



RUSA Sponsored Two-Day National Seminar on  
**“Humanism and After: Literature’s Journey from Humanism to  
Cyber Culture & Other Forms of Posthumanism”**

**DATE**

**24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Sept, 19**

*Organised by*

**Department of English  
Midnapore College (Autonomous)  
Midnapore, W.B**



## About the College :

Midnapore College, one of the premier educational institutions of West Bengal has stepped into 147<sup>th</sup> year of its eventful existence in 2019. Since its inception in 1873, the College has been retaining its academic excellence. It has achieved 'A+' Grade in 2004, 'A' Grade with CGPA 3.58 in 2012 and 'A+' Grade with CGPA 3.60 in 2017, 4 Point Scale in three successive NAAC Accreditations for its academic excellence as well as unsurpassable cultural and social activities. It has attained the status of "College with potential for Excellence" (CPE) by UGC twice in 2010 and 2014 respectively and it is also endowed with Autonomous Status as a feather to its crown by UGC in 2014 and Special Heritage status in 2015. Midnapore College is now imparting education in 22 Hons subjects in UG and 14 subjects in PG under Semester System and is committed to fulfilling the demands and cravings of Higher Education as an Institution of Heritage.

## About the Department :

Midnapore college was once a centre of learning English in the whole district of undivided Midnapore during and after the British regime. Prof. Manmathanath Sikdar, an alumnus of the then Presidency College, propularlly known as Sikdar, laid a solid foundation of teaching English in Midnapore College in 1957, which was later fortified by Principal Pareshnath Ghosh, also a Presidency alumnus. Honours affiliation in English was granted by Calcutta university in 1957. Before that English was taught as the core subject. Gradually other teachers were appointed. Among the renowned teachers of English in this college, mention may be made of Santosh Pratihar, Dilip Banerjee, Rabi Chakraborty, Sanatan Das, Sunil Mukherjee, and Tapanjyoti Banerjee. At present the department has five whole time teachers, Sri Rajendranath Dutta, Sk. Sagir Ali, Sri Tanmoy Kundu, Sri Sanjoy Saren and Dr Saikat Sarkar. Despite the help of a few qualified and experienced guest faculties the department stands in need of more teachers to conduct efficient teaching in both the UG and PG levels.



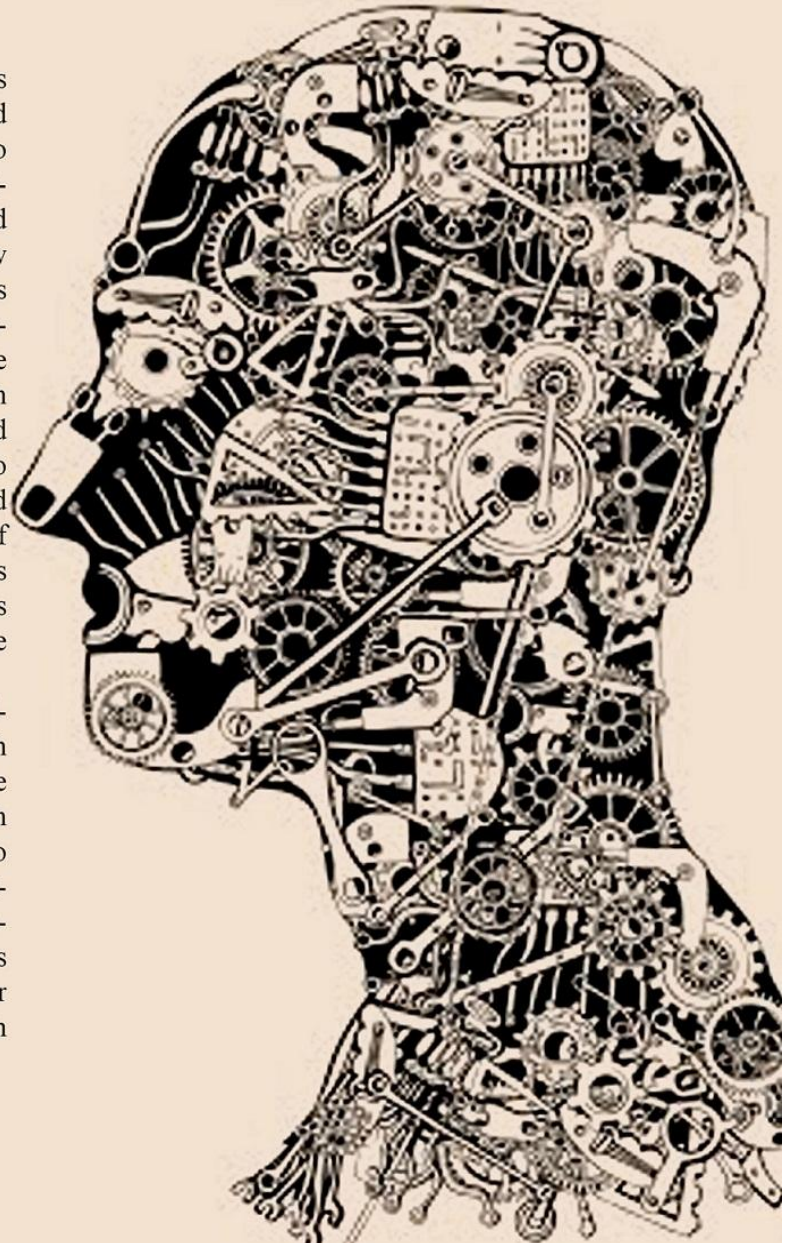
## Concept Note:

In her seminal study on posthumanism *How We Became Posthuman* (1999) N. Katherine Hayles cites famous roboticist Hans Moravec's study on the future of artificial life, *Mind Children* (1988) in which Moravec imagines a robot sucking the brain out of a human cranium to transfer the information embedded in its each molecular layer on a computer. Hayles criticizes Moravec for "not abandoning the autonomous liberal subject" but adds that he "is expanding its prerogatives into the realm of the posthuman".

In contemporary academic debate, "posthuman" has become a key term to negotiate with the urgency of redefining the human. This urgency is a resultant factor of the epistemological as well as scientific and bio-technological developments of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries which make it imperative for us to reconsider the ways with which we study life and literature. Cary Wolfe in *What Is Posthumanism* (2010) shows how post-human strand of questioning the Cartesian notion of humanism began with the Macy conferences on cybernetics held between 1946 and 1953. Foucault in the last paragraph of *Order of Things* (1966) stressed on the necessity of redefining man; "As the archaeology of our thought easily shows, man is an invention of recent date. And one perhaps nearing its end". It is worth mentioning here Foucault's 'Death of Man' is regarded as the starting point of anti-humanist thought. In 1985 Donna Haraway in "A Cyborg Manifesto", a locus classicus of recent posthumanist thought, has engaged science fictional thematic of hybridity in her study of humans. Rosi Braidotti in *The Posthuman* (2013) contends that the concept of the human has exploded under the dual pressure of contemporary scientific advances and global economic concerns: "After the postmodern, the post-colonial, the post-industrial, the post-communist and even the much contested post-feminist conditions, we seem to have entered the post-human predicament".

Posthumanism as an area of study offers novel grounds to be explored, life to be mapped and insights to be acquired. Francesca Ferrando rightly notes; "Posthuman' has become an umbrella term to include (philosophical, cultural, and critical) posthumanism, transhumanism... new materialisms... and the heterogeneous landscapes of antihumanism, posthumanities, and metahumanities." It is important, however, to understand the differences between these concepts/terms which have entered our critical enquiry to understand contemporary life. While transhumanism seeks to locate in the advancement of reason, science and technology means to overcome the limitations of human body and mind, critical posthumanism sees the human as non-fixed and mutable and questions anthropocentrism, human exceptionalism and the centrality of the subject in the Anthropocene.

This seminar will attempt to explore the philosophical, literary and cultural landscapes which have emerged as a response to the crisis of the human. It will attempt to map posthumanism both as theoretical posthumanism that primarily seeks to develop new knowledge and as practical posthumanism that seeks to bring about some social, political, economic, or technological change. Focus will be on exploring how through literary and other cultural texts we have tried to address the question of what means to be human today.



## **Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:**

- ◆ Representation of transhuman beliefs in literary and other cultural texts
- ◆ Representations of human enhancements; cyborgs and digital posthumanism in literary and other cultural texts
- ◆ Ideological positions and exploration of the contradictions of the posthuman in literary and other cultural texts
- ◆ Identities in (re)construction: gender, race, sexuality
- ◆ Environmental damage and ecological awareness
- ◆ Development of new aesthetics
- ◆ Speculative fiction and other genres dealing with the posthuman
- ◆ Utopian and Dystopian texts
- ◆ Engagement of ethical and moral concerns



*Dear Colleagues, academicians and research scholars, we feel happy to inform you that the Dept. of English of Midnapore College (Autonomous) is going to organize a Two-Day National Level Seminar on “Humanism and After: Literature’s Journey from Humanism to Cyber Culture & Other Forms of Post Humanism” on 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2019 at our College.*

*A good number of renowned academicians & scholars from universities and colleges of the state and outside will grace the seminar with their erudite presentations.*

*We earnestly solicit your presence and active participation in the seminar.*

*Thanking You.*

***Convenor***

**Mr. Tanmoy Kundu**  
**Assistant Professor of English & HOD,**  
**Midnapore College (Autonomous).**

**Mr. Sk Sagir Ali**  
**Assistant Professor of English &**  
**Co-Ordinator, PG,**  
**Midnapore College (Autonomous).**

***President***

**Dr. Gopal Chandra Bera**  
**Principal**  
**Midnapore College(Autonomous)**  
**Midnapore**



## Speakers

- ➔ **Dr. Supriya Chaudhuri**  
Emeritus Professor of English, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India.
- ➔ **Dr. Promod K. Nayar**  
Professor of English, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, India.
- ➔ **Dr. Saugata Bhaduri**  
Professor of English, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.
- ➔ **Dr. Mohd. Asadudin**  
Professor of English, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi, India.
- ➔ **Dr. Amrit Sen**  
Professor of English, Visva Bharati University, Bolpur, India.
- ➔ **Dr. Simi Malhotra**  
Professor of English, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi, India.
- ➔ **Dr. Debashis Bandyopadhyay**  
Professor of English, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, India.
- ➔ **Dr. Nilanjana Deb**  
Associate Professor of English, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India.
- ➔ **Dr. Anirban Das**  
Associate Professor, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata, India.
- ➔ **Dr. Jai Singh**  
Assistant Professor, The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India.
- ➔ **Dr. Arka Chattopadhyay**  
Assistant Professor, Humanities and Social Science, IIT Gandhinagar, Gujrat, India.
- ➔ **Dr. Francesca Ferrando**  
Adjunct Assistant Professor, New York University (US) will deliver her presentation on skype.

### Chief Patron:

Dr. Gopal Chandra Bera, Principal, Midnapore College(Autonomous).

### Convenors:

Mr. Tanmoy Kundu, Assistant Professor of English & HOD, Midnapore College (Autonomous).

Mr. Sk Sagir Ali, Assistant Professor of English & Co-Ordinator, PG, Midnapore College (Autonomous).

### Organizing Secretary:

Dr. Saikat Sarkar, Assistant Professor of English, Midnapore College (Autonomous).

### Seminar Organizing Committee:

Mr. Rajendranath Dutta, Associate Professor of English, Midnapore College (Autonomous).

Mr. Sanjoy Saren, Assistant Professor of English, Midnapore College (Autonomous).

## Important Dates

- Last Date for Submission of Abstract: 31<sup>st</sup> Aug, 2019.
- Date of Acceptance: 5<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2019.
- Last date of Full Paper Submission: 15<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2019.
- Date of Seminar: 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.



## Call for Papers

An Abstract with a short bio-note of the Presenter should be sent to the email id - [deptofenglishmid@gmail.com](mailto:deptofenglishmid@gmail.com) by 31<sup>st</sup> August , 2019.

### Presentation Guidelines:

All abstracts and papers shall be arranged in M.S. Word Format as:

- Title of paper: Bold, font size 14
- Names of Author(s): First Name, Last Name.
- Keywords: Four to five words.
- Text: Times New Roman, font size 12.
- Line space: 1.5 space.
- Margins: 1 inch on all sides.
- Word count: 250-300 words for abstract and full paper should not exceed 3000 words.
- Participants should follow MLA handbook 8th edition.

- \* The participants will receive notification of acceptance by 5<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2019.
- \* Last Date of Full Paper Submission : 15<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2019.
- \* The select papers will be published free of cost in a book with ISBN.
- \* Research Papers without registration fees will not be accepted.

## Registration Details

### Registration Fees

Rs. 500/- for Faculty Members.

Rs. 300/- for Research Scholars.

Rs. 100/- for Students.

### Mode of Payment of Registration Fees

All payments can be made by Cash or an account payee Demand Draft form any Nationalized Bank drawn in favour of “ Principal, Midnapore College (Autonomous)” payable at Midnapore. You can also send money through NEFT/ RTGS or any other Banking option

### Account Details

A/C No : 37766129226

A/C Name : Midnapore Branch, Rabindra Nagar, LIC More, Paschim Medinipur  
PIN- 721101, W.B.

Branch Name : MIDNAPORE

IFSC Code : SBIN0000132

(Registration fee includes tea, snacks, lunch and Seminar kit).

Deadline for registration: 20<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2019.

## For Further Information Contact :

+91 8918471598 / 9734430677 / 9434392782 / 9547193390

# REGISTRATION FORM



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Dated : 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Sept,19

Name : .....

Designation : .....

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E-mail : .....

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Mode of Payment : (Cash /Demand Draft / Banker’s Cheque / Online transfer)

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\*\*\* Kindly send the scanned copy of the  
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.....  
*Signature*