



CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND CULTURAL STUDIES

KIIT SCHOOL OF LIBERAL STUDIES



**Kalinga Institute of
Industrial Technology**
Deemed to be University
Bhubaneswar, Odisha

www.kiit.ac.in



Prof. Achyuta Samanta

Founder KIIT, KISS & KIMS

It gives me immense pleasure to introduce the Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies (CCLCS) under the aegis of the School of Liberal Studies at KIIT Deemed to be University. Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies represent two interdisciplinary domains of knowledge that bring together the humanities and social sciences in a spirit of innovation, dialogue, and inclusivity. These fields not only interrelate textual and cultural interactions but also open up new possibilities for understanding diverse ways of knowing and experiencing the world.

The establishment of this Centre marks an important step toward realizing KIIT's vision of fostering intellectual curiosity and academic excellence that are socially relevant and catering to global needs. The objectives of the Centre are deeply aligned with the foundational ideals of Liberal Studies, where disciplinary boundaries are not simply crossed but productively reimaged. Within such a framework, transdisciplinary becomes both a pedagogical approach and an ethical necessity, responding to the complex realities of a world increasingly shaped by digital transformation and global interdependence.

At a time when rapid technological change and expanding global networks coexist with growing threats to indigenous knowledge systems, the Centre stands committed to promoting critical inquiry, cultural preservation, and community engagement. By bridging the gap between textuality and orality, archive and activism, theory and lived experience, the Centre aspires to become a dynamic academic platform that nurtures plurality, inclusivity, and transformative scholarship, true to the spirit of KIIT's mission to contribute meaningfully to society through education and research.

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Introducing the Centre

The Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies (CCLCS) at KIIT- Deemed to be University serves as an academic platform dedicated to interdisciplinary research and critical engagement with literature, culture, and society. Bridging the humanities, social sciences, and digital studies, the Centre addresses questions of identity, power, and representation in a rapidly globalizing and digitized world. With a strong focus on marginalized voices, indigenous knowledge systems, and emerging media cultures, CCLCS promotes inclusive and pluralistic research.



Statement of Relevance

In today's globalised, virtually constructed, shifting geopolitical order, it is necessary to reconceptualise text as process, interactional, and intermedial. The skill of the future is an inclusive and constructive understanding of the diversity and plurality embedded in literature and art, transcending linguistic, geographical, and political boundaries. In this context, the disciplines of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies are foundational theoretical frameworks that engage with nationally and internationally dispersed literatures, literary traditions, and the conditions of their production.

The adjective 'comparative' has always been used to signify relationality, plurality, and inclusiveness; the word 'literature' has transcended its epistemological and etymological perimeters and evolved into an umbrella term that accommodates verbal art in all modes and manners of composition and transmission. Comparative Literature has the potential to provide a sustainable model to preserve and connect cultural and linguistic diversities, which are increasingly threatened by neocolonial and neoliberal forces. Since the plurality and inclusiveness of Indian cultural and literary practices do not allow a unidirectional and monolithic reading, Comparative Literature is the reliable perspective and practice to engage with and understand the plurilinguistic, pluricultural life-world. It enables a critical framework to read across traditions, trace textual migrations, uncover submerged voices, and challenge canonical hierarchies through lateral, relational, and dialogic approaches. Comparative Literature in the Indian context is not merely an academic endeavour but a political and cultural imperative that nurtures intercultural literacy, pluralistic thinking, and ethical engagement with difference. The inclusive values nurtured by the pedagogy of Comparative Literature promise a space cohabited by multiple literary, cultural, and epistemological traditions, promoting global peace and a sustainable world order.

In a postcolonial space like India, with its multiple cultures and languages, Cultural Studies, as a method, has attempted to accommodate voices that are systematically silenced and rendered unheard. The epistemic violence caused by the imposition of hegemonic knowledge systems and the consequent erasure of indigenous, oral, Dalit, and subaltern epistemologies necessitates an approach that recovers, reinterprets, and reclaims diverse modes of knowing and being. Cultural Studies, therefore, becomes a more than relevant field that interrogates the embedded power dynamics within the culture, and how it appropriates as well as challenges dominant discourses. The digital turn in the globalised world further complicates the cultural diversities in India, as, on the one hand, it promotes a seemingly democratized space within the digital sphere, and on the other hand, it creates cultural monoliths by conforming to the algorithmic needs and attention economy. Cultural Studies engages critically with these contradictions by analyzing how digital cultures reinstate hierarchies of visibility, silence dissent, and commodify cultural expressions, and at the same time, produce new tools for resistance, community building, and narrative reclamation.



About us

The Center for Innovation and Research is an initiative of KIIT-DU to strengthen the university's focus on interdisciplinarity and innovative knowledge production. As part of this initiative, the Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies seeks to promote socially engaged research that addresses contemporary cultural, political, and technological challenges through critical and cross-disciplinary approaches.

Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies are transdisciplinary fields that explore intertextual relations across different temporalities and spatialities, and facilitate dialogues between diverse disciplines. They offer critical insights into the complexities and nuances of cultural plurality and question textual, social, and cultural hierarchies, building inclusive and cohesive spaces. In an increasingly globalized world, where linguistic, cultural, and national boundaries continue to blur, the relevance of inclusive, pluralistic, and interdisciplinary approaches has grown significantly.

The epistemological framework of our time must, therefore, accommodate ideas of intersectionality, inclusivity, and transcultural dialogue as a politics of resistance against sectarianism or identitarianism. Moreover, with the emergence of cyberculture, artificial intelligence, datafication, and algorithmic governance, we are entering an era in which the disciplinary boundaries between science, technology, and the social sciences are being increasingly questioned. The socio-cultural implications of digital technologies, ranging from surveillance and commodification to digital inequality, demand responses rooted in humanistic inquiry. Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies are uniquely positioned to offer such responses through their attention to lived experience and embedded power structures within digital discourse.

The Centre for the Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies under the aegis of the School of Liberal Studies aims to enhance the scope of research in the field of literary and cultural studies through exploring interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary avenues. It seeks to offer research opportunities in critical areas, including intertextualities, cross-cultural transactions, intermedial studies, media and film studies, popular culture, gender and sexuality, caste and subaltern studies, diaspora and migration, postcolonial theory, urban cultures, visual cultures, and digital humanities. The Centre foregrounds the university's need to facilitate holistic education to students. It also aims to bridge the ever-widening gap between technical education and the critical and creative perspectives offered by the humanities and social sciences.



The Centre also aims to create a sustainable system to study and preserve indigenous knowledge systems, with their diverse oral traditions, cultural memory, and ecological practices. In a region like Odisha, where cultural and linguistic traditions persist among Adivasi and other marginalized communities, the documentation, archiving, and critical engagement with indigenous forms of knowledge is not only a scholarly imperative but also a cultural and ethical responsibility. By facilitating research and dialogue around these systems, the Centre seeks to safeguard intangible cultural heritage while rethinking the boundaries of knowledge itself.



Vision

The Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies aims to become a space for interdisciplinary research and critical reflection that promotes intercultural literacy, inclusive and equitable education, encourages gender and social justice, and foregrounds pluralistic thinking. By analyzing the nuances and complexities of diverse literary and cultural traditions and by facilitating intersectional and transcultural dialogues, the Centre seeks to contribute to a more just, empathetic, resilient, and sustainable world. The documentation, preservation, and revitalization of aboriginal and indigenous cultural traditions through its research, collaborations, and public initiatives, the Centre aligns itself with global efforts to ensure quality education (SDG 4), reduce inequalities (SDG 10), promote world peace and justice (SDG 16), strengthen communities (SDG 11), and build partnerships rooted in shared knowledge and cultural plurality (SDG 17).

Mission

The missions of this Centre are:

- To inculcate an academic ambience that envisions plurality, alterity, and difference, not just as subjects of study, but also as the foundational ethic for research;
- To promote research in areas that are not only interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary in nature, but also inclusive of voices coming from different spatiotemporal locations within and beyond the nation, through encouraging intersectional studies involving gender, caste, class, race, and ethnicity;
- To devise a mechanism to critically engage with and actively participate in the conservation and preservation of knowledge systems that are often threatened by the hegemonic cultural forces, in order to build a sustainable model to resist and be resilient to such forces;
- To foreground ways of textual engagement that allow a nuanced understanding of local and global cultural processes of production and consumption of art;
- To collaborate with national and international institutions to build a cohesive research environment and make connections with the academic fraternity who are involved in inclusive research in the field of comparative literature, world literature, translation studies, and cultural studies; and
- To initiate meaningful dialogues between disciplines such as comparative literature, cultural studies, gender studies and translation studies, in order to enquire how these disciplines mutually inform each other and make cross-cutting intersections in academic discourses.

Why CCLCS at KIIT-DU?

- The University's location in the eastern part of India is strategically beneficial for building connections between indigenous and tribal epistemologies, colonial archives, and newly emerging digital cultures.
- The proximity of the KISS, one of the most significant centres for studying Adivasi cultures, helps the Centre to fulfill its commitment to preserve and conserve the Indigenous cultures and values.
- Centre, being housed by the School of Liberal Studies, has access to multiple disciplines that include visual culture, media, social studies, psychology, and literature, thereby endorsing interdisciplinary learning and research.
- The university's stronghold on technology education helps the Centre to build a robust foundation for digital humanities, with skilled resources and collaborative research.
- The internationalization of the university and its global presence make the Centre well-equipped with resources and collaborations from across the world.

Course/ Programme (to be) Offered

- Collaborative degree programmes with foreign universities.
- **Short-Term Certificate Courses (3-6 months):**
 - Comparative Indian Poetics
 - Indian Epistemologies
 - Introduction to World Literature
 - Cyboratures
 - Culture Industry
 - Many Ramakathas of India
 - Visual Arts and Aesthetics
 - Indian Cinema and the Discourse of Nation
 - Migrating Genres of South Asia
- **Long-term Diploma Course [1/2 Year(s)]:**
 - Reading Indian Epics
 - Ecopolitics and Community Resilience
 - Affect Studies
 - Translation Studies
 - Oral History Project



Areas of Research

- **Comparative and World Literature:** Exploring texts across cultures, languages, and historical contexts, this area of research would critically engage with cross-cultural dialogues, translation, and global literary movements to deepen understanding of interconnected human experiences. Using the theoretical lens of Comparative literature and World Literature, it would address the politics of translation, global canons, and the power dynamics shaping literary production, reception, and interpretation in the current times.
- **Intertextuality and Cross-cultural Relations:** The field explores how different texts make contact with other texts and build inter-literary communities, and how different cultures interact and influence each other. It also looks into the cultural transactions among transnational and diasporic communities.
- **Translation Studies:** This area examines the processes of inter-semiotic, intra-semiotic as well as cultural translation, and exchanges between different languages, cultures, and historical periods.
- **Cultural Preservation and Sustainability:** This area of research focuses on preservation and conservation of cultural values and practices of endangered adivasi communities of the eastern and the northeastern parts of India through promotion and archiving of indigenous knowledge systems, languages, religious practices, and literary and cultural texts, and help develop sustainable social, cultural, and economic frameworks for these communities.
- **Globalisation, Literature and Culture:** The area looks into how globalisation influences, appropriates, and controls literary production, circulation, and reception across languages and cultures.
- **Decolonial/ Neocolonial Studies:** The research primarily focuses on the resistance to colonisation and its aftermath in different corners of the world, the issues with imperialism, racism, identity politics, and resistance.

- **Identity Politics and Representation:** This area studies how literary and cultural texts represent and shape identities based on race, gender, class, sexuality, and nationality.
- **Memory, History, and Historiography:** This area examines the way history is narrated and constructed through literary and cultural texts. It focuses on the role of oral narratives and memory in the formation and preservation of history and culture. It also explores the ruptures in the historical process.
- **Literature and the Environment:** This field looks into the issues of sustainability and the environment, and the relationship it builds with literature and culture.
- **Digital Humanities:** It uses digital and computational methods to analyse problems related to the fields of humanities and social science and also explores the impact of digital technologies and cyberculture on society, culture, and literature, including digital pedagogy and scholarship.
- **Borders, Migration and Diaspora:** This area highlights the global phenomena of displacement and migration, and addresses the complexities and nuances of social, cultural, political, economic, and sexual boundaries and how they are reshaped, reordered, and negotiated.
- **Subaltern Studies:** This is an interdisciplinary academic approach that explores the histories and voices of marginalized social groups, which are often overlooked by the grand narratives of history. Subaltern Studies challenges traditional hierarchical power structures by highlighting alternative perspectives, thereby promoting social justice.
- **Trauma Studies:** This interdisciplinary field of study explores the connections between psychology, cultural studies, and literature by focusing on how trauma, both collective and individual, psychological and cultural, shapes the identity of people, reconstructs the narratives of history, and redefines sociocultural relationships.
- **Vulnerability Studies:** This is an interdisciplinary field that examines the susceptibility of communities in terms of their exposure to environmental, socio-cultural, or socio-economic threats. By identifying weaknesses and potential strengths, it helps inform effective strategies for the sustainable development of communities.



Advisory Board

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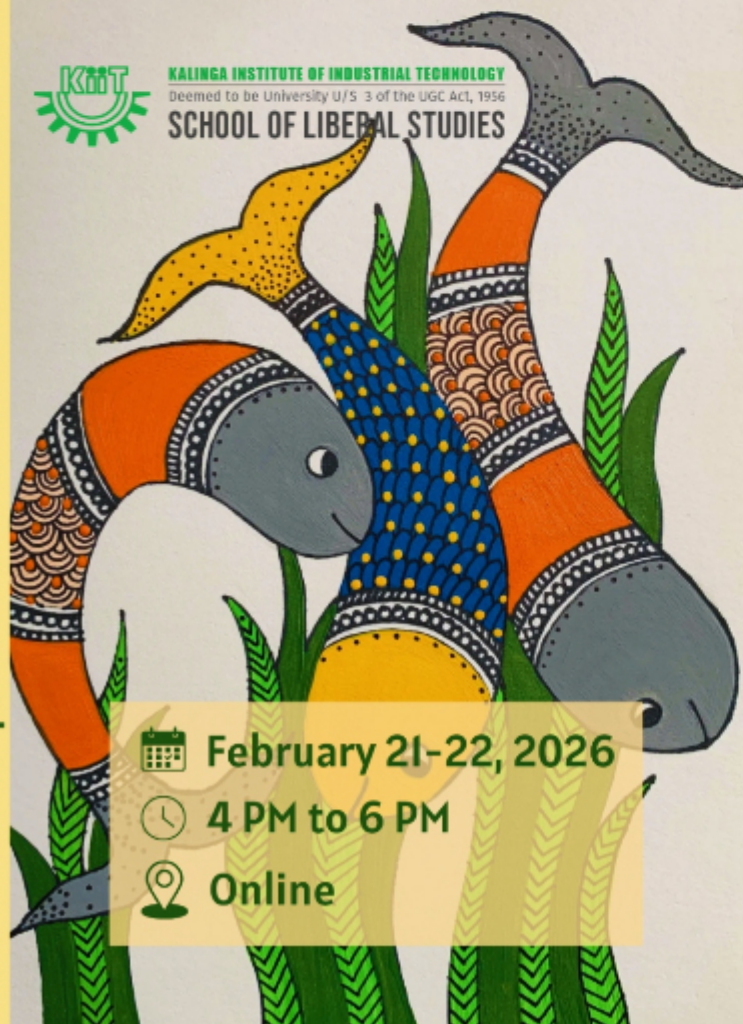
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February 21-22, 2026
 4 PM to 6 PM
 Online

Academic Colloquium

Speaking Voices, Hearing Worlds



Damodar Mauzo
Jnanpith



Ganesh N Devy
Padma Shri

Guest Speakers

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Moderator: Dr. Debanjali Roy, Dr. Debarati Chakraborty

Coordinator: Dr. Gourab Chatterjee



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Stories that Sustain Environment, Cinema and Social Justice

**Centre for Comparative
Literature and Cultural Studies**

in collaboration with

**All Living Things
Environmental Film Festival
(ALT EFF)**

Hybrid

4 pm- 6 pm

December 15-16-17, 2025

Coordinators: Dr. Subarna Bhattacharya
Dr. Gourab Chatterjee

Scan here
to register:



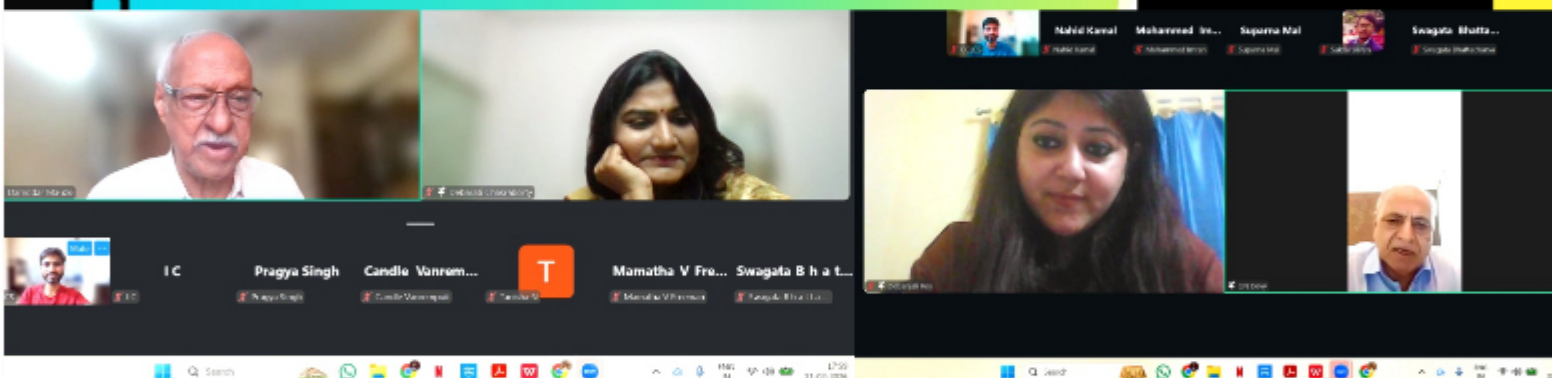
Ms. Subha Das Mollick
Filmmaker



Dr. Namrata Sathe
MIT-WPU, Pune



Dr. Ruchi Shree
Bhagalpur University



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