Diasporas and Diversities: Teaching English in a Changing World
An international conference organized by the Department of English
Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)
5 -7 November 2015

Call for Papers

Since ancient times, human mobility has created the need to accept communal changes and to celebrate new diversities. Human diversity brings with it adaptations in language, in culture and in the very embodiment of societies. People leave their land behind but carry native cultures, values, beliefs and their stories with them to new abodes. And what better vehicle can there be for these ancient and changeable stories to be told than via the world’s widest spoken language - English? This powerful language has not only enriched itself through centuries of adaptation and incorporation, but it has also empowered its non-native speakers and writers to use it as their new medium of expression. English literature retains its intellectual position in the world through its welcoming and accommodating attitude. The shrinking of the British Empire and the world wars only unlocked the doors of English literature to welcome new genres to be more inclusive. One of these genres, Diaspora Literature today is as valued as its mainstream British and American counterparts. Writers from the subcontinent include internationally renowned luminaries such as Amitav Ghosh and Kamila Shamsie and noted authors such as Bangladeshi British novelist Zia Haider Rahman in Diaspora Literature’s vast roster of talents. These and other such writers have strengthened the genre of Diaspora Literature, and contributed new flavours, identities and styles to the vibrant world of literature as we know it today.

As a parallel stream of development and change, the constant growth of English language itself also poses new challenges for its practitioners. The traditional methods of teaching English language has changed and evolved along with the communities using the language. Whereas once the language was meant for its native speakers, English language today is spoken by people from different countries worldwide. Due to this growth and immensity of English, phrases and concepts such as ‘varieties of English’/ ‘new Englishes’ have opened up new dimensions for debate and research. Teaching English has emerged as a dynamic field of study, and out of necessity, has responded to the challenge of teaching people in various Diasporas. As a result, the interest in research in teaching in a changing world has grown dramatically, and the conference hopes to provide a platform to examine this breadth and these newer aspects of English. The aim of the conference, therefore, is to explore factors influencing the teaching of English, with consideration to the wide range of diasporas and diversities of English usage in an ever-changing world.
The conference will offer a forum for discussion, bringing together scholars, academics and language practitioners interested in this dynamic field of study. The conference invites papers (for 20 minutes presentations) on all aspects of English teaching including (but not limited to) the following themes:

- Diaspora literature
- Post colonial literature
- Language via Literature
- War and literature
- Language, Culture and Society
- Language, Attitude and Identity
- Bilingualism and Multilingualism
- Language teaching methodology
- New Englishes
- Teaching Creative Writing
- Women in literature
- Literature as a memory trigger
- Consumer culture and Diaspora literature
- Literature and cyber culture
- Recording, processing and archiving e-literature
- Trauma and the formation of embodied memory
- Discourse and English Language Teaching
- Myths, folklore, legends and the dynamics of representation
- Graphic novels as cultural production
- Power and the literary canon
- Literary, cinematic and artistic representations of 1971 liberation war

**Abstract and Short Bio Submission Guidelines:**
- An abstract of maximum 300 words
- A separate 50-word bio of the author (including academic affiliations and areas of research)
- Font: Times New Roman 12
- Single Space
- No diagram, picture, table or photo in the abstracts

Please send your abstracts and short bios to iubengconference@gmail.com.

**Poster:** We strongly encourage the submission of abstracts for posters.

**Important Dates**
- Abstract submission deadline: 30 September 2015
- Notification of abstract acceptance: 08 October 2015
- Full paper due by: 01 November 2015

**Registration:** On spot

**Registration Fees**

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For further queries, please send your email to: nadia@iub.edu.bd

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