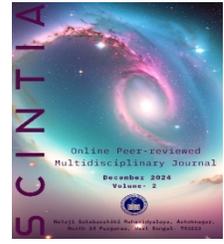




SCINTIA

Online Peer-reviewed Multidisciplinary Journal

[Published by Netaji Satabarshiki Mahavidyalaya]



From the Editor's Desk

Our contemporary age is characterised by epistemic fluidity. The distinctive taxonomies of various academic disciplines have begun to crumble, not because of any artificial intervention but through the natural processes of reality. This has also breathed life into theoretical knowledge making it much more attuned to practical application. A global phenomenon such as Climate Change, does not belong only to the domain of Environmental Science. It is our fundamental condition for existence on earth and thus all other disciplines such as Economics and other Social Sciences including Politics and Culture have become intertwined with its multifarious ramifications. Questions of identity formation and its various trappings concern disciplines like Literature, Sociology, Philosophy and Digital Media. The genome sequences itself in the language of code; Artificial Intelligence raises questions that philosophers of consciousness and ethicists have grappled with for centuries. We find ourselves inhabiting a world of profound entanglement where causality is multidirectional, binaries do not exist and the most urgent intellectual work occurs precisely at the crossroads which conventional disciplinary structures hitherto overlooked.

Scintia's second volume has this idea of entanglement at its core. The issue tries to foreground the fact that the most incisive scholarship today does not stay confined within any particular discipline; it glides across them, questioning the assumptions that govern each field while gaining nourishment from multiple epistemological traditions. Complex and heterogeneous issues such as migration and displacement, the construction of gender and sexuality, the politics of representation in media and literature, the environmental catastrophe unfolding across the globe etc. need to be dissected from various aspects. Environmental Science intersects with aesthetic and philosophical concerns and technologies of representation reshape our understanding of identity and community. Migration and social transformation are narrativised in literature, documented by sociological inquiry and theorised through postcolonial frameworks. Politics of representation is an overarching idea which has been analysed from various angles in this volume. The journal has tried to address various issues - how representations of the natural world in literature inform or

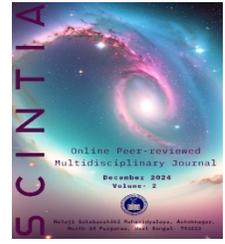


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challenge Environmental Science; how marginalised communities represent themselves in literary and artistic forms and how these representations contest the narratives circulated through mainstream media and dominant knowledge systems; how regional literatures negotiate the power dynamics embedded in global publishing, translation and academic institutions; Even hard Sciences unveil behavioural patterns within social institutions leading to a re-evaluation of human psychology. These are not merely academic questions; they are profoundly political interventions touching upon matters of justice, recognition and the distribution of interpretive authority.

The contributions received demonstrate intellectual rigour. While the research articles point to the fact that ideas and representations are transnational, they are careful to remain attentive to the specificities of the local context. The book reviews do not just explore the essence of the works but also harbour ideas for potential researchers to pursue. The manuscripts received in Bengali demonstrate that sophisticated theoretical work is flourishing in languages and contexts that remain marginalised within global academic hierarchies. We believe that multilingual and multicultural scholarship opens new vista of thought and challenges the hegemony of English-language academic publishing. It is also our humble endeavour to encourage research work in Bengali especially being situated in West Bengal and reach out to readers who prefer reading Bengali research articles.

Scintia, in its commitment to exploring intersections, positions itself as a space for precisely this kind of engaged, rigorous and expansive scholarship. We hope this second volume will impel the readers to think across the boundaries that have traditionally confined various disciplines, imaginations and possibilities.

Editors, Scintia

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