

Doris Lessing Society, South Asia (DLSSA)

Calls for Proposals

for the Online Conference

Doris Lessing and Voices from the Margins



to be held on October 22, 2022.

Background

Doris Lessing Society South Asia (DLSSA), is the newly initiated South Asian chapter of the Doris Lessing Society (DLS), an allied organisation of the Modern Language Association dedicated to the study of Lessing 's writings. The chapter is launched to realise Lessing's vision of a multilingual and multicultural world, inclusive of all voices, the diverse and the disparate. A central objective of this chapter is the promotion of Lessing scholarship vis-à-vis the literatures from South Asia, which includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. In this pursuit, DLSSA will organize conferences, both in-person and in the virtual modes. The chapter also seeks to translate Lessing's works into various South Asian languages and to become a node for international exchanges related to Lessing studies. After the successful inaugural conference held in March, 2022, DLSSA proposes to meet again in October on a similar platform.

Conference theme

The South Asian region is known for its cultural and linguistic diversity. The region is home to a wide range of people living under diverse socio-economic conditions ranging from extreme privilege to most inhumane conditions of sordid poverty and social discriminations. But the region has also witnessed the emergence of the most powerful syncretic traditions that call for peace, harmony and inclusiveness. This variegated social cosmos has generated some of the most sensitive and distinctive portrayals of human society in the literatures of South Asia. Unrepresented anywhere else, the men, women and children living abjectly at the margins of the social world find their

experiences reflected in the literary and political spaces of the subcontinent. Lessing, has been a steadfast champion of such spaces, too, and her works in many ways parallel the voices from the South Asian margins, and like them suggest alternative perspectives of truth and reality. 'Voices from the Margins ' is themed at navigating these literary and political spaces occupied by South Asian writers and to produce comparative studies with respect to Lessing's writings.

Suggested areas for exploration

Papers are invited from anywhere across the globe but must have a clear focus on Doris Lessing's writings/themes in comparison to South Asian writings/issues.

Some areas of particular interest are mentioned below but the list is just suggestive and other ideas are welcome.

- Lessing and the 'free women' writers of South Asia
- Race in Africa and caste in South Asia: intersections and divergences
- The gendered world of South Asia and Lessing's conception of gender and sexuality
- Reading Lessing and the power dynamics of the South Asian classroom
- Lessing 's Utopian vision and the Sufi traditions of South Asia.

Each presenter will be allotted 20 minutes for presentations, followed by 10 minutes for Q/A session.

Key dates

Opening Date for Abstract Submission	August 8, 2022
Closing Date for Abstract Submission	September 15, 2022
Notification of Acceptance	September 30, 2022
Conference Date	October end, 2022

How to submit the abstracts

The submissions to include:

- Title of the paper
- Name of the author/s with organisational affiliation/s
- Contact details (email and mobile no.) of the author/s

Abstracts not to exceed 300 words.

Abstracts to be submitted online at dlssouthasia@gmail.com

To assist us in the review process, you may briefly outline in your abstract:

- Objective/s of the study
- Theoretical/analytical framework
- Data and method (if applicable)
- Findings or conclusions

For further information, please write to dlssouthasia@gmail.com