



## UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA

### DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

The Department of English, University of Calcutta, is happy to announce that volume XLI of the *Journal of the Department of English* (ISSN 2249-4537) is going to be published shortly. The primary focus of this issue is 'The Politics of Peace'.

#### Concept Note

The core idea of civilization is peace. The entire structure of norm-formation, legality, judiciousness and execution is aimed at creating a space devoid of violence and violation. Of course, the violation part is subject to interpretation and the issue of power distorts all notions of justice or facilitates manipulation of structural integrity. Even religion has defined peace more as an absence of violence or as obtainable only in the spiritual space. All religious texts, while preaching peace, either create a penal arena or promise corporeal or spiritual distress (mostly represented through images of physical torment) in case of nonconformity. The other issue common to both religious and imperial/colonial discourse is the idea of expansion. Even the most advertised non-violent institutions include tales of *peacelessness* and the necessity of positing a doctrine of suffering or a strategy of domination through any possible means including the martial. Ironically, the stated goal is always harmony or imposition of a specific idea of civilization which promises such. The general focus on part of all hegemonic organizations is the non-possibility of peace within the socio-psychological. Deviations are highlighted to prove the essential violence that apparently constructs the human. Science has been utilized, through concepts such as survival of the fittest, to establish the fact that violence is an integral part of natural order. The entire concentration repeatedly has been on the moments of violence, rather than the examples of peaceful cohabitation that is also quite viable. Even major norm-establishing agencies such as children's television, for example *National Geographic* or *Animal Planet*, present mostly the dramatic acts of violence thereby insinuating that peace is not natural. The unbroken commercial potential for violence also cannot be discarded as it bears witness to the processes of the human psyche. In all the

cacophony of defeating violence, and marketing it, we tend to mislay the idea of peace or are forced to consent to an idea of peace that the present establishment wishes to sustain.

As the Arts, and more specifically literature, has been the voice of one or the other in the binary of regulative configuration, it is imperative that we examine the role of the different genres of expression in this politics of peace. This is as contingent as ever since peace has remained not only elusive but also variously constructed by different systems. Literature at once has been the tool of the powers that be and has also functioned as resistance or commentary. It has represented the human in all its cultural and socio-political configurations. This issue aims to examine and challenge these contentions and hopes to trace the location of literature in the process that we call history and in the process that we call life.

Original articles, **not exceeding 3500 words**, are invited from teachers and scholars.

Articles should follow MLA Style-sheet, 7th Edition.

(Suggested: Microsoft Word, Times New Roman, 12 points, double spacing, no footnotes, justified, with 1 cm paragraph indent, works cited)

Each article should have an abstract of less than 300 words. A brief bio-note should follow.

***Articles that do not follow the prescribed Style-sheet will not be considered for publication.***

Articles should be mailed to either of the following email addresses within the deadline.

[drsiddharthabiswas@gmail.com](mailto:drsiddharthabiswas@gmail.com)

[roshnisubba1188@yahoo.com](mailto:roshnisubba1188@yahoo.com)

***The Department strongly condemns plagiarism. The author(s) are requested to ensure that the work is completely original excepting quotations and other duly acknowledged material. If any form of plagiarism is discovered by the editors, the article will be rejected.***

Articles for publication will be selected through a process of double-blind peer review.

Acceptance/Apology will be notified via e-mail.

*The Editorial Committee's decision will be final.*

**FINAL DATE OF SUBMISSION: 01 NOVEMBER 2019**

**NO REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION WILL BE ENTERTAINED AFTER THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DATE**