

**Diasporic Constructions of Home and Belonging (CoHaB)
Indian Diaspora Centre - IDC
(Funded by the European Union)**

University of Mumbai

**A Report on Prof. Dr. Klaus Stierstorfer's Talk
on
'Canonizing' Diaspora Studies: Classic Textbooks and New Departures**



The Diasporic Constructions of Home and Belonging Indian Diaspora Centre (CoHaB IDC) had organized a talk on 'Canonizing' Diaspora Studies by Prof. Dr. Klaus Stierstorfer on Monday, 25th April 2016. The talk was a part of its Lecture Series on Diaspora Studies. Prof. Dr. Klaus Stierstorfer is the Chair of British Studies at the University of Muenster, Germany. He studied at the Universities of Regensburg and Oxford, received his D.Phil. from the University of Oxford. He is the initiator of the European Union's Marie Curie ITN project on Diasporic

Constructions of Home and Belonging (CoHaB) and an advisory committee member of the CoHaB IDC. He is also the Coordinator of the projects on 'Fundamentalism and Literature' and 'Law and Literature'. Some of his important publications are *Beyond Postmodernism: Reassessments in Literature, Theory, and Culture*, *London Assurance and Other Victorian Comedies and Women Writing Home 1700-1920: Female Correspondences across the British Empire*.



His talk focused on understanding how diaspora studies has found its 'canonical' texts, where fields of diaspora research are still open and in which directions new departures could lead diaspora studies in the future. The talk specifically offered insights into the contents of planned *The Diaspora Studies Reader* edited by Prof. Dr. Klaus Stierstorfer and Prof. Dr. Janet Wilson. It involved contemplation on some of

the following questions: Since diaspora is an enormous and pervasive phenomenon, how far can one go to push the limits of the concept of 'diaspora'? What role does the literary canon play in defining diaspora studies? How does literature influence diasporic/non-diasporic individuals and/or diasporic/non-diasporic communities?



Dr. Stierstorfer engaged the audience in his talk by raising these questions and concluded by asserting that we need to perceive diaspora studies as an ever-expansive domain of enquiry and begin to fill the gaps in literary and diaspora studies. The talk was accompanied by a handout of contents of the planned *Diaspora Studies Reader* that helped the audience comprehend the proposed book's layout better. It was followed by an interactive discussion with the audience. The session was well received and attended by students, members of the faculty and members of the CoHaB IDC advisory board.
