



Mumbai Münster Institute of Advanced Studies (MMIAS)

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Annual Report on the Activities of the Mumbai Münster Institute of Advanced Studies (MMIAS) University of Mumbai

January – December 2023

The Mumbai Münster Institute of Advanced Studies (MMIAS), University of Mumbai, was established on 23rd November 2021, with the signing of an addendum to the long-standing MoU between the University of Mumbai, India, and the University of Münster, Germany.

The MMIAS has conducted several activities from January 2023 - December 2023 and has planned a list of activities until March 2024.

Seminars and Symposiums

- A one-day Hybrid International Symposium on *Translations: Bridging Linguistic, Social and Political Divides* was organized on 6 April 2023. Well known translators and academics presented their experiences in the field of translation. Padma Shri Professor Sitanshu Yashaschandra was the Chief Guest and inaugurated the symposium. *Homeland*, the English translation by Professor Nilufer E. Bharucha (Co-Director) of Dalpat Chauhan's *Malak* was also launched at the symposium by Padma Shri Professor Sitanshu Yashaschandra in the presence of the author of the original Gujarati novel, Dalpat Chauhan.
- A national seminar on *The Indian Ocean as a Memory Space: Reflections in Indian Diasporic Literature and Culture* was organized in collaboration with the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, on 7-8 December 2023, on the University of Mumbai's Kalina campus. Speakers for the seminar were invited from across India and from the diaspora around the world. Cmde Srikant Kesnur, VSM (Retd), Indian Navy, was the Chief Guest at the Inaugural Session of the seminar and Professor Smita Shukla, Director, Alkesh Dinesh Mody Institute, and I/C Director, Western Regional Centre – Indian Council of Social Science Research (WRC-ICSSR), was the Chief Guest at the Valedictory Session. Members of Sahitya Akademi, Maritime History Society, and faculty and students of Mumbai University participated in this seminar.

MMIAS International Interdisciplinary Lecture Series and Round Tables

- A hybrid (online and in-person from the MMIAS office) lecture on *White Christian Privilege: The Illusion of Religious Equality in America* was delivered by Professor Khyati Joshi of Fairleigh Dickinson University, New Jersey, USA, on 10 January 2023.
- An online lecture on *The Red Turbans of Shanghai: From Colonial Instruments to Anti Colonialists, 1885-1945* was delivered by Dr. Manpreet Singh on 23 January 2023.

- A hybrid lecture on *Challenges of Migration and Citizenship: African Americans and Asian Americans, 1850-1925* was delivered by Professor Amritjit Singh, Ohio University, USA, was organized on 15 February 2023.
- A Round Table Discussion with Professor Singh and Advisory Board Members in Mumbai was organized on 16 February 2023.
- An online lecture was delivered by Professor Ajaya Sahoo, University of Hyderabad, on *Diaspora and Identity: The Case of Indian Music in the Caribbean* on 17 February 2023.
- Professor Nalini Iyer, Seattle University, USA, delivered an online lecture on *Re-imagining Early 20th Century South Asian Migration to the United States* on 1 March 2023.
- An online lecture on *Thinking Decolonially Through a Feminist Intersectional Lens* was delivered by Professor Avtar Brah, Birbeck College, University of London, on 15 March 2023.

MMIAS Senior and Junior Fellowships and Internships

The MMIAS has instituted Senior and Junior Fellowships, and Internships. The Senior and Junior Fellowships and Internship are awarded after due advertisement/invitation and selection process.

- Senior Fellow: Professor Sridhar Rajeswaran was invited to be the first MMIAS Senior Fellow from 19 January 2023 for a period of 1 year. He delivered his first public lecture on *Through the Looking Glass and the Prismatic Lens: Earth 1947, A Backward Glance* in a hybrid (online and in-person from the MMIAS office) on 29 November 2023. The lecture was conducted in a hybrid mode.
- Junior Fellow/Researcher: Dr. Sharmila Jajodia was appointed as MMIAS Junior Researcher from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023. The topic of her project was *Political, Social, Cultural and Economic Aspects of Diaspora Studies with Reference to Select Literary Texts*. In line with her topic, Dr. Jajodia gave the MMIAS Junior Fellowship Public Lecture in a hybrid mode on *Socio-Economic and Politico-Cultural Aspects of Diaspora in Erotic Stories, You People and Gold Diggers* on 16 December 2023.
- Intern: Ms. Jagruti Panchal, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, was appointed as Intern from 23 January 2023 - 17 March 2023. As MMIAS Intern, Ms. Panchal worked on the aspects of hybridity, identity, and generational differences, and how they are represented through the narrative strategies in *Border Less* by Namrata Poddar. She was also trained in administrative and library duties during her internship.

An advertisement to appoint a new intern(s) has already been uploaded to the website of Mumbai University.

Other Activities

- **Study India Day**
The Study India Certificate course of the University of Münster, directed by Professor Dr. Klaus Stierstorfer, Vice Dean FB09 and Professor of English (British and Postcolonial Studies), University of Münster, Germany, and Co-Director, MMIAS, University of Mumbai, had organized its annual Study India Day on 23 May 2023 at the University of Münster,

Germany, jointly with the MMIAS, University of Mumbai. On this occasion, a symposium on ***The Indian Ocean as Memory Space: Perspectives from Law and Literature*** was organized with the Collaborative Research Centre 1385 “Law and Literature”, University of Münster.

The event was attended by the Honourable Consul General of India in Frankfurt, Germany, Mr. Sanjay Jaswal. Advocate Pheroze Nowrojee, Senior Counsel, High Court of Kenya, and Author, presented the keynote address at this symposium. This was followed by a Panel Discussion in which presentations were made by Professor Dr. Nilufer E. Bharucha, Co-Director, MMIAS, University of Mumbai, Professor Dr. Sridhar Rajeswaran, Member Advisory Board of MMIAS, Dr. Saugata Bhaduri, JNU, New Delhi and Dr. Simi Malhotra, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi.

The event was attended by faculty and students of the University of Muenster’s Departments of English, Law and Sociology.

- **Extension activities**

Professor Dr. Nilufer E. Bharucha delivered an online lecture on *The Changing Scenario of Law and the Indian Diaspora* as part of the Refresher Course for the Department of Law, University of Mumbai, on 14 December 2023.

Forthcoming – January to March 2024

- Professor Sridhar Rajeswaran, Member, MMIAS Advisory Board shall be delivering his second public lecture as the MMIAS Senior Fellow.
- The MMIAS shall also be inviting scholars from different fields to deliver lectures for the MMIAS.



Professor Nilufer E. Bharucha
Co-Director, MMIAS

Mumbai
29th December 2023