



Miranda House

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Internal Academic Audit

Department: English

Academic Year: 2021-22 (from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022)

The Department of English has a rich legacy of critical thinking, high standard publications and charting new research areas both in their individual capacity as well as through their teaching practice since 1948.

Strengths

- Our multilingual expertise: We are a department of 14 Permanent Faculty Members who work with more than five vernacular cultures; Bangla, Bhojpuri, Urdu, Hindi, Rongmei and Malayalam other than English. The faculty continues to research and translate across these languages. The year 2021-22 saw a range of publications on varied themes like Hindu Goddesses (Sengupta 2021), Bangla Crime Fiction, Postcolonial Crime Fiction Studies (Roy 2021), Women's Gothic Fiction and Romance in Urdu (Jha 2021).
- Interdisciplinary Research: In addition, we pride ourselves in our continuous teaching learning practices whereby faculty have interdisciplinary work with illustrations (Thaimei 2021), oral history records (Tata-Trusts Partition Archives Research Grant, Jha 2021) and Proverbs (The Nehru-Fulbright Fellowship, Thaimei 2022).
- Paper Setting and Evaluation of New Inter-disciplinary Papers: Our faculty played a key role in initiating new papers such as Literature and Caste, Graphic Narratives, Comic Books and Graphic Novels, Bestsellers and Genre Fiction, Literature for Children and Young Adults, Film Studies, Speculative Fiction and Detective Literatures in the LOCF model. The true scope of new areas is visible when students are tested through paper setting and evaluation practices and throughout the academic year, our faculty was involved with the same at the University level as Head Examiners or Co-Examiners for the same.
 - Student Seminars: We believe that undergraduate students learn research skills through seminars rather than only classroom setting. As soon as the Colleges reopened

for classes in physical mode, the English Literary Society organised an undergraduate seminar on “Urban Spaces In The Graphic Novel” where 08 papers were selected for presentation by the faculty and apart from 01 from Miranda House, 07 students from across Indian Universities including two from Aligarh and one from Kolkata participated.

- Literary Society, Book Club, Creative Writing Club, M-etch Newsletter: Our student-led society and Club (Poiesis) provides an active platform for students to learn from scholars across disciplinary expertise through online and offline talks, workshops and book events. The M-Etch Newsletter and BlueQuill the creative writing club offer a means to them to sharpen their creative expression and learn through peer groups and networks beyond the University with Publishing Houses and Media Industry.

Weaknesses

- Students and Financial Needs: Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, classes were held online but catering to students with financial need for data and equipment became a challenge that we tried to manage through peer-group and mentor-mentee networks. Our alumni have also come forward and increased their endowment during this crucial phase was a major mitigating factor.
- Student Anxiety: Despite counselling and mentee sessions, concerns about the fast paced and turbulent employment opportunities have led to an increase in the anxiety towards being future-ready. We have tried to alleviate the same by constantly holding sessions with alumni who have successfully settled into careers beyond the academia.

Future Plans

- Stronger Alumni Network: Our department is home to the Miranda House Archiving Project, Faculty and student body that boasts of a vibrant and close-knit relationship with our alumni. We plan to build on this network and push for more endowments as well as hand-holding or mentoring sessions whereby alumni guide and encourage young English graduates to prepare their portfolios or plan to enter the fields of Law, Data Science, Airline Industry, Academia, Media Industry and more.
- Multidisciplinary Courses: Continuing with our aim to change and learn with the times, our department has plans to offer courses in Digital Filmmaking, Environment and Literatures, Creative Writing to students of

Miranda House and beyond as part of the NEP 2022.

- Experiential Learning and New Skill based Practice: Our department plans to make visits to museums, working with oral history sources, photographs and archival materials, making short videos and project based learning a part of the classroom experience in the coming session when the NEP courses are implemented. To do the same, our faculty plans to upgrade through new Faculty Development Programmes and Courses.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nisha', written in a cursive style and underlined.

Dr. Nisha Vashishta

Coordinator, IQAC