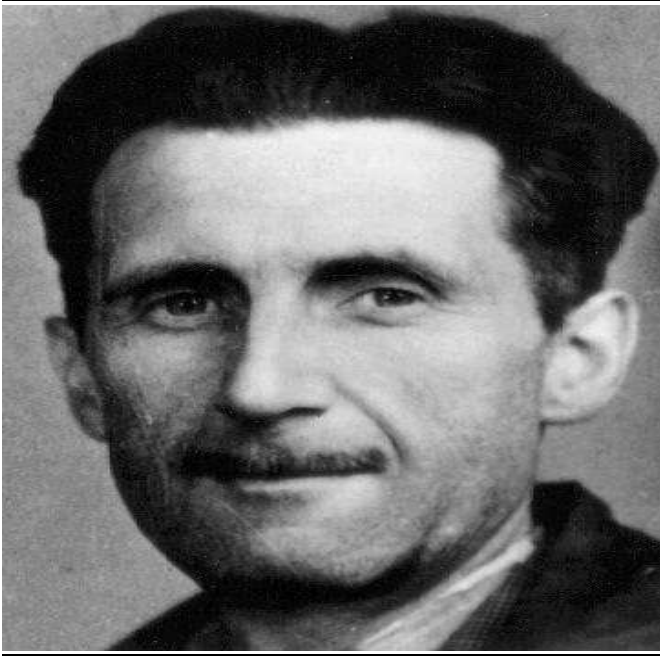


UGC SPONSORED NATIONAL SEMINAR

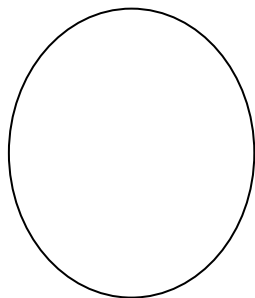
The Mind, Art & Vision of George Orwell



to be organized by

P.G. Department of English

M.S. College, Motihari (NAAC accredited 'B')



in collaboration with

ROTARY MOTIHARI LAKE TOWN

24-25 September, 2016

Chairman: Dr. Jagdish Mahto, Principal

Deputy Chairman: Deopriya Mukherjee

Chairman, George Orwell Commemorative Committee

Organizing Secretary & Convenor

Dr Md Equebal Hussain

Associate Professor & Head, PG Dept of English, M.S.
College, Motihari

Dear friends,

A UGC sponsored National Seminar on "*The Mind, Art and Vision of George Orwell*" will be organized by the **P.G. Department of English, M.S. College, Motihari** in collaboration with **Rotary Motihari Lake Town** on 24-25 September, 2016.

University and college teachers, research scholars & intellectuals are cordially invited to participate in the deliberations of the seminar and present their research papers therein.

THEME

The famous British author George Orwell, pen name of Eric Arthur Blair was born at Motihari (East Champaran, Bihar), then under Bengal Presidency in British India on June 25, 1903. He achieved prominence in the late 1940s as the author of two most brilliant satires attacking totalitarianism. His parents were members of the Indian Civil Services. However, he left Motihari while he was only a year old and after an education at Eton College in England Orwell joined the Imperial Police in Burma, an experience that later found expression in the novel *Burmese Days* (1934).

Orwell's first book *Down and out in Paris and London* (1933) was a comical but moving nonfictional account of his several years of self-imposed poverty he had experienced after leaving Burma. He published three other novels in the 1930s: *A Clergyman's Daughter*, *Keep the Aspidochelone* and *Coming Up for Air*.

Orwell also wrote two documentaries. However, his two best works reflect Orwell's lifelong distrust of autocratic governments, whether of the left or right: *Animal Farm*, a modern beast fable attacking Russian revolution and Stalinism, and *1984*, a dystopian novel setting forth his fears of an increasingly bureaucratic state of the future.

While a critic declares Orwell as the '**best English essayist since Hazlitt or even Dr. Johnson**', in 2008, *The Times, London* ranked him **second on a list of 'the 50 greatest British writers since 1945.'** A man of uncompromising intellectual honesty, Orwell pierced intellectual hypocrisy wherever he found it. He has indeed left an indelible mark of his genius and revolutionary ideas in his works as essayist, novelist, political writer & journalist.

Orwell is known for his novels and usually people are ignorant of one very important aspect of his literary career – his contribution to English language. Orwell

did commendable job in the field of language studies, literary criticism, poetry and polemical journal apart from writing at least two powerful novels, ***Nineteen Eighty Four*** and ***Animal Farm***. His writing which is marked by clarity, wit and intelligence continues to influence popular and political culture. The term 'Orwellian' descriptive of totalitarian and authoritarian social practices has entered the language together with several other words coined by him like ***cold war, double-speak, thought crime, Big Brother and thought police.***

Modern readers are more often introduced to Orwell as a novelist, particularly through his enormously successful titles like ***Animal Farm*** and ***Nineteen Eighty Four***. While the former is often thought to reflect degeneration in the Soviet Union after The Russian Revolution of 1917 and with the rise of Stalinism, the latter deals with life under totalitarian rule. ***1984*** is often compared with Huxley's ***Brave New World***, both considered as powerful dystopian novels warning of a future world where the state machine exerts complete control over social life. In the year 1984, Orwell's ***1984*** and Ray Bradbury's ***Fahrenheit 451*** were honored with the ***Prometheus Award*** for their contribution to dystopian literature. The continuing influence of ***Nineteen Eighty Four*** can be gauged from the fact that in 2011 when there was a government proposal in the US about utilizing GPS tracking of individuals without first seeking warrant, sales of ***Nineteen Eighty Four*** increased by 7000% within the first week of 2003 mass surveillance leaks. Orwell has dealt with the evils of totalitarianism not only in ***Animal Farm*** and ***1984*** but also in another novel ***Homage to Catalonia*** and numerous essays like ***Inside the Whale, Prophecies of Fascism, Literature and Totalitarianism, Wells, Hitler and the World State, Arthur Koestler, The Prevention of Literature & Politics and the English language*** etc.

One of the essays of Orwell that influenced authors all over the world is ***Politics and the English Language*** (1946) in which he wrote about the importance of precise and clear language, arguing that vague writing can be used as a powerful tool of political manipulation because it shapes the way we think. As Orwell said, "Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind." This essay is in fact a kind of moral statement about good writing. It is true that Orwell was not considering the literary use of language, but language as an instrument for expressing and not for concealing or preventing thought, as we find the politicians doing shamelessly. His point was that just

as English can become ugly and inaccurate because our thoughts are foolish, so the slovenliness of our language makes it easier for us to have foolish thoughts. Therefore, Orwell's reputation rests not only on his revolutionary ideas and political shrewdness as expressed in his novels but also his marvelously clear prose style as seen in his superb essays. No wonder, it is said that the two authors one must study to learn prose style, are Jonathan Swift and George Orwell.

In short, Orwell's writings which are still fresh and continue to influence, demand a thorough probe. His ideas assume significance also because even though we live in a world normally governed by democracies, the methods of the present day rulers are not much different when it comes to muzzling popular sentiment or any voice of dissent. This trend has been further strengthened under the neo-imperialist agenda of the so-called globalization where one is supposed to be 'either with us or with them.' In the third world, the situation is further alarming as raising any dissenting voice is declared as an act of sedition or anti-nationalism. How true was Orwell when he said, "In a time of universal deceit - telling the truth is a revolutionary act."

The proposed seminar would, therefore, provide scholars an opportunity to explore the art, mind and vision of George Orwell from fresh perspectives. The proposed seminar on such a huge scale is expected to cause a lot of excitement among the student and teaching communities as well as the intellectual circle of the state of Bihar in particular. No place would be more suitable for this intellectual exercise than Motihari, the birthplace of George Orwell. We are making sincere efforts to invite some very eminent scholars to enlighten us on the mind, art & vision of the Millennium author, George Orwell.

Broad Areas to be discussed:

The broad areas of discussion would be as follows:

- **Orwell as a novelist**
- **Orwell's thematic concerns & its relevance today**
- **Orwell's dystopian vision**
- **Orwell's Craftsmanship**
- **Study of Orwell's individual novels/essays**
- **Study of Orwell's political/journalistic writings**
- **Orwell as an essayist**
- **Orwell's prose style**
- **The Politics of Language & The Language of Politics**
- **Orwell as a journalist**
- **Orwell on Mahatma Gandhi**
- **Orwell's Review of Mahatma Gandhi's My Experiments with Truth**
- **Orwell on Imperialism/Colonialism**
- **Orwell on Communism & Totalitarianism**
- **Humanism in Orwell**
- **Orwell's Motihari connection**
- **Orwell's Biography**

Attention Participants:

Duration: The seminar will be of two days duration i.e. 24-25 September, 2016 and deliberations will be divided into four technical sessions in addition to the Inaugural & Valedictory sessions. The seminar will also have some audio-visual presentations on Orwell.

About Paper:

The complete research paper for presentation along with an abstract of the same in 250-300 words, typed on A4 size paper in Office 2003/2007/2010 should be sent to the Organizing Secretary/Convener by e-mail by 30th of August, 2016.

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(Organizing Secretary/Convener)

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Venue:

The seminar will be held at **M.S. College, Motihari**, a Postgraduate unit of B.R. Ambedkar Bihar University, Muzaffarpur. Motihari, the district Headquarter of East Champaran is well-connected with the state capital Patna and most of the cities of India by train and road. It is situated at a distance of 82 km west of Muzaffarpur and 50 km east of the Indo-Nepal border town of Raxaul. The historically important city of Motihari is associated with the great sage-poets Valmiki & Kabeer. Lord Buddha is also believed to have visited this place during his last days. The largest Buddha Stupa is located at Kesariya, 30 Kms away from Motihari and Ashoka Pillar at Lauriya, 28 Kms away from Motihari. Moreover, it is the birth place of the great British author George Orwell. Besides, Champaran is known as the Karma-Bhoomi of Mahatma Gandhi who launched his first political movement in India in 1917 known as Champaran Movement and experimented with Satyagrah & Civil Disobedience, the twin weapons of his non-violent movement for the first time from this land.

Registration:

- On spot registration
- Through NEFT: Organizing Secretary, UGC Seminar, Dept of English, M.S. College, Motihari A/C. 3164461544, Central Bank of India, M.S. College, Chandmari Branch, IFSC: CBIN02884967 (scanned image of deposit slip to be mailed)
- Through DD in favour of Organising Secretary, UGC Seminar payable at CBI, Motihari, Bihar

Registration Fee:

1. Faculty Members: Rs. 800/-
2. Research Scholars: Rs. 500/-
3. Students: Rs. 300/



Some famous books of George Orwell

Pearls of wisdom: A few Orwell Quotes

“Political chaos is connected with the decay of language one can probably bring about some improvement by starting at the verbal end.”

“One does not establish dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution; one makes a revolution in order to establish a dictatorship.”



“George Orwell is one of the UK’s best-known 20th Century authors but he’s also claimed by a town in north-eastern India. Orwell was born here (Motihari) - and his home is being turned into a museum.” (BBC)



(Orwell Memorial site at Motihari)

Registration Form

UGC sponsored National Seminar

On

The Art, Mind & Vision of George Orwell

24-25 September, 2016

P.G. Dept of English, M.S. College, Motihari

Name:

Designation:

Institution:

Mailing Address:

Email:

Cell/Tel.:

Faculty Member: Rs.800/-

Research Scholar: Rs.600/-

Student: Rs.300/-

Title of the Paper:

Name of the Author:

Name of co-author (if any):

Payment Details:

- On spot
- Through NEFT
- Through DD

(Signature)