



International Seminar

Mapping the “Wastelands”: Literature and Beyond

&

INTER COLLEGE QUIZ COMPETITION

ON T.S. Eliot & James Joyce

followed by

Students’ Production of T.S. Eliot’s

Murder in the Cathedral

15 March 2023

Department of English

Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata

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&**

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T.S. Eliot & James Joyce**

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*Murder in the Cathedral***

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**Abstracts for 15 min paper are invited from
research scholars and faculty members
(deadline 25th February 2023)**

**5 member Quiz team (comprising students of
participating institutions) are invited to register
with the following contact by 27th February
2023**

Registration Fees:

Quiz team: Rs 2000/- (per team)

External Students (attendees): Rs 200/-

Paper Presenters (Scholars) : Rs 500/-

Paper Presenters (Faculty Members): Rs 1000/-

Fees to be paid in person on the day of the programme

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very not in reality
enough as were
to want
so
The typist home at teatime, who begins
clear away her (broken) breakfast, lights
Her stove, and lays out squalid food in time,
Prepares the room and sets the room to rights.
Out of the window perilously spread
Her drying combinations meet the sun's last rays,
And on the divan piled, (at night her bed),
Are stockings, dirty camisoles, and stays.
A bright kimono wraps her as she aprons
In nervous terror on the window seat;
A touch of art is given by the false
Japanese print, purchased in Oxford Street.
I Tiresias, old man with wrinkled dugs,
Perceived the scene, and foretold the rest,
Knowing the manner of these crawling bugs,
I too awaited the expected guest.
A youth or two, spotted about the face,
One of those simple loiterers whom we say
We may have seen in any public place
At almost any hour of night or day.
Pride has not fired him with ambitious rage,
His hair is thick with grease, and thick with scurf,
Perhaps his inclinations touch the stage -
Not sharp enough to associate with the turf.
He's the young man carbuncular, all stare
Boldly about, in "London's one cafe",
And he will tell her, with a casual air,
Grandly "I have been with Nevinsen today".
Perhaps a cheap house agent's clerk, who flits
Daily, from flat to flat, with one bold stare;
One of the low on whom assurance sits
As a silk hat on a Bradford millionaire.
He munches with the same persistent stare,
He knows his way with women (and that's that!)
Impertinently tilting back his chair
And dropping cigarette ash on the mat.
The time is now propitious, as he guesses,
The meal is ended, she is bored and tired;
Endeavours to engage her in caresses,
Which still are unproved, if undesired.

the dinner
let
30
do la.
nine
inventions
not warranted
by any real
expt. ever
made
not in
hand
leading?
wing
Two
evening
Personal
Perhaps
be damned.
all around
night
26
mix of
coupled
+ quick
not
good -

RABINDRA BHARATI UNIVERSITY, kolkata
Department of English
International Conference
Mapping the “Wastelands”: Literature and Beyond
15 March 2023

The ‘long year’ 2022-2023 marks the centenary of the publication of T S Eliot’s “The Waste Land” (published in 1922), a poem that proved a watershed in the literary and cultural modernism of the new age that followed World War I. Made up of seemingly disjointed emotions about a land that had once been fruitful but no longer is, about life that once had meaning but no longer has, the poem’s reception and afterlife has been a stirring phenomenon (along with James Joyce’s Ulysses, also published in 1922) that changed human thoughts and attitudes in all realms of the world’s affairs. The varied range of interpretation and debate that raged around the poem and Joyce’s novel has been mapped and redrawn by succeeding generations. No other work demonstrated the mortality of civilization in such starkly sentient manner in the wake of the Great War. In a world roiled by bloodshed and violence, in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in Ukraine, in the context of terror attacks like 9/11, Eliot’s words continue to toll in our ears. A pervasive sense of unreality that elides distances between disparate geographic spaces and historical periods, triggers psychic and ontological fragmentation and at the same time induces a sense of an inchoate modern urbanity serves to reconstruct clones of wastelands in the new era of postcivilization.

A quest for a religious understanding of human life inherent in Eliot’s poem leads to a robust scepticism. It informs for hundred years and across spaces subsequent engagements with death and existence. The sense of fatality betrays through libidinal excesses that (post) civil codes of conduct repeatedly fail to excise. The unmapped desire is simultaneously deeply atomizing and replete with voices urging connection. This condition of modern man, subjected to an imbroglio of non-communication is framed in Joyce’s novel as well. Myth divested of its religious content is arbitrarily employed to structure a self-reflexive art form. The “whatness” of art engages the reader to the irony of the subject’s disengaged response to an alienating Waste Land. The variation in scholarly responses suggests that examining the issue of subjectivity in the texts in question means confronting contradictory critical impulses and interpretive pathways, trajectories that register out-of-balance ecosystems in the process of spanning mental, geographical and cultural spaces. This conference aims to commemorate the Eliotian and Joycean creation in the centenary year. Abstracts (150 words) for papers of 15 min duration on the broad theme of the seminar and/or any of the sub-themes are invited from research scholars and faculty members.

Sub-themes:

- The making of modernism; “The Waste Land” and Ulysses
- T S Eliot and James Joyce; modernist writers and other art forms.
- Critical interventions on “The Waste Land”
- Influence of “The Waste Land” on literary and cultural creations
- Bibliographical and publication histories of “The Waste Land” and Ulysses
- Psychoanalytical implications of “The Waste Land” and Psychogeographies of the quest motif in Ulysses
- “The Waste Land” and Ulysses: Eco-critical perspectives
- Trauma, Violence and pathologies in “The Waste Land” and Ulysses
- “The Waste Land” and philosophies of the East and the West
- Myth and architecture in Ulysses

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 27 Feb 2023

Confirmation of selected papers: 1st March 2023

Email for submission: eliot_english22@rbu.ac.in

Contact nos: 9163183015/ 9163365901

Registration Fees:

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