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SYMBIOSIS

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND COMMERCE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on

"Language, Literature, and Culture of Resistance"

Date - 22 January 2027 | Mode - ONLINE

Language, Literature & Culture of Resistance
International Conference 2026-27

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce, Pune

organised by

The Department of English

SYMBIOSIS COLLEGE OF ARTS AND COMMERCE,

Senapati Bapat Road, Ganeshkhind,

Pune - 411004

OUR PATRONS

Prof. (Dr.) S. B. Mujumdar
Founder & President, Symbiosis

Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar
Chancellor, Symbiosis International (Deemed University)
Principal Director, Symbiosis

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Symbiosis College of Arts & Commerce, Pune

Symbiosis is one of India's leading educational institutions, providing quality education across diverse fields for over four decades. Symbiosis also embodies the philosophy of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* meaning 'the whole world is one family'. In recognition of the pioneering work done in the field of education, the college was granted 'Autonomy' by the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi, effective from the academic year 2012-13. However, the college continues to be under the Savitribai Phule Pune University, which confers degrees to its students. The UGC recognised the college as a 'College with Potential for Excellence (CPE)' in 2016. Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce was reaccredited with an 'A+' and a 3.51 CGPA for the third cycle by NAAC. Additionally, the college was conferred with Empowered Autonomous status by the UGC in July 2024. Symbiosis College blends the wisdom of traditional education, with practical knowledge, utilising contemporary global best practices in education. As a result, students who graduate from the college are equipped with a solid theoretical foundation and the relevant skills to apply their knowledge in practice. Studying at Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce offers the benefits of belonging to both an internationally renowned institution and a multicultural, interdisciplinary academic community.

Department of English

The Department of English at Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce, is a centre that is dedicated to excellence both in academic and co-curricular endeavours. Apart from offering specialised courses at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, the department also ensures student involvement through the conduction of guest lectures, seminars, and workshops by eminent resource persons. Under the banner of the English Literary Association, the department organises various literary events and activities, book discussions and film screenings, open mic events, and an annual play which are all student-led initiatives. In accordance with the NEP, the department has introduced a number of vocational and ability-enhancement courses. The department believes in taking an interdisciplinary approach to the study of literature through the study of its allied disciplines, and in inculcating a research mindset among the students by offering training in research methodology. The department is about to launch its very own research journal, and has been granted recognition as a PhD centre under the Savitribai Phule Pune University.

Objectives

- To explore language as a site of struggle, including endangered languages, mother-tongue movements, and the politics of translation.
- To examine how literary texts articulate dissent and produce counter-narratives across postcolonial, feminist, Dalit, queer, Indigenous, and diasporic traditions.
- To analyse the ways in which cultural traditions and practices such as folk forms, theatre, festivals, cinema, music, and popular culture become an instrument of memory, community, and protest.
- To reflect on literary and cultural expressions of environmental struggles, such as those concerning land, justice, and livelihood.
- To understand the role of digital media and AI in fostering new forms of resistance as well as to explore new mechanisms of control and surveillance shaping these forms.
- To encourage international academic exchange and interdisciplinary dialogue on the aesthetic and political dimensions of resist
ance.

CONCEPT NOTE

“Language is also a place of struggle.”

- bell hooks, “Choosing the Margin as a Space of Radical Openness,” Framework, No. 36 (1989)

If language is a place of struggle, so too is the literature made from it and the culture that carries it. Every act of naming, storytelling, and remembering carries within it the space for acceptance as well as resistance. Language, literature, and culture, thus, have never existed outside the relations of power: they are sites where power is exercised, contested, and reformulated. Ranging from oral traditions that safeguarded suppressed histories to contemporary forms such as protest songs, migrant literature, or graphic narratives of the dispossessed, these cultural texts have long served as practices of defiance, survival, and a refusal to be silenced.

In our contemporary moment, the urgency of resistance has acquired renewed significance. Ecological devastation, censorship, surveillance, linguistic erasure, and deepening social inequalities have stimulated imaginative and analytical responses. The choice of a language, register, dialect, or vocabulary can be mobilized to assert identity and intervene the dominant structures of representation. Poetry, novel, drama, life writing, graphic narratives, and other literary forms through its formal strategies and narrative techniques can challenge conventional portrayals of race, gender, class, caste, sexuality, ethnicity, nation, migration, and disability. Meanwhile, cinema, theatre, television, performance, popular culture, memes, digital media, and everyday cultural practices are negotiating normative ideas and constructing alternative meanings. Resistance today is at once loud and quiet, embodied and virtual, local and global. The exploration of these dynamics gives us the scope to expand our understanding of power and its structures.

This international conference seeks to explore the ways in which language, literature, and culture contest, negotiate, and re-envision different structures of power. The conference aims to create a space and platforms for scholars, researchers, writers, teachers, artists, and practitioners to examine how diverse forms of resistance are experienced, articulated, mediated, and represented.



How do literary texts create space for voices excluded from the dominant discourse? How can a language become a form of resistance, and what cultural worlds are erased when a language is suppressed or silenced? In an age of digital media, algorithms, and AI, what new forms of dissent emerge, and what new constraints do they face and challenge? How do performances, rituals, and popular cultures sustain memory and challenge hegemony?

By foregrounding resistance, the conference aims to provide a space for dialogue across disciplines, languages, regions, and cultural contexts. In hopes of bolstering nuanced academic conversations, it also invites reflections on the complexities of resistance, such as its commodification, co-optation, and the way, at times, it reproduces the hierarchy it opposes.

SUB-THEMES

REGIONAL NARRATIVES

Language as a tool for Memory & Power
Resistance through Partition Narratives
Dialect as Defiance
Identity and Regionalism
History and Cultural Erasure
Translation as power of Regional Voices
Oral histories and archives

DIGITAL HUMANITIES

AI, Language and Literary Resistance
Digital Storytelling & Counter Narratives
Digital Activism
Digital Archives and Cultural Heritage
Surveillance and Privacy
Digital Translation & Linguistic Diversity
Dissent of Algorithmic Culture

INTERSECTIONALITY

Queer Voices VS Normativity
Diaspora and Alienation
Gendered Resistance
Ecological Resistance
Law, Literature and Politics of Justice
Caste, Class & Intersecting Hierarchies
Disability, Agency and Inclusivity

POPULAR CULTURE

Popular Culture as a tool of Protest
Meme and Youth Culture
Cinema/Music as expressions of Dissent.
Celebrity and Fandom Culture
Politics of Representation.
Artefacts and Identity
Culinary Representations



The conference invites papers that are theoretically informed, conceptually rigorous, and creatively engaged with the various forms of resistance. Through academic dialogues and collaborations, we hope to understand words, stories, and cultural texts challenge injustice and give us the opportunity to imagine a future that is more equitable and plural.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PAPER COMPETITION 2027

We invite participation from undergraduate and postgraduate students, research scholars, and faculty members from across disciplines such as literature, linguistics, cultural studies, sociology, anthropology, media studies, philosophy, education, and allied fields. The competition aims to foster a research-oriented environment that encourages participants to critically examine contemporary realities and shifting paradigms.

Participants are encouraged to frame their papers around relevant and emerging questions, with reference to the suggested themes provided in the conference brochure as plausible areas of exploration.

The International Research Paper Competition 2027 will be conducted in two categories:

- **Category I: Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students**
  1st Prize - INR 5000
  2nd Prize - INR 3000
  3rd Prize - INR 2000
- **Category II: Faculty Members and Research Scholars**
  1st Prize - INR 5000
  2nd Prize - INR 3000
  3rd Prize - INR 2000

To recognise excellence in research and academic expression, winners in each category will receive a trophy and a cash prize. Selected entries will also be considered for publication in the Special Issues of the Department's ISSN-certified, peer-reviewed International Research Journal, The Discursive Nexus.



ORIGINALITY AND PLAGIARISM POLICY

All submissions must be original and not under consideration elsewhere. Papers will be screened for plagiarism, duplicate publication, and substantial AI-generated content. Authors must ensure that the manuscript reflects their own scholarly work; substantive AI-generated writing is not permitted. Non-compliant submissions may be rejected.

FORMAT

- Length: The full paper should be between 3,000 to 5,000 words, excluding references, tables, and appendices.
- Language: Submissions must be in English.
- Font: Times New Roman, size 12
- Spacing: 1.5 line spacing
- Margins: 1-inch margins on all sides
- Title Page should include:

-----→ Title of the paper (should be centered, bold, with font size 16)
-----→ Author(s) name(s) and institutional affiliation(s)
-----→ Contact details: Email address, phone number(s) (for Calling and WhatsApp)
-----→ A brief bio-note of the author(s) (max 100 words each)

- Abstract: A 250–300 word abstract should be submitted along with the paper. It should summarise the research focus, methodology, and key findings.
- Keywords: Provide 4-6 keywords that reflect the key topics covered in the paper.
- Citations and References: Follow MLA (9th edition) style for in-text citations and the reference list.
- File Format: Papers must be submitted in MS Word format (.doc or .docx).

PUBLICATION OF PAPERS

Selected papers will be published in a Special Issue of THE DISCURSIVE NEXUS, the ISSN-certified, Peer-reviewed, International, Interdisciplinary Research Journal published by the Department of English, Symbiosis College of Arts and Commerce, Pune.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAPER SUBMISSION

Authors are requested to adhere to the following guidelines to ensure a smooth and efficient submission process.

Submission Portal: All papers should be submitted electronically via email at **conference@symbiosiscollege.edu.in**
Filename: Please name your file as follows
Lastname_Firstname_SCACConference2027.docx
(e.g., Singh_Ajay_SCACConference2027.docx).

All submissions will be subject to a double-blind peer review process and plagiarism check. Authors must ensure that the paper does not reveal their identity in the main text (e.g., self-citations should be written as "[Author, Year]" and not in the usual format). The acceptance of papers will be based on relevance to the conference theme, originality, clarity, methodology, and overall contribution to the field. We look forward to your contributions and to engaging discussions at the conference!

REGISTRATION FEES	
Faculty Members	1000/-
PhD Scholars	700/-
UG and PG Students	500/-

Registration Fees are Non-Refundable and include the cost of publication.
The link for the payment will be shared after the registration.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

15 Nov. 2026	Abstract Submission and Registration
20 Nov. 2026	Acceptance of Abstract
15 Dec. 2026	Full Paper Submission

Registration & Abstract Submission Link:
https://forms.gle/aTb2jC9TGJX1TnQr5

REGISTER HERE

FOR ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT

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(Kindly Call ONLY between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Saturday)

