

**INTERDISCIPLINARITY IN LITERARY STUDIES AND THE HUMANITIES**

**CONCEPT NOTE AND CALL FOR PAPERS**

The practice of interdisciplinarity has been there ever since the emergence of disciplines in early modern Europe. Thus, in *De Magnete* (1600), William Gilbert combines physics with insights drawn from astronomy to develop his first theoretical premise on magnetism, the phenomenon of polarity. The lodestone, he wrote, “possesses the virtue and power of directing itself toward the north and the south (the earth itself co-operating and giving to it that power) according to the conformation of nature, which adjusts the movements of the stone to its true locations.” But it was only in 1970, in a seminar organized by the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI) at the University of Nice in France, that interdisciplinarity was first proposed as a methodological principle for creating and disseminating new knowledge. The report on the seminar, titled *Interdisciplinarity: Problems of Teaching and Research in Universities* (1972), focused primarily on the natural and human sciences, not humanities, as did many other reports that followed. Literature, stated the CERI report, “remains traditionally reluctant to make innovations or to reconsider its inner workings in the light of interdisciplinarity.” Two years earlier, when Nuel Pharr Davis published *Lawrence and Oppenheimer*, a biographical and social history of the nuclear project at Los Alamos, the book had received wide acclaim; but when Davis, an associate professor of English at the University of Illinois, applied for tenure he was turned down because his book did not conform to the disciplinary norms of literary studies. Davis’s fate, like the CERI project, unfolded in the context of a rapidly growing market for STEM disciplines in the 1960s and ‘70s and the conservative backlash from literature departments, but the situation seems different now. Literary studies are increasingly exploring insights and methods taken from other disciplines, especially in the human sciences. Many of them do not simply integrate the humanities and the human sciences in an approach that is *multi-* rather than *inter*-disciplinary, but use the former to open up to critique the disciplinary limits of the latter. Both domains of knowledge share a common object, the human being; but while the human sciences are about objective laws, norms and patterns governing human socio-political, legal and medical practices, the humanities are about their subjective meanings and values. It is in the interstitial spaces of the two domains that new insights into the human condition can emerge. Humanistic interventions into other disciplines include studies such as Karen Barad’s *Meeting the Universe Halfway* (2007), a book that combines quantum physics with philosophy, and numerous

projects on the role of affect in human geography, human/ nonhuman interactions in ecology, literary studies in new media, and posthumanism.

The objective of this special issue of *Sambalpur Studies in Literatures and Cultures* is to explore ways of doing interdisciplinary research in the humanities and the human and natural sciences, with a special focus on literary studies. We invite scholarly articles/reviews in the following broad areas as well as others related to the theme:

Theoretical paradigms for interdisciplinary humanities

Inter/multi/transdisciplinarity as methodological practice

Critical interdisciplinarity in the humanities

The ‘human’ in digital humanities

Medical and legal humanities

Eco-literature and the sciences of space

Migration/refugee studies and subjective experiences of dislocation

Food as social practice in literature and cinema

Forms of precarity in conflict-zone narratives and narratives of industrial/environmental disasters

The literature of posthumanism

**Professor Dilip Kumar Das**

**Guest Editor, SSLC**

## **Submission Guidelines**

1. Articles/Essays/Reviews must be original and should not have been submitted for publication anywhere else in any form.
2. The Articles/Essays/Reviews must be typed in double-space.
3. Word limit:
  - a. Articles/Essays: between 3000 to 6000 words
  - b. Reviews: between 1000 to 1500 words
4. Articles/Essays/Review must follow the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of *MLA* style manual.

5. Authors should take care to incorporate headings, subheadings, endnotes, footnotes and illustrations into the main body of the text.
6. Name, academic details, institutional affiliations, and mailing details **should not be** included anywhere in the body of the essay to facilitate confidential peer-reading. The name, academic details and mailing addresses of the contributors should be provided separately.
7. Articles/Essays/Reviews can be submitted in text-file format via e-mail as an attached document. The name of the text file should be such as the title of the Articles/Essays/Reviews.
8. A text file containing the name, academic details, institutional affiliations, and mailing details should be the second attachment of the same mail.
9. The subject line must be the title of the article/essay.
10. Contributions should be sent to the Email Id: **sambalpurslc@gmail.com**
11. By submitting your articles/essays/reviews for publication in SSLC you declare that your submitted work is free from plagiarism and that you are solely responsible for non-reference or incomplete reference/acknowledgement to other sources of information.
12. Life members are entitled to a copy of each issue of the Journal and OPCL, the monograph published by the Department of English, SU. The membership fee is ₹2000 (Rupees Two Thousand Only). Those interested in membership may deposit the fee of ₹2000 (Rupees Two Thousand Only) to Account No. 38192098786, Name of the Account: **Sambalpur Studies in Literatures and Cultures (SSLC)** SBI, Jyoti Vihar Branch, IFSC: SBIN0006672. The members are requested to mail the details of the money transfer and their complete postal address and phone no. to SSLC.
13. All correspondences and contributions should be addressed to the Editor, SSLC and sent to the e-mail ID: **sambalpurslc@gmail.com**, or postal address: P.G. Department of English, Sambalpur University, Jyoti Vihar, Burla, Sambalpur, Odisha, Pin: 768019.
14. The last date for submission of articles and reviews is **31.05.2024**.

**Editor**

**SSLC**