

English Society

CONVENOR: Dr. Nabanita Chakraborty

CO- CONVENOR: Arnab Dasgupta

The Society consists of the Post Holders, Coordinators, Book Club Members, Cine Club Members and Editorial Board. The post holders are:

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VICE PRESIDENT: Bidisha Dutta

BOOK CLUB HEAD: Ananya Gaur

CINE CLUB HEAD: Vibha Mishra

EDITOR - IN - CHIEF: Harshika Tripathi

GENERAL SECRETARY: Charvi Bhatnagar

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The English Society of Hansraj College is an amalgamation of various literary and artistic interests. The Society comprises of a Cine Club , a Book Club and a Bi-annual department journal, WILLOW. As an eclectic society it holds various sessions such as movie discussions, book club talks as well as workshops on various topics in literature. it is a place for students and educators alike, looking to seek and impart knowledge.

REPORT OF 2020-2021

In the new session of 2021-22, starting from August, there have been several riveting discussions hosted by the society. Currently, there is a lecture series being conducted on a monthly basis, where various knowledgeable experts are invited as speakers. The first talk of the lecture series was on the topic "Battling Bottlenecks - on Blunders in Bilingual Expertise". As enticing the discussion was Dr. Nivedita Sen shared her personal experience as a translator and elucidated the blunders and errors that arise in the process of translating a particular piece of text. The next discussion of the lecture series was by Dr. Mithuraj Dhusiya on the topic "Reading Film As Text". The discussion explored various niches of film and the key elements involved in decoding a film. The third talk of the series was by Nidhi Madan on "Citizenship, Statelessness and the Aftermath Of The 1971 Partition: Voices Emerging From Migration Narratives". This talk centered around partition literature

and how it's a detailed account of separation, lost identities, and a generation's cry of agony.

The society further hosted a literary workshop on the topic "Navigating the Anthroposphere" presented by Brijesh Rana. The session delved into the conceptualization of nature and culture.

The Book Club has conducted enthralling book discussions, the most recent discussion which took place was on "The Gypsy Goddess" by Meena Kandasamy. It turned out to be one of the most interactive sessions with attendees joining the discussion with great enthusiasm.

The Ciné Club organized its recent discussion on the movie "The Court(2014)". The discussion was interactive and richly envisioned.

In addition to this, the Society is upcoming with a bi-annual department journal, Willow, with "Unexplored Spaces" as its theme, aiming to provide a platform and enlighten the notions that remain unacknowledged around us.

This Society is a locus to explore for not just students but educators alike who seek and impart knowledge on a range of diversified subjects.

English Society events of 2020-2021

Report of Events (July 20-Dec 21)

27th January—Life is Beautiful Discussion

After almost a year since lockdown, The Cine Club of English Society, Hansraj College got the ball rolling with its first movie discussion of the year 2021. Following the monthly theme of hope, a film discussion was organised on Roberto Benigni's oscar winning 'LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL' (1997).

The movie follows the story of a Jewish father, who uses humor to protect his son from the horrors of Holocaust, and unlike other films made on the subject, it beautifully depicts tragedy through the lens of hope and optimism with a perfect blend of comedy and innocence.

The discussion was held on the virtual platform of Google Meets, and students from various departments of the college took active part in the meeting. Different arrays of thoughts were brought to the forefront, varying from the importance of colours to depict various emotions, to how the movie succeeds in subtly eluding the sensitive topics of politics. Followed by an enriching discussion on the various themes and the universal relationship between a father and a son.

Featuring Roberto Benigni as the protagonist, he has also directed and co-written the film, which won 3 awards at the Oscars and was nominated for 7 awards. The movie skillfully delves with human ingenuity and is a must watch for everyone.



30th January—Heidi Book Discussion

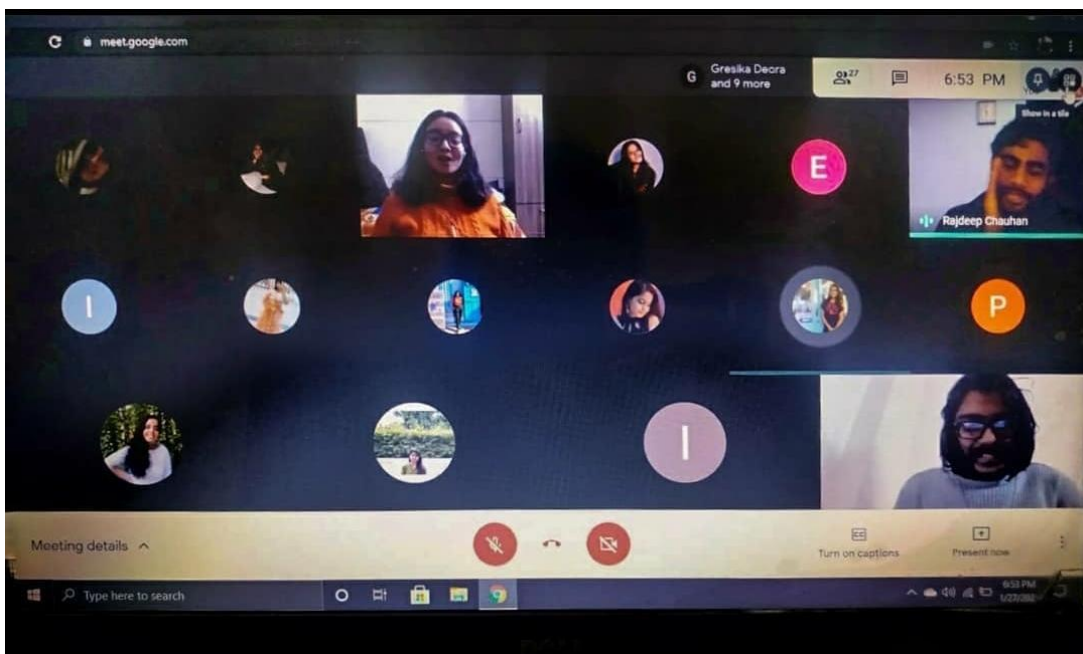
After a long time, the Book Club of the English Society of Hansraj College held its first meeting of the session on Google Meets for the children's fiction, *Heidi*.

Based on the monthly theme 'Hope', *Heidi* was chosen for the discussion, which is a story based on the life events of a five-year-old orphan, who lives with her grandfather in the beautiful setting of the Swiss Alps.

In the discussion, the readers expressed that they felt that even though Heidi has the purest heart and an infectious charm, her selfless nature has been crafted to present an "ideal child" for the young children. Heidi's love for her home, the mountains, pastures etc, has been perfectly portrayed by using metaphors from nature as representation of her emotions. The story also left behind a wonderful image of nature, sunsets, mountain air, and the countryside.

For some, reading Heidi brought back the warm and fuzzy memories of childhood reading. Nevertheless, the story feels slightly didactic at places. It preaches the idea of Christianity, religion, and moral values. This covert indoctrination and the conditioned brainwashing of the young minds was noticed and analysed by many readers as the character of Heidi representing a role model and showed how a "good" child should behave.

Themes of capitalism, queerness and feminism were also explored in the discussion. Leaving Heidi with a random old man was questioned by a 21st century woman's vigilant mind. Adult thoughts brought out a more nuanced meaning and motive of this story meant for children. Everything was so perfect in the story that a millennial mind had to question the possibility of this actually happening. The wholesome yet insightful discussion was indeed a great start to the year.



19th February—Kagaaz ke Phool Discussion

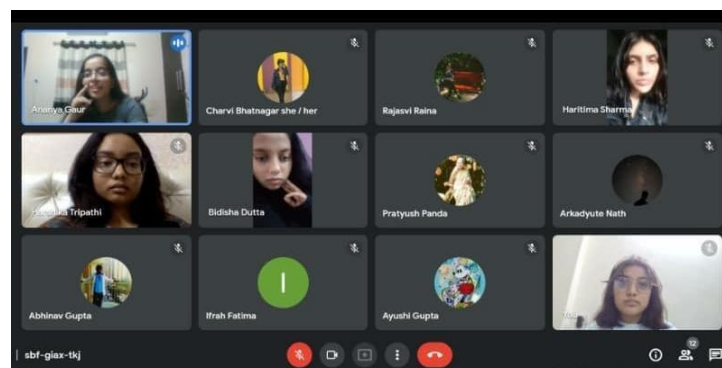
The Cine Club of English Society, Hansraj College had its second movie discussion over one of the greatest yet underrated works of Guru Dutt.

Following the monthly theme of "LOVE", the movie unfolds various forms of it: the love for art (here, film making), a beautiful love story between a Film Director (Guru Dutt as Suresh) and his muse (Waheeda Rehman as Shanti) and a filial bond of a father with his daughter. As the movie begins, we see Suresh receive fame for directing amazing movies and enthralling his audience with his spellbound work. But in the course, he faces certain ups and downs which get reflected in his work as well. This leads to the loss of "charm" in his movies and eventually, his fall.

The film discussion was held on the virtual platform of Google Meets, and students from various departments of the college took active part in the meeting. Wide ranging thoughts were brought up into the light varying from the emotions depicted in the movie to some aspects of psychology too. People also talked about the title of the movie and how it holds its relevance to it.

The title, translating to paper flowers, and the song “Dekhi Zamaane ki Yaari” exceedingly talks about the cinema as a thirsty bee for which there’s no nectar of truth and beauty left in art anymore. The cinema industry is as artificial and dead as paper flowers and has become a corrupt and greedy garden.

Apart from featuring Guru Dutt as the protagonist, the movie also has him as its producer and director. It has won 2 Filmfare Awards for Best Cinematographer and Best Art Director - Black and White even after widespread criticism. The movie being a personal work of Dutt, reflects his own life in certain ways.



25th February—Book Club Discussion

On 25th February, the Book Club of the English Society of Hansraj came up with another riveting discussion on three magnificent novels, based on the monthly theme 'Love'.

The meeting began with acknowledging the sublimity of the 1997 Booker Prize winning novel *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy. This story about the childhood experiences of a pair of fraternal twins seamlessly drives the readers back and forth, from the past to the present. The story unfolds itself in a fashion that acquaints its readers with the end of the story in the initial chapters. The readers noticed it's the question of how the events occur that keeps them intrigued. Roy's realistic sketching of the characters, descriptions of cultural images, internalisation going parallel with the sub-themes of caste marginalisation, incest, white superiority, Marxism and forbidden love impressed the readers immensely.

After undergoing the somberness presented by Roy, readers recommended moving on to the heartwarming and hope-giving tale of Kanishka Nurzada in the book *The Carpet Weaver* by Nemat Sadat. Set in the the political background of 1977 Afghanistan, Sadat walks the readers through the experience of being homosexual while living around people completely against it, by intermingling facts with fiction, and adding a tinge of exoticization of the West. He skillfully manages to present the heteronormativity of his culture, without renouncing any religion, which is appealing to the readers.

This was followed by a discussion of the compelling historical fiction *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reids. Readers' statements were testament to the addictiveness of the book, complimenting the unseen elements of glamour in the film industry, its exploitative nature and reality. They commended the flexible LGBTQ portrayal and found it uplifting. It is easy to read and has a tone of suspense, which binds the readers with it.

The meeting was concluded by discussing 'love' as the common element in the three stories, and how wonderfully and distinctly it is imbibed in them.

28th February—In The Mood For Love Discussion

With yet another beautiful film, The Cine Club of English Society, Hansraj College delves deeper into the monthly theme of “Love”, a kind that is engulfed in your skin, isolated and never touched.

In the Mood for Love (2000) by Wong Kar Wai, its original title meaning flowery years, captures the subtlety with which love carries itself when it is being confined from all spaces. Set in Hong Kong, the plot follows Mr Chow and Mrs Chan, as they try to understand the affair between their respective spouses and how it started and in that process, end up falling for each other. However, their love remains in the shadows, leaving a sense of longing and reminiscence as the two decide to go their separate ways to not stoop to the level of their partners.

The film discussion held on the virtual platform of Google Meets continued to grow more interactive as students from various departments of the college took active part in the meeting.

In an array of diversified opinions, various insightful aspects of the film were evoked ranging from the intricate technicality to its psychological impact and socio-political setting of the film. Furthermore, the significance of colours and clothing displayed in the film was included as well, followed by a detailed discussion on Wong Kar Wai’s style of filmmaking.

Through the use of framing and slow pace along with an almost melancholic melody, Wong Kar Wai induces every moment with an expansive tone of emotional affect.

The film is a part of the informal Love Trilogy by Wong Kar-Wai, along with Days of Being Wild (1990) and 2046 (2004), each one exploring different shades of love.



12th March—Little Women Discussion

On 12th march, the cine club, English society, hansraj College held it's online discussion on Greta Gerwig's "Little Women"

The meeting opened with the acknowledgement of beautiful quotes of the film, for example-

"I intend to make my own way in this world." Further it was discussed that Greta Gerwig's Little Women is a profound example of how beautiful it is to watch women telling women stories. Back in 1860s when feminism wasn't much of a concept and women were expected to be only good homemakers and marriage was seen as an economical contract rather than a love bond, four sisters are shown to have been delivering their idea of love and career.

Gerwig has fashioned a story that feels at once entirely true to its 19th-century origins and utterly modern. Participants discussed how watching the protagonist Jo March fight for the publication of her book, her going against the idea of marrying some rich guy and her sole thought of living her life alone on her terms was much ahead of its time and empowering on its own.

Later, the aesthetics of the movie were also discussed and how the movie which portrayed a story of approx 200 years is relatable till date and resonates with our time as well.

The meeting concluded with everybody's own thoughts on freedom and self worth, how making one's own identity in the world is as important as anything else.



25th March—Book Club Discussion

Keeping up with the theme of celebrating 'WOMEN'S HISTORY ', The English Society of Hansraj College held an online book discussion on 30th March wherein the readers had an enriching discussion on two splendid books by notable female authors.

The discussion commenced with the unfolding of different underlying perspectives, political history, and themes in the novel *The Penelopiad* by Margaret Atwood. The readers noticed that the book holds an apt representation of dehumanisation and violence towards women. They deliberated over how rape was a common affair in ancient Greece. The discussion furthermore underlined the notion of misogyny which is also internalised in women. The discussion spun around when some readers remarked that the book lessens the glorification of Odysseus as Penelope treats him like a man child more than a war hero. The readers came up with striking questions such as, "even in the afterlife, was Penelope vulnerable over the position with Odysseus and her child, or was she vulnerable to the cause of maids, or was she in guilt?"

The discussion grew even more intriguing as we further shifted to talk about Flora Nwapa's *Women are Different*. The book with its exquisite writing style portrayed women with different backgrounds building themselves up by taking initiative and men on the other hand as very irrational as some readers had put forth. Readers also conferred that the book was too early for its time as the current political scenario concerning Nigeria is in due liability of imprisoned freedom. They talked about the prevalence of the colonial gaze in the text and how the scenes are broken and dragged and assessed that when women are given a place in various dichotomies, gender roles get undone and fresh takes from women are never really seen, if not regarding men. The discussion culminated on a positive note that it is human beings who have to be good regardless of gender.

9th April—Paper Presentation

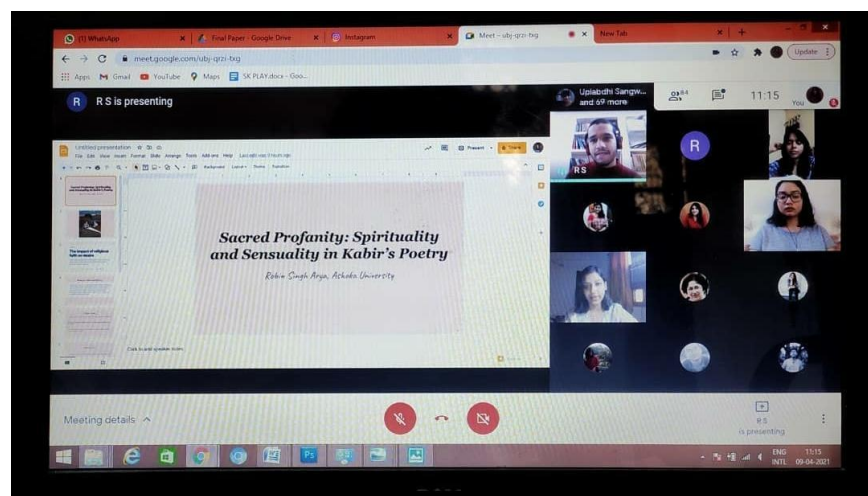
The English Society, Hans Raj College organised a one day virtual student conference: EXPLORING LOVE AND DESIRE IN LITERATURE on 9th April, 2021.

The paper presentation commenced with a plenary by Prof. Karen Gabriel (Associate Professor, St. Stephen's College) and a scholar on Gender, Sexuality and popular culture. She unfolded the two concepts in detail and explained how Love is a gradual kind of development and not instant as Desire which gave a crucial distinction between the two. To do justice to the theme, she also dealt with Goblin Market, Jacques Lacan and Peter Brooks which revealed how love and desire are always implicated in the structures of inequality.

The session was followed by ten paper presentations. The papers expiate on a variety of topics such as materiality of love, transgression, sacred profanity, pleasure and pain, meaning-making of love and desire, transhumanistic and posthumanistic love, and others.

All the papers explored the discourses of love and desire in literature in their own unique manner. Through the references from the works of renowned people like Haruki Murakami, Kabir's Poetry, Kathakali Stories, Kari by Amruta Patil and so on. They not only reflected the crucial hidden aspects in the texts and gave a much broader understanding to love but also paved the way for its definitive boundaries.

The session was followed by an interactive question-answer session with audience from various courses and colleges and insightful commentary by Dr Meenakshi Malhotra, Dr Nabanita Chakroborty, Ms Ruchi Sharma, Dr Prachee Dewri and Ms Swarnika, all professors of the English Department, Hansraj College.



14th April—Her Discussion

On 14th April, the Cine Club, English society, Hansraj College held yet another mesmerising online discussion on the movie HER by Spike Jonze.

The meeting was joined by various cinephiles who were eager not only to discuss the various cinematography and amazing aesthetics of this amazing movie but also listen to the wide plethora of opinions their fellow participants held.

From the colour aesthetics to the clothing of the protagonist Theodore , were discussed.

The small components of the movie, the time frame and how every shot was thought about makes this sci-fi differ from the rest.

Is this movie realist? On whom was the title of the movie based on?

Added up by these questions , various ideas on these were exchanged.

The movie also shows the sad reality of how humans have gotten used to virtually controlled systems. It is wonderfully portrayed by Theodore (Joaquin Phoenix) who had to rely on an OS(Samantha) to overcome his dark past and move on with his divorce.

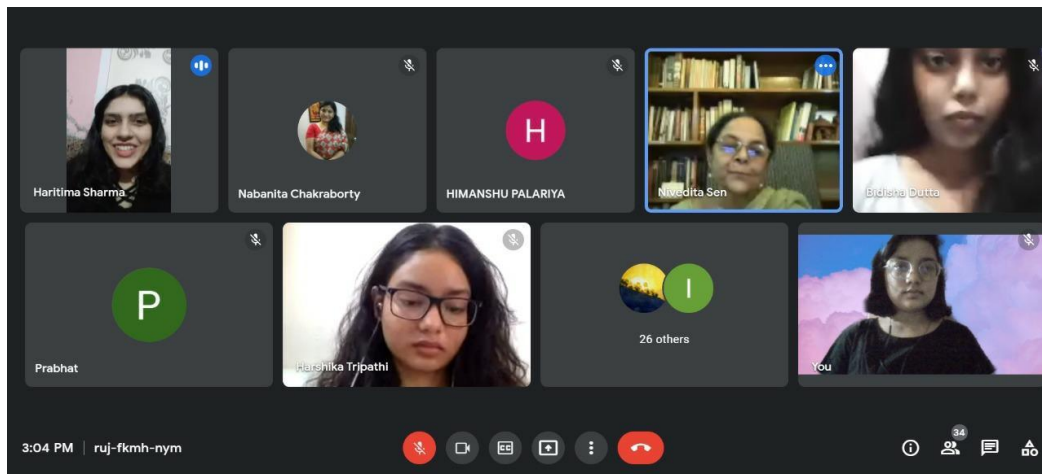
The meeting ended with it's similarities compared to 'Lost in Translation'.

27th August—Battling Bottlenecks Talk

The English Society, Hansraj College in its preliminary lecture series, organized a lecture on 27th August 2021, titled "Battling Bottlenecks - on Blunders in Bilingual Expertise" by Dr. Nivedita Sen, an Associate Professor in the English Department of Hansraj College, DU.

A boon of experiences in her bag as a translator, Dr. Sen dwelled on the blunders and errors that arise in the process of translating. From a significant blossom of texts she elucidated on the various dichotomies and perspectives one comes across while perusing a translated text from our own Indian vernaculars. Taking examples from Premchand's short stories to Tagore's Home and The World to Carroll's Alice in Wonderland, she drew on the difficulties and detriments that set a translational process as one that is always ongoing. She also inculcated on how translation is not limited to being a linguistic discipline, rather it also includes cultural dynamics and contextual histories from the texts itself.

The lecture was followed by an interactive question-answer session. Dr. Nivedita Sen, along with the distinguished professors of the department, attended to the audience's questions about translation and its nuances in the modern world.



4th September—Gypsy Goddess Talk

On Saturday, 10th of September 2021, the Book Club of the English Literary Society, Hansraj College, discussed the well-known writer and activist Meena Kandasamy's novel *The Gypsy Goddess*.

The discussion started with how experimental the novel *The Gypsy Goddess* is and how boldly Kandasamy engages with the conventions of the postmodern theories and strategies to disclose the shortcomings of the traditional plot-driven linear narratives. The readers discussed how the novel's form breaks away from the traditionally defined rules of fiction and non-fiction, how it deals with history, reportage and historical fiction, and how these terms come to be categorised - given the plot of *The Gypsy Goddess* is based on the massacre that took place in the village of Kilvenmani in 1968.

It was noted how the author narrated the gruesome atrocities and why she did so in such an unconventional way of narration. The participants of the discussion agreed on the need for these bits of history to be heard and how things might change if these narratives come into the light.

The conversation also included a multi-faceted argument over the power hierarchies in relation to social identities, and how they can impact the content and publishing of any book.

The argumentative discussion tried to understand various literary tropes and how they could be experimented with. The historical aspects of society and the conflict between the classes was discussed, along with how the truth is linked to power and the need for the silenced to be heard.

11th September—Navigating the Anthroposphere

The English Society, Hansraj College hosted a two-session literary workshop on 11th September, 2021, titled "Navigating the Anthroposphere " by Brijesh Rana, who has submitted his M.Phil. dissertation at the Department of English, DU for "Literature (s) of the Anthropocene: A Posthuman(ist) Response".

Bridging the multi-disciplinary field of Environmental Humanities to that of Literary Studies, Brijesh Rana, in two sessions, enlightened over the human conceptualization of nature and culture.

In the first session, titled "In Between Substance, Attributes and Modes", he elucidated on how the anthropocene is an amalgamation of multi-faceted tangents by taking colossal examples from the Homer's Iliad, Platonian and Aristotlian philosophies on mimesis and metamorphosis to the Beowulf's narratives and Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. This was to reflect upon the objective or subjective binaries that form between humans, nature, culture and gender.

The second session was to extend upon these literary genealogies between human culture and its resistance to this anthropocene project, titled "I have planned a False Oath in Earth" which perused through the contemporary values of literature itself. Connecting the strands of human history that have impacted nature to the significance and necessity of environmental humanities, Brijesh elucidated on the subsets of posthumanism, realism and materialism mixed in the order of being.

The workshop culminated in the resolution on how human and non-human enterprises are influential in the production of the literary forms we seemingly imbibe in our narratives. This was also followed by a

brisk question-answer session where Brijesh again stressed upon the ideas of linking human interactions to the anthropocene climate change.



24th September—Reading Film as Text Talk

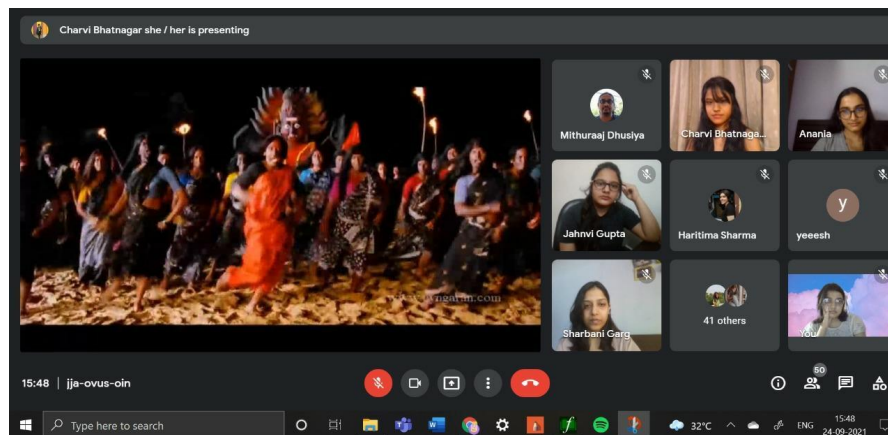
The English Society, Hansraj College hosted a talk on 24th September, 2021 titled : 'Reading Film As Text' by Dr. Mithuraj Dhusiya, Associate Professor at the Department of English, Hansraj College and author of "Indian Horror Cinema : (En)Gendering The Monstrous (Routledge 2018)".

The talk was highly enlightening and explored various niches of film that may be hidden in plain sight. Dr. Dhusiya took us on a rather enthralling route throughout the session as he explained key elements that are involved in decoding a film. He elucidated about the symbolism of certain colours in a movie and how that impacts the storyline as well as the perception of the audience. How certain frames are deliberately shot in a particular point of view and how they fit into a narrative to provide depth to certain characters and their stories were also discussed.

Dr. Dhusiya showed and elaborated on quite a few clips from movies such as Pariyerum Perumal (2018), Ill Smoking Barrels (2017), Charulata (1964) and Kanchana (2011) each of which focused on different ideas such as, caste discrimination, the presence of the male gaze and the ridiculously stereotypical representation of the transgender community in cinema, respectively.

The session culminated with questions from the audience about the difference in the impact of film and text and how they have manipulated perspectives over the years, the dichotomy that exists in text about elite

and popular literature was also applied and talked about when it comes to cinema and how genre discrimination works in show business.



25th September—Court Discussion

The Cine Club, English Society, Hansraj had a very crisp and enlightening discussion on the 2014 Film- Court directed by Chaitanya Tamhane. The event was kicked off with a round of applause in appreciation of the people who had joined in on the discussion since the movie was in a vernacular language, which made this meet particularly novel.

To begin with, people keenly put forward their perception of the movie- its plot, the direction, the shot lenses, and the technicality of time and interval. A story that revolves around the dilemma of the accused i.e. Narayan Kamble being guilty or not following the evidential and lawful arguments held in the sessions court seemed to have made quite an impact on the minds of the viewers. While the movie clearly put in tone, the socio-political aspects of the society, the club members had a lot more to say about the economic aspects of the society, and the psychological impacts of actions surrounding the characters in the movie.

In a very insightful opinion by the many club members, the prolonged shots of the sessions court after each session brought in a lot of discernment about the harsh reality of Indian order and justice!

Finally, with the discussion coming to end and everyone getting food for their thoughts, closing remarks were given by the cine club head. One could say, the movie and the hour, both were momentous!

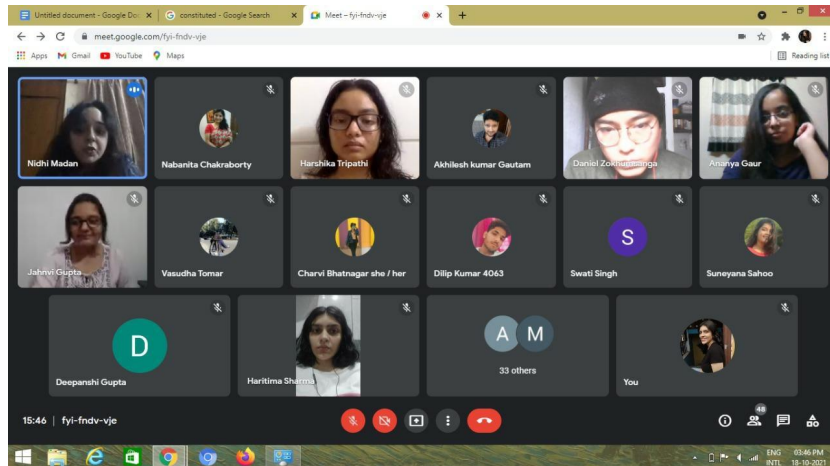
18th October—Citizenship, Statelessness and the Aftermath Of The 1971 Partition: Voices Emerging From Migration Narratives Talk

The English Society, Hansraj College organised a talk on 18th October, 2021 titled: 'Citizenship, Statelessness and the Aftermath Of The 1971 Partition: Voices Emerging From Migration Narratives' by Professor Nidhi Madan, an Assistant Professor in the English Department of College of Vocational Studies, University of Delhi, and currently pursuing a Ph.D. in the field of partition literature with special focus on 1971 partition and its aftermath.

Professor Nidhi begins by shedding some light on the issues that followed the first and second partition like language issues, sexual violence, and an era of "new colonialism" which meant colonialism because of financial disparity. There was a brutal persecution of religious communities during both the partitions. Any person who was affiliated or linked to Pakistan in any manner was considered to be a traitor, and a sense of statelessness emerged. Professor Nidhi talks about many pieces of literature that talk about this identity crisis, and about the issues related to the partitions in general. Some of them were Alam's own house and Statelessness by Prafulla Roy which talks about a loss of belongingness as a result of dislocation and displacement, and Martyrs and Marigolds by Aquila Ismail which sheds light on how Urdu speakers were specifically targeted and subjected to sexual violence.

Professor Nidhi also talks about how partition literature is crucial in order to give a voice to the refugees, and a medium to understand their narrative. She also mentions how our goal is to look at these massive population movements and the resulting conflicts which continue to haunt a part of the world even today.

The session culminated with questions from the audience about how the psychology of communities and groups (like herd mentality or communalism) impacted individual decisions, and how we should approach the partition of 1971 as Indians. Professor Nabanita also adds that while history talks more about the cause of the partition in a more factual way, it doesn't so much talk about the effect of the partition, and the pain or the trauma of people. Literature fills that gap left behind and gives a voice to the victims to express their agony.



23rd October—Water Discussion

On 23rd October, 2021, in the month of monsoon, the Cine Club, English Society Hansraj took to the discussion of Water, as the theme for the month was Banned narrative of India. Directed by Deepa Mehta in 2005, starring John Abraham and Lisa Ray, why was this production banned?

Apparent from the tone and script of the movie, Water evoked many unsettling questions on the social and patriarchal systems of society, the corruption that has been protruding even in those traditional and cultural rituals that were mentioned foremost in the holy manuscripts of Ancient India.

The discussion started with the significance of the title "Water," as water serves as a metaphor throughout the film. The misery of widows in India and the horrors of child marriage: the vital issues imparted from the patriarchal normative lifestyle, raised in Mehta's film were at the forefront of the conversation, as attendees shared their rich and enlightening insights. There was a very subtle arch of toxic masculinity portrayed through the actions of Narayan's father as well.

The technical details of the film were also included in the discussion, especially the excellent somber cinematography and appealing music from A.R. Rahman. The film was chosen for as it raised important questions about the censorship process and the importance of directors like Deepa Mehta, who regularly confront severe challenges in bringing important issues to light through their films.

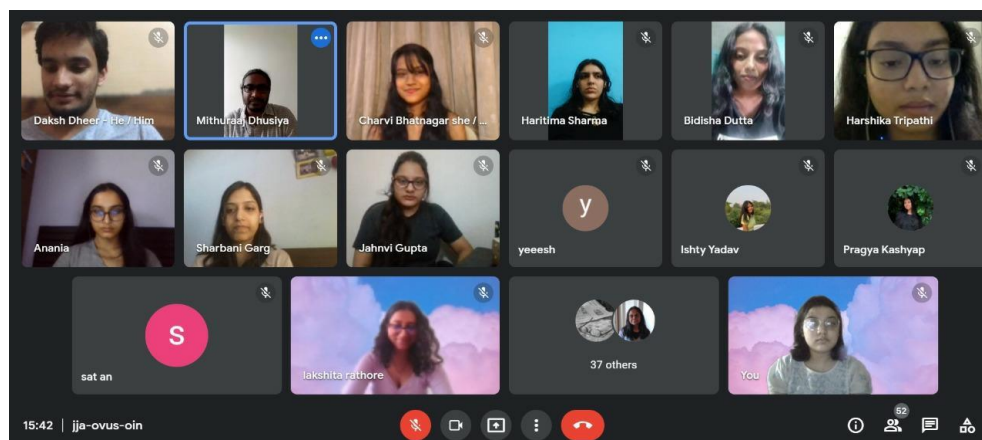
30th October—Adivasi Will Not Dance Discussion

On 30th October, the Book Club of the English Literary Society discussed the 2015 collection of short stories, *The Adivasi Will Not Dance*, written by Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar. The book, which deals with the lives of the Santhal community in Jharkhand, was banned in 2017 for allegedly showing the Santhal community and women in a "bad light". The ban was lifted a few months later.

Given the highly politically charged aspect of the collection, the readers primarily dealt with the overarching themes around individual stories and then the collection as a whole: those of politics, political correctness, stance of the author towards the political events around which the stories are centred, and the extent of the realistic depictions that Shekhar aims to present. The participants analysed the interconnectedness of themes like poverty, capitalism and morality, and also the usage of stark metaphors in these narratives.

Traversing through the gorges of love, marriage, life, morality, class, gender, religion, witchcraft, identity, alienation, displacement, politics and oppression, the readers challenged and questioned existing notions within the frameworks of the stories and deconstructed their generic meanings.

Towards the end, the reason for the ban of the book was discussed along with its underlying contexts and supposed reasons. That tribal identities are not isolated from the effects of urbanisation and "development" and that no narrative has to essentially have a moralistic stance is what was concluded in the discussion.



17th November—Text and Performance Talk

The English Society, Hansraj College hosted a talk on 17th November, 2021 titled: 'Text & Performance' by Dr. Payal Nagpal, a Professor at the Department of English, Janki Devi Memorial College.

Dr. Nagpal began the session by elucidating on the relationship between text and performance, and how its nuances can make drastic differences in performance. Through this extremely enlightening talk, she gave interesting insights on how the actors negotiate with the text and what role do the audience play. Theatre is not just about a written text, rather a multiplicity of negotiations that make it complex and rich. Taking insights from Richard Boleslawski, an actor at the Moscow Art Theatre, she also remarked over how a performance is real, driven from existing experiences which peep into someone's mind as the audience.

Dr. Nagpal also explained how drama is rooted in history. She discussed how post-second world war theatre intended to engage the audience through their thoughts upon the world and society they catered to. She also painted a picture of Indian aesthetics in theatre - about how it has distinct styles like folk, street, and proscenium theatre, and how the trajectory of translation can bring about drastic changes in it. Dr. Nagpal's insights on how gender can transform how a play is perceived were crucial.

After the talk, questions about the session were posed by the "performative" lecture's own audience about if and how an audience can change a specific performance. Dr. Nagpal imparted a great deal of knowledge, and talked about how the auditorium is a structured space and follows specific conventions. The session culminated with a discussion over how the pandemic and the increased role of technology has been changing the facade of theatre, depicting how even the slightest of an impact can cause a change in the field of drama across the globe.



LOGO

