

1. 12 January 2024- Online National Conference on: “Food and Literature”

Control+Click on link to view You Tube livestream and upload for the conference

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnLDUiksfpU>

Number of Participants

17 participants as per Feedback Forms for presenters

96 participants as per Feedback Forms for participants.

14 views on YouTube

Link to the Feedback form:

- For paper presenters:

<https://forms.gle/JpgCzKSSfn4JoTC3A>

- For participants:

<https://forms.gle/6QqsawAVryVS7UJ3A>

Link to the Excel sheet containing all the Feedback responses:

- For paper presenters:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1eOXilVOYyS_dXIMbEfWVcawBgS1_OF0mqmYm2t8WW_A/edit?usp=sharing

- For participants:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/166A89hMwTXArkihV1NzkhlLYm-IwSDuyp_xYSsX225I/edit?usp=sharing

CONCEPT

NOTE

The relationship between food and literature spans ages and cultural divides. Both can make us feel many different things, stimulate our senses, and provide us insight into the human condition. The connection between food and literature is deep and fascinating, from the enticing descriptions of magnificent feasts to the symbolic meaning of food in narrative. Food is more than just fuel in literary works. It may be used to great effect in telling stories, creating characters, and learning about other cultures. Authors use food effectively to evoke certain settings, highlight social stratifications, and set the tone and era of their stories. A writer's ability to eloquently describe a meal's aroma, consistency, and flavor can effectively transport a reader to another world. Cultural heritage and identity can be expressed via food. Many literary works contain regional specialties, culinary rituals, and classic dishes to highlight a culture's or era's distinctive culinary customs and flavors. Images of food and drink practices can tell us a lot about the values, social structures, and historical contexts of the individuals depicted.

Furthermore, food can serve as a metaphor for broader themes inside a narrative. It can stand in for things like greed, lust, plenty, or lack. Think of eating the apple of knowledge, being transformed by a magic potion, or breaking bread together as symbols of community. Authors use food as a metaphor to investigate human nature and the complexities of interpersonal interactions, including the temptations we face and the identities we seek. The things we eat can influence who we become. Characters' attitudes about food, their dietary choices, and their relationships with food can provide insight into their identities, backgrounds, and states of mind. The human condition and the complexities of individual lives are probed via the lens of food, whether it's a character seeking solace in comfort food, a gourmet chef using food as a form of self-expression, or the impoverished battling to find nutrition. Both food and literature may bring back fond memories and forge bonds between people. Each of us knows the joy that comes from anticipating a shared meal or the solace of a tried-and-true favorite dish. Through literature, we can more deeply identify with characters and stories that reflect our own lives.

The conference will cover a wide range of themes, including but not limited to:

- Food symbolism, metaphors, and allegories in literature
- Culinary Narratives and Memoirs
- Historical Perspectives on Food in Literature
- Cultural Representations of Food and Identity
- Food as a Tool for Character Development and Storytelling
- Food Journalism and Culinary Literature
- The Evolution of Food Writing and its Impact on Culinary Traditions
- Food and Memory in Literature
- Culinary Fantasies and Imaginary
- Gastronomies
- Food and Identity Formation
- Food and Intertextuality
- Food as a Form of Social Commentary in Literature

List of paper presenters:

1. **Soma Dutta-** Culinary Symbolism: A Cultural Analysis of Ritualistic Food Consumption during Menstrual Festivities in East India”
2. **John Majel P** -“Tasting the Words: An Epicurean Approach to English Language Metaphors in Teaching”
3. **Mr Tushar-** The role of Cultural, Ethnic, and Culinary Customs in Prison Food
4. **Vaibhavi Chaturvedi-** Palate on the Silver Screen: Unravelling the Rich Tapestry of Food Representation in Indian Cinema
5. **Jala Srilakshmi-** Food As A Catalyst Of Gendered Roles And Cultural Identity Within Various Ethnic Communities
6. **V.Deepika and Co-Author: Dr. J. Sobhana Devi-** The Culinary Chronicles: Exploring Memoirs with Erica Bauermeister’s The school of Essential Ingredients
7. **Mr Shankar Khobare-** Cultural Representation of Food and Identity in Ha Jin’s Novel A Free Life
8. **Shelly Narang-** Gendered Power Relations and Food Women’s Power / Food Spheres in J.P. Clark’s The Wives’ Revolt

9. **Swarnava Bhattacharya-** The Representation of a Culture at a Crossroads Through the Food Imagery in Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart
10. **Sumaira Hamid and Dr Khursheed Ahmad Qazi -** Nourishing Absurdity: Food Study in Samuel Beckett's Waiting for Godot
11. **Dr Suganthi K-** The Destiny of Titular Character 'Tilottama' Through Spices in Mistress of Spices by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
12. **Vishwambhari Parmar-** Food as Punishment: The Duality of Food Symbolism in Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
13. **Arnab Chatterjee-** "Even if they pass as humans, they're just human-shaped, right?":the quest for self in Sui Ishida's Tokyo Ghoul
14. **Saptak Bhattacharya-** The Menu of Memories: The Bittersweet Flavours of Past in Kallol Lahiri's Indubala Bhatar Hotel
15. **Kowsalya R M-** Decoding the Binary Factors in Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
16. **Ms Prerna Jatav and Dr Seema Sharma-** Aromatic Manipulations by Women through Food: Secret Ingredient towards Agency
17. **Dr Mangesh Gore -** Food Imagery - Reflection of Nostalgia & Identity in Jhumpa Lahiri's Mrs Sen's"

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Organized by the Department of English

The conference on " Food and Literature" held on 12-01-2024 by the Department of English at St Andrew's College conducted in a hybrid mode was a resounding success, bringing together scholars, experts, and enthusiasts to delve into the intricate relationship between culinary traditions and literary expressions. The event, organised by the Department of English and chaired by Dr. Marie Fernandes, Principal and Head of the Department of English, featured a diverse lineup of speakers and 15 paper presentations, offering valuable insights and fostering interdisciplinary dialogue. There were 100 participants in total that were attending the conference both online and offline.

Welcome Address by Dr. Marie Fernandes:

The conference commenced with a warm welcome from Dr. Marie Fernandes, setting the stage for a day of enlightening discussions and academic exchange. Dr. Fernandes emphasised the importance of exploring the multifaceted connections between food and literature in understanding cultural identities and societal dynamics.

Keynote Address by Ms. Eleanor Pinto:

Ms. Eleanor Pinto delivered a captivating keynote address titled "IN-DIGESTION: Literatures of Decoloniality, Philosophies of Difference." In her thought-provoking talk, Ms. Pinto examined the ways in which literary narratives reflect and resist colonial hegemonies through the lens of food symbolism and cultural identity.

Invited Speakers:

The conference featured insightful presentations by esteemed invited speakers, each offering unique perspectives on food writing and culinary traditions:

- **Mr. Abhishek Varughese (Deputy Manager Marketing at Gujrat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (Amul)** shared intriguing insights into the "Amul India Story," highlighting the brand's cultural significance and its impact on Indian society.

- **Ms. Pamela Nandi, Engineer at IBM and Independent food blogger** explored "The Evolution of Food Writing and its Impact on Culinary Traditions," tracing the historical development of food literature and its influence on gastronomic practices.

- **Ms. Prerna Jatav, Assistant Professor and HOD - English, R.D. National College** delved into "Aromatic Manipulations by Women through Food: Secret Ingredient towards Agency," shedding light on the empowering role of food in women's lives.

Vote of Thanks

The conference concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all speakers, moderators, attendees, and organizers for their valuable contributions and participation in making the event a memorable success.

In conclusion, the conference on "Food and Literature" provided a platform for meaningful discourse and scholarly inquiry, enriching our understanding of the profound connections between food, culture, and literature.