



St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College

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Department of English
Annual Students' Seminar
Date: 16th June 2025
Venue: Room 100, Jani Ali Building

The department of English, in association with the IQAC organised the Annual Students' Seminar on the 16th of June, 2025. The programme began at 12 noon and students from both the Postgraduate and Undergraduate departments participated with equal eagerness and enthusiasm. The topic for this year's seminar was "Love in Literature". On the whole, students took a unique stance as most of them analysed works and ideas beyond the boundaries of the curriculum. There was discussion of Tolstoy, Khalil Gibran, Rumi, Mirabai, *Fifty Shades of Grey* as well as *Frankenstein*, and Lawrence's novels.

Prerona Roy of PG Semester 2 came third. Anushka Mukherjee of UG Semester 4 came second. Soumik Chakraborty of PG Semester 2 came first. Only one of the fourteen participants could not participate due to emergencies at home. There was a total of eleven papers, many of which were accompanied by insightful powerpoint presentations. Prerona Roy's paper took a wide sweep of the aberrational in love and talked about consumerism and cannibalism as an important aspect of love. It was an enriching paper from the scholar who is currently reading in the second semester of the Postgraduate Department. Anushka Mukherjee of English Major, Semester 4, gave a very enlightening analysis of Mirabai's poetry and bhajans to illustrate divine and spiritual love and distinguished it from carnal love and desire. Her ppt was also well done. It was evident that she and her partner, Snupi Bhattacharya, had worked very hard. Soumik Chakraborty analysed several theoretical perspectives from Freud, Althusser and others in his paper. His paper can be furthered into a more wholesome presentation.

Most of the faculty members of the department were present, including Dr. Chaitali Maitra, whose long association with the department has been a truly inspiring example for all. The junior most faculty members, Prof. Riti Agarwala and Prof. Richik Banerjee, were the judges for the event. Some light refreshments were also arranged for the participants as well as the audience, most of whom are students of the department. The annual students' seminar is a regular event and has been going on for almost a decade now, with the exception of the year of the lockdown for Coronavirus. It is a remarkable achievement of the college and an event that encompasses peer teaching, interactive learning and also showcases the young intellectuals of our institution.

List of Participants and Presentations

1. Soumik Chakraborty, PG, Semester 2

Love: An Alienating Effect or A Unified Social Role? A prominent sentiment in Literature and Cinema.

2. Upalabdh Halder, Anushka Ghosh, UG, Semester 4

Love in Literature : Exploring the different forms of Love in the play *A Midsummer Nights Dream*

3. Arunima Masani, UG, Semester 2

Exploring Love in literature: A study across periods and cultures.

4. Rishika Bera, UG, Semester 4

Love Wrapped in Guilt: A Comparative Analysis of Leo Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* and *Resurrection*

5. Hirak Majee, UG, Semester 4

A Heart Without a Home: Love and Isolation in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

6. Keshar Singh, UG, Semester 4

"Two pillars of the same Temple " - Love and Individuality in Khalil Gibran's works

7. Prerona Roy, PG, Semester 2

Tender Is The Bite : The Love That Consumes

8. Rudra Prasad Bandopadhyay, UG, Semester 4

The Longing that Heals: Rumi's Paradoxical and Mystical way of Loving.

9. Sayonjyoti Datta, Debipriya Deb, PG, Semester 2

The Paradise of Desire: Unravelling the Dichotomy of 'Pleasure through Pain'.

10. Ahana Ash, PG, Semester 2

The apocalyptic vision in Lawrencian love: A tragical loop of Oedipus complex in *Sons and Lovers*

11. Anushka Mukherjee, Snupi Bhattacharya, UG, Semester 4

"Soul's Journey to God": Reconfiguring love in literature and the spiritual paradigm in Mirabai's poetry.

ABSTRACTS OF THE PAPERS PRESENTED

1. Soumik Chakraborty:

Love: An Alienating Effect or A Unified Social Role? A prominent sentiment in Literature and Cinema.

ABSTRACT: With the sentiment that has been more in the minds than in the air, this paper aims to dissociate the senses and ideologies that lead to the many portrayals of love in literature and cinema. Since the idea has been regulatory in structuring the collective psyche of an individual, it thus allows a reflection upon a collective role on the part of a society by taking its traits from these fragmentary multitudes of persona. Not just as a biological bedrock which catalyzed the need for copulation, love, mostly has an inherent objective, rooted in its desire to pursue: the Unknown.

2. Upalabdhii Haldar, Anushka Ghosh:

Love in Literature : Exploring the different forms of Love in the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

ABSTRACT: The paper is about the different forms of love from the famous play of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Nights Dream". The forms of love includes the Romantic Love, Mature Love, Love as Madness, Sane Love, Love as a Unifying force, Blind Love. In conclusion it will discuss about Shakespeare's interpretation of love and how it is still relevant in the modern times.

3. Arunima Masani:

Exploring Love in literature: A study across periods and cultures

ABSTRACT: Love in literature has remained one of the most enduring and universal concepts throughout the ages, transcending cultures, time and form. This paper explores the varied portrayals of love beginning with its roots in classical tales such as Ovid's tragic and mythological tales and ancient Indian epics through the complexities, romantic and social, in works like Shakespeare's sonnets, Jane Austen's novels and Emily Bronte's gothic romance. Works of Toni Morrison involve complex, often painful, concepts of love and the works of Virginia Woolf explore a quiet ache that carries love as a memory. By tracing the evolution the paper reflects on how love in literature becomes a powerful means of understanding human resilience, suffering and transformation.

4. Rishika Bera:

Love Wrapped in Guilt: A Comparative Analysis of Leo Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* and *Resurrection*

ABSTRACT: The malignant characters and their degrading love knew no boundaries, hiding the despair well enough for deceit to lead. A burdensome love followed by a dead silence struck both Anna and Nekhlyudov, the two most intricately crafted characters in Leo Tolstoy's oeuvre. The study delves into the world of Tolstoy to prove love as a force that both liberates and condemns an individual. Vronsky's love freed Anna from her marriage, however, by the end she kills herself. Simultaneously, Nekhlyudov claimed that he loved Maslova, but he just wanted to atone for his mistakes. Considering Plato's idea of just and unjust, they both selfishly followed their desires, where one embraced death and the other sought redemption. Henceforth, this paper juxtaposes the tragic love story of *Anna Karenina* and the redemptive narrative of Nekhlyudov in *Resurrection* bringing out an argument on redemption and how love and guilt can embrace each other, through a nuanced analysis.

Keywords: redemption, love, Anna Karenina, Resurrection

5. Hirak Majee:

A Heart Without a Home: Love and Isolation in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

ABSTRACT: The presentation explores the theme of love in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, emphasising its crucial role in shaping the novel's characters and outcomes. Beginning with a discussion of the universal need for love, the first slide shows how emotional connection, or the lack of it, shapes the experiences of every creature. There is a brief overview of Mary Shelley's life to contextualise her novel's structure and intent. The core argument centres on how the absence of love and companionship transforms the creature from an innocent being into one driven by vengeance. Love in. The novel is shown not only as romantic or spiritual but also as friendship and emotional bonding. The presentation argues that Shelley's Gothic fiction is underpinned by a powerful emotional truth. It conveys that denied love can lead to destruction, revenge and downfall. In the final slides, the broader message is emphasised. The novel surely contains dark elements, suspense and murders but the importance of love is surely undeniable.

6. Keshar Singh:

"Two pillars of the same Temple " - Love and Individuality in Khalil Gibran's works

ABSTRACT: Love is a word often used in literature, but every writer gives it a different meaning. In the writings of Kahlil Gibran, love is not simply about closeness or romantic union. Instead, it is a deeper, spiritual experience that encourages individuals to reflect on themselves and grow. Gibran's idea of love creates a space where each person remains free, yet deeply connected. This paper explores how love, in Gibran's view, becomes a journey inward. It leads to self-discovery, transformation, and a renewed connection with the universe and the divine. Through works like *The Prophet*, *Sand and Foam*, and *The Broken Wings*, Gibran presents love as a sacred distance—one that allows both people to grow while staying connected. Love, for him, is not only about another person, but also about understanding one's own soul and its place in the greater whole.

Keywords: love, self-discovery, spiritual growth, divine connection, sacred distance

7. Prerona Roy:

Tender Is The Bite: The Love That Consumes

ABSTRACT: This paper titled 'Tender Is The Bite', talks through various instances in literature, movies and music about the representation of cannibalism as a metaphor for love. This study on this narrative of love in literature refers to poems by John Donne and Robert Browning. Instances have been drawn up from Shakespeare's plays as well as Plato's theory. The paper talks about the various ways in which love has been depicted in multiple works of literature, arts, music and media. It is a study that explores this unconventional concept and presents it in a thorough format which is always open to contradictions. The paper draws together literature, psychoanalysis, mythology, and pop culture into a meditation on love, hunger, and cannibalism.

Keywords: Love, Love in Literature, Cannibalism.

8. Rudra Prasad Bandopadhyay:

The Longing that Heals: Rumi's Paradoxical and Mystical way of Loving.

ABSTRACT: In Rumi's Sufi cosmology, love is not merely an emotion or attachment but it is that potent force that drives the soul towards divine unification. Unlike typical love poems centering

around physical beauty, romantic idealization or emotional dependency, Rumi's verses soar beyond the personal sentiments to evoke an all-encompassing divine form of love. His poetry does not gravely lament absence or celebrate possession rather it seeks dissolution, surrender, and an euphoric union with divinity. The beloved in his poetry often oscillates between a human presence and a symbol of god, adding further ambiguity and depth to his verse. He juxtaposed presence with absence, the self with annihilation, and love with loss in his poetry, depicting the contradictions of the mystical sufi path where opposites converge. This paradoxical nature of his poetry mirrors the way of spiritual realization where unity arises from duality and where the finite invariably dissolves in the infinite.

Keywords: love, poetry, divine unification, mystical, paradoxical

9. Sayonjyoti Datta, Debipriya Deb:

The Paradise of Desire: Unravelling the Dichotomy of 'Pleasure through Pain'

ABSTRACT: This paper critically focuses on the evolvement of 'love' in the world of literature. There is an exploration of various versions of 'love' which is explicitly tossed around by the authors of the contemporary world. The paper follows the metamorphosis of romance - from the 19th century moral struggles, to the commercialized edition of the 20th century books, thus delving further into the world of performative sexuality. The study focuses on the themes of mainstream genre of books, especially books that tend to glorify trauma, and in turn, romanticize it. This normalcy of fetishizing 'love' is being called out in the paper through Sigmund Freud's theory of repetition compulsion, Jacques Lacan's concept of lack, and Laura Mulvey's notion of the male gaze. Furthermore, it puts emphasis on way the readers of these books are getting influenced, thus leading into the commodification of love in the dating sphere of the 21st century. In contrast, classical works by D.H. Lawrence, E.M. Forster, and Jeanette Winterson illuminate the human need for authenticity and resistance to restrictive cultural codes. The paper concludes with a plea for the young readers to uphold the 'love' in literature in a sincere and transparent way, and to not exploit the democracy that comes through the word 'love'.

10. Ahana Ash:

The apocalyptic vision in Lawrencian love: A tragical loop of Oedipus complex in *Sons and Lovers*

ABSTRACT: The transitional love's tragic shift in Lawrence's much controversial work, *Sons and Lovers* stands testimonial to the unconscious 'Oedipus' in us. The objective of this scholarly endeavor is to lay bare one's psycho-sexual performative act particularly in the face of an emotional upheaval. Digging into the themes of alienation, depression, social class conflict, unfulfilled marriages and disillusionment, the paper examines the novel from the lens of psychoanalysis thus posing an extremely important key research question: How Lawrence's shrewd handling of the Freudian 'Oedipal Rex' is successful in exposing the catastrophe of the mother-son's disturbingly affectionate power equation? Employing textual and character analysis as the primary methodology, *Sons and Lovers* has implications of domestic violence, internal turmoil and estranged relationships. The aptness with which Lawrence deals with the intrigues of his characters speaks a lot about his profoundness and helps situating him on a broader discourse of psychoanalytics.

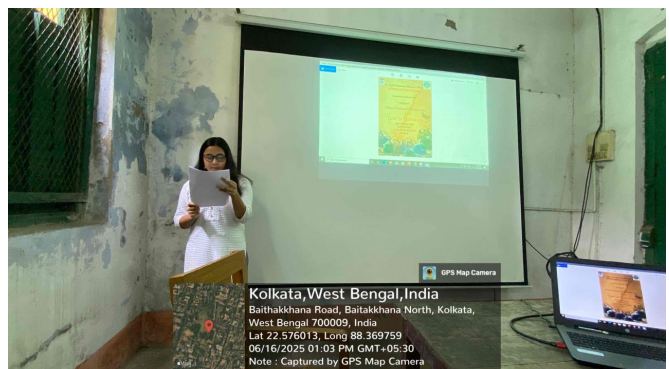
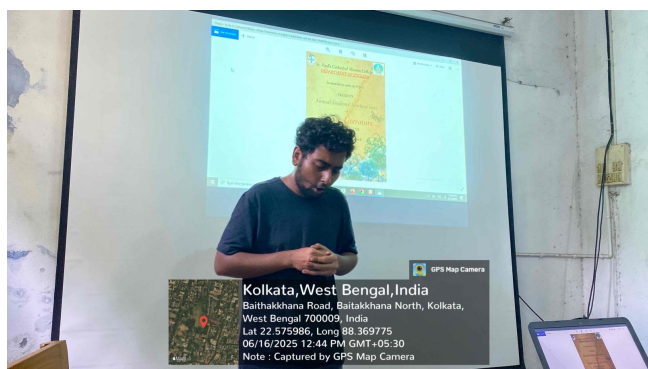
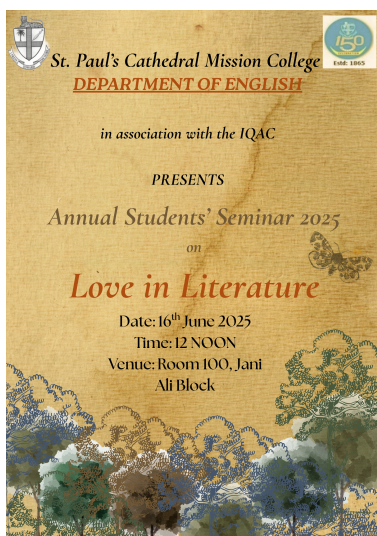
11. Anushka Mukherjee, Snupi Bhattacharya:

"Soul's Journey to God": Reconfiguring love in literature and the spiritual paradigm in Mirabai's poetry.

ABSTRACT: Mirabai's unwaivering love for Giridhari has been found in the History of Indian Musical Poetry. Mirabai, a 16th-century Bhakti poet-saint, stands as a singular voice in the landscape of devotional Indian literature. Her poetry, written in Rajasthani and Braj dialects, reflects an intense personal devotion to Lord Krishna, whom she revered not merely as a deity but as a beloved and eternal companion. Her poetry gave voice to otherwise voiceless and neglected women facing the brunt of patriarchy; it was transgressive in nature and against the conventional norms of society. Her sonnets are her authentic impressions, highlighting her emotions, philosophies and predilection to divinity and mysticism. Her poetry is the testimony of her devoutness, self-confidence, strength of mind, unparalleled love for Lord Krishna, and courage to break the glass ceiling, challenging patriarchy, social norms, and religious dogmas—all of these aspects exhibit her empowered self through her life and poetry. Her compositions, known as "padas," are devotional songs written in a form called "pada". These "padas" are often sung to specific musical melodies (ragas) and feature a Dhruvak (refrain). Thus, as we dig deeper into this paper, we see how Mirabai and her Spiritual love for Krishna marks as a metaphysical sensation which is celebrated in the world and beyond.

Keywords: Mirabai, Spiritual Love, societal norms, Krishna, Musical Poetry

Some Pictures from the Event





Signatures of Attendees

St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College, Department of English
Annual Students' Seminar held on 16th June 2025 from 12 noon onwards at Room 109 of the
Jest AE Building

ATTENDANCE SHEET
PARTICIPANTS

NAME	SIGNATURE
Debjyoti Deb	D. Deb
Sayantika Datta	S. Datta
Ujjwalini Halder	Ujjwalini
Anushka Ghosh	Anushka
Anurima Mazari	Anurima Mazari
Saurabh Chatterjee	Saurabh Chatterjee
Lumana Ray	Lumana Ray
Ahana Sen	Ahana Sen
Rishika Bora	Rishika Bora
Rudra Prasad Bandopadhyay	Rudra Prasad Bandopadhyay
Keshav Singh	Keshav Singh
Hirak Majee	Hirak Majee
Anushka Mukherjee	Anushka Mukherjee

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