CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Inaugural Session – a Report

The Politics of Memory and History: Beyond the Postcolonial and the Postmodern (13-15 March 2023)

The International Conference on "The Politics of Memory and History: Beyond the Postcolonial and the Postmodern" organized by the Department of English and Comparative Literature was inaugurated on 13th March 2023.

The Inaugural session commenced at 9:30 am at Sabarmathi Hall, with the welcome address given by Prof. Dr. Joseph Koyippally, the Head of the Dept. of English & Comparative Literature and the Conference Co-ordinator. He welcomed the gathering with a presention ofthe aims and prospects of the conference. The inaugural speech was deliverd by Prof. H Venkateshwarlu, the Hon. Vice-Chancellor of CU Kerala. He appreciated the Department for its overall performance in the University along with the initiatives taken by the department to conduct international conference with various dignitaries and delegates across the world.

The book titled *Houses that Only See the Firmament: An Anthology of Diasporic Short Stories*, edited by Dr. Efthikar Ahamed, Asst. Prof. of the Department, was released by the Hon. Vice-Chancellor by handing over the first copy to Prof. E V Ramakrishnan, Honorary Professor, Dept. of English & Comparative Literature, CU Kerala.

The concept note of the Conference was presented by Prof. E V Ramakrishnan. He precisely moved over the conceptualizations and the contexts of memory, its politics, and history. He concluded with the note of the concept of historiography as a potential platform for post-colonial epistemology.

The Keynote address was delivered by Prof. T. T. Sreekumar, Professor, Department of Media & Communications, EFLU, titled "Pathos and Politics of Postcolonial Abjection in

Moustache". He posited a theoretical and an empirio-theoretical approach to Hareesh's *Moustache* by placing together Ambedkar's theory of Bahiskrita with Butler's abjection.

The session came to an end with the proposal of the vote of thanks by Dr. Vellikkeel Raghavan, Associate Professor, Dept. of English & Comparative Literature, CU Kerala.