation which essentializes the belief the 'center' has always been active and periphery passive in cross cultural interactions: thus, Islam as imperialist and hegemonic force arose in Arabia, and was transplanted in India through 'conversion'. Another fallacy of the approach is that it also discusses and places 'too much' emphasis on 'too little' areas.

Therefore, through this **"Young Scholar Seminar"**, the focus of the Center is to enable further research on past and present sites and areas of interrelations and processes of cross-cultural interactions between India and Arab, removing the hierarchical binary of the active center and passive periphery; or rather, tries to look at the 'center' from 'periphery' going beyond the center-periphery binary to explore new dynamics of cultural interactions.

Sub-Themes

The following sub-themes are envisaged as the main focus of the seminar:

- Arab Nationalism in Indian Literature
- Question of Palestine in Indian literature
- Locating Arabs in the Cultural Landscape of Muslims of North Eastern Indian literature
- Hajj Travelogues in India
- Depiction of Arabs in the Hajj travelogues
- Arabic Themes in Indian Folk Literature
- Arabic and Arabs in Indian Cinema
- Arab Culture in 'Muslim Social' Values
- Arabic themes in Indian Paintings and Calligraphy
- Arabs in Indian English Novels
- Arabic Script and Indian Languages

- Arab Socio-religious Figures in Indian Religious Writings
- Sanctity of Arab land in the *Na'at* Literature
- *Madrasa*: an Arabic word with Indian connotations, a place of terror in English consciousness

Papers are invited on the above themes from scholars belonging to social sciences and humanities drawn from different disciplines such as literature, history, sociology, political science, anthropology, comparative religion, Islamic studies and philosophy who are interested on Islam in India. Keeping that in mind, general sub themes have given above without purposely attached any normative values to them. We will be grateful if you could kindly participate in the seminar.

Abstracts of about 300 words along with short bio-note of about 100 words may be sent to tabrez1900528@st.jmi.ac.in, aadi.dia@gmail.com.

For the sake of convenient communication, papers will be accepted only in English and Arabic with proper citations and references. For citation and reference, *The Chicago Manual of Style 2016* is recommended.

Important Dates:

Deadline for Abstract Submission:	February 10, 2020
Notification of Selected Abstract:	February 15, 2020
Submission of full paper:	March 15, 2020

(Prof. Mohammad Ayub Nadwi)
Patron

(Dr. Md. Aftab Ahmad)
Seminar Coordinator

(Tabrez Ahmad)
Student Coordinator