



EDRU-ATLEB International Conference 2024
Revisiting the Canon: Reading British and American Literatures from
Contemporary Perspectives

Organised by
Department of English, Rajshahi University
&

Association of Teachers of Literatures in English, Bangladesh (ATLEB), Rajshahi Chapter
December 20 & 21 (Friday & Saturday), 2024

Call for Papers

Since the inception of English Departments across the global academia it had only been customary that the British canon reigned supreme in their syllabi. However, the prominent literary texts from the USA, that were considered to be of high aesthetic, intellectual and philosophical standards, soon found their place in English classrooms everywhere. With the emergence of a substantial body of literatures in English in different parts of the world—especially in the hands of authors whose first language is not English— English departments have gradually become flexible enough to accommodate texts from those newly established literary traditions within their academic fold. Interestingly, in recent years while we witness massive academic activities in the form of institutional research, seminar, conference, workshop, and talks revolving around what may roughly be termed as new literatures in English, there are hardly any extended academic deliberations in our part of the world on the classics handed down to us by the important British and American writers right from the Anglo-Saxon to the Modern. The upcoming conference aims to make an effort to address this issue, and to re-engage with the canon. Let us, however, note here that our understanding of the issue at hand is well informed by the (hegemonic) politics of canonicity and canon-formation as well as selection/exclusion of texts. Still, we believe that any agenda of decanonisation will require a sound orientation of the canon itself. Our upcoming conference, thus, is not meant to be a celebratory or adulatory gesture to the canon; we rather aspire to highlight the importance of reevaluating the canon, and to revisit the canon critically— principally through the contemporary lenses, that is, through the discourses and perspectives of our own times.

We welcome proposals of papers and panels from senior professionals as well as promising researchers, scholars, academics of English Studies at home and beyond. Students holding or pursuing an MA in English will also be eligible to send their proposals. The proposals should preferably address any of the following areas:

- Politics of canon, canonicity, canon-formation
- Agenda of decanonisation
- Approaching the canon through interdisciplinary perspectives
- British Literature in various eras including Early, Middle, Elizabethan and Jacobean, Restoration, Neo-Classical, Romantic, Victorian and 20th century writings
- Re-evaluating 19th and 20th century American Literature
- Reading the canon through Formalist, New Critical, Structuralist, Post-Structuralist, New Historicist, Deconstructive, Psychoanalytic, Feminist, and Marxist theories
- Gender Studies, Masculinity Studies, Queer Studies and the canon
- Revisiting the canon through Gerontological imaginary and Disability Studies perspective
- Postcolonial, Eco-Critical, Eco-Feminist, Post-Humanist, Non-Anthropocentric, Critical Animal Studies reading of the canon
- Re-engaging with the canon through Necropolitics and Necrocapitalism; through Spatial Studies perspective; through Law, Justice and Human Rights perspectives; through Saidian, and Cultural Studies perspective

Keynote/Plenary Speakers:

Prof. Gillian Dooley, Flinders University, Australia
Prof. Saugata Bhaduri, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
Prof. Fakrul Alam, Dhaka University
Prof. Firdous Azim, BRAC University, Dhaka
Prof. Mohit Ul Alam, Premier University, Chittagong
Prof. Tahmina Ahmed, Dhaka University
Prof. Nevin Farida, Dhaka University
Prof. Amit Bhattacharya, Gour Banga University, West Bengal
Prof. Zerine Alam, Dhaka University
Prof. Mashrur Shahid Hossain, Jahangirnagar University
Prof. Sabiha Huq, BRAC University, Dhaka (on leave from Khulna University)

Conference Convener:

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Co-Conveners:

Professor Dr. Md. Mominul Islam
Chairman, Department of English, Rajshahi University
Professor Tahmina Ahmed, Department of English, Dhaka University
President, ATLEB