

# CONFERENCE- CUM-WORKSHOP ON WORLD LITERATURE

Organized by University of Göttingen in association with Jawaharlal Nehru University. Supported by the German Centre for Research and Innovation (DWIH)

4th & 5th  
Oct 2024  
10:00 a.m.

at **Committee Hall**  
Convention Centre, Jawaharlal  
Nehru University, New Delhi

 GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT  
GÖTTINGEN IN PUBLICA COMMODO  
SEIT 1737



  
DWIH New Delhi  
Land of Ideas

## Organizing Committee

Prof. Dr. Matthias Freise  
Dr. Mercy Vungthianmuang Guite  
Dr. Elizabeth Khawlhing Songate



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**Date:** 4th & 5th Oct 2024 **Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Venue:** Committee Hall, Convention Centre,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Within the specific functions of literature, vision and visibility play a crucial role. The Ukrainian scientist Alexander Potebnja specified the language of literature as “thinking in pictures” and verbal art as the realization of an “inner form”, opposed to the practical use of language. The potential visibility of that inner form makes vision and visibility a crucial question for the understanding of how literature produces meaning.

Therefore, the workshop will discuss aspects of the function of literature with respect to its ability 1) to make fictional reality sensually perceptible and 2) to make visual reality textually representable. The workshop will work on the criteria for visibility in literature and its consequences for teaching and mediating literature. Roundtable Discussion will be held around historic and actual theories on visibility in literature, like for example theories of ekphrasis and how visual is literary communication?

The partnership between University of Göttingen (UGOE) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) spans for over a decade now with several completed mobility projects. There is growing interests to continue this partnership by expanding the collaboration to different disciplines within this existing network. Besides the long-standing academic partnership with JNU and IISER-Pune, we strongly need the need to expand our India network especially with other institutions with lesser international collaboration opportunities. As such, we have invited the XIM University, Bhubaneswar, to take part in this joint event. Through knowledge-sharing and interaction amongst scientists and researchers on best practices, we believe that we can build an even stronger Indo-German academic cooperation. In fact, there is an ongoing plan by UGOE and IISER-P/JNU to submit the DAAD Transnational Education (TNB) application for Bachelor in World Literature. The event will be an important platform not just for scientific knowledge sharing and learning but also foster in person discussion on future project cooperation.

DAY 1 | 4th October 2024

# Workshop on “The Specific Function of Literature”

Moderator: **Dr. Mercy Vungthianmuang Guite**

Time (IST) hrs	Programme
10:00 – 10:30	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
10:30-11:00	High –Tea for all participants
11:00 – 11:15	<b>Inauguration</b> <i>Dr. Elizabeth K. Songate,</i> Country Officer, Göttingen India Office, New Delhi <i>Dr. Mercy Vungthianmuang Guite,</i> Assistant Professor, Centre of German Studies, School of Language or Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
11:15-11:30	<b>Welcome Address</b> <i>Prof. Shobha Sivasankaran,</i> Dean, School of Language or Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
11:30 – 12:15	<b>Keynote Address</b> Specific function of literature, Functional Differences between Literary Regions, Genres and Epochs <i>Prof. Matthias Freise,</i> Deputy Dean of humanities faculty and Director, Seminar for Slavic Philology, University of Göttingen
12:15- – 13:00	<b>Keynote Address</b> World Literature <i>Prof. H.S. Gill,</i> Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University
13:00 – 14:00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>

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Time (IST) hrs	Programme
14:00 – 14:45	<b>Tagore on World Literature</b> <i>Prof. Saugata Bhaduri,</i> Professor, Centre for English Studies, School of Language Literature and Cultural Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University
14:45 – 15:30	<b>Some Reflections on Literature</b> <i>Prof. Rosy Singh,</i> Professor, Centre of German Studies, School of Language Literature and Cultural Studies Jawaharlal Nehru University
15:30- 16:15	<b>Challenges and/or Consequences for Teaching Literature</b> <i>Prof. Matthias Freise,</i> Deputy Dean of humanities faculty and Director, Seminar for Slavic Philology, University of Göttingen
16:15-16:30	<b>Tea Break</b>
16:30 – 17:30	<b>Discussion and Q&amp;A Moderator</b> Dr. Mercy Vungthianmuang Guite
18:30 – 21:30	<b>Networking Dinner</b>

DAY 2 | 5th October 2024

# Workshop on “Visuality in Literature”

Moderator: **Prof. Dr. Matthias Freise**

Time (IST) hrs	Programme
10:00- 10:30	<b>Morning Tea</b>
10:30- 11:15	<b>“Promotion of Accessibility and Inclusivity through Sensual Perceptibility in Literature”?</b> <i>Dr. Sudha Mishra, Professor,</i> Department of English School of Liberal Arts XIM University
11:15 – 12:00	<b>The visualisation of sleeping, symbolizing the cultural dimension in the fairy tale topic “Sleeping Beauty”</b> <i>Dr. Katja Freise,</i> Assistant Professor and Coordinator of World Literature teaching program, University of Göttingen
12:00 – 12:45	<b>Teaching the Experience of Disease through Literature</b> <i>Dr. Pooja Sancheti,</i> Assistant Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune (IISER Pune)
12:45 – 14:00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
14:00 - 14:45	<b>Intersection of the Visual and the Verbal- a new perspective</b> <i>Dr. Mercy Vungthianmuang Guite,</i> Assistant Professor, Centre of German Studies, School of Language or Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
14:45 – 15:30	<b>Visuality in literary Communication: Visualizing Time in Märchen</b> <i>Prof. Sadhana Naithani,</i> Professor, Centre of German Studies, School of Language or Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

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Time (IST) hrs	Programme
15:30-16:00	<b>Roundtable Discussion on “how visual is literary Communication?”</b> <i>Moderator: Prof. Matthias Freise, University of Göttingen</i>
Panelist:	<i>Prof. H.S. Gill,</i> Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi <i>Prof. Dr. Sudha Mishra,</i> XIM University, Harirajpur, Odisha, <i>Prof. Sadhana Naithani,</i> Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi <i>Prof. Saugata Bhaduri,</i> Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi <i>Prof. Rosy Singh,</i> Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
16:00-16:30	<b>Tea Break</b>
16:30-17:15	<b>Roundtable Discussion on Studying Literature: Opportunities for Master, Phd and Post- Docs</b> <i>Prof. Matthias Freise,</i> University of Göttingen (Coordinator) <i>Dr. Mercy Vunghthianmuang Guite,</i> Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (Coordinator) <i>Prof. Dr. Sudha Mishra,</i> XIM University, Harirajpur, Odisha <i>Dr. Katja Freise,</i> University of Göttingen <i>Prof. Sadhana Naithani,</i> Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi <i>Prof. Saugata Bhaduri,</i> Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi <i>Prof. H.S. Gill,</i> Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi <i>Prof. Rosy Singh,</i> Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi <i>Dr. Pooja Sancheti,</i> IISER Pune
17:15 – 17:30	<b>Vote of Thanks &amp; Wrap Up</b> <i>Dr. Elizabeth Songate,</i> Göttingen India Office



**Organising Committee:**

Prof. Dr. Matthias Freise  
Dr. Mercy Vungthianmuang Guite  
Dr. Elizabeth Khawlhing Songate

**Research Scholar Volunteers:**

Vishant Vikas Sinha  
Subrata Sarkar  
Ujjwal Son Besra  
Harshada Anand  
Sharath K Velmala  
Twinkle N Singson

**Student Volunteers**

Tanweer  
Salman Ansari  
Abhijeet Bhardwaj  
Gunjan Joshi  
Dev Tamrakar  
Toshi Jha  
Divyanshu Kashyap

**Target Audience**

Academicians, researchers, students  
(Bachelor, Masters and PhD)

**Event Type**

Workshop

# Speakers' profile



## Matthias Freise

Matthias Freise, board member at the department for comparative studies, and has been deputy dean of humanities faculty 2026-2018. He is also the director of Seminar for Slavic Philology, University of Göttingen. Born in Hannover in 1957, Matthias Freise completed a M.A. in Slavic Studies (Russian, Polish, Czech, Bulgarian) and philosophy (main interests: Kant, Hegel, Husserl, and Heidegger) at the University of Hamburg in 1982. He then went on to complete a PhD on Bakhtin's philosophical aesthetics and a second book on Chekhov's prose. He was a visiting researcher at Torun University in Poland and later at the Moscow State University, before becoming assistant professor at Oldenburg University, and then the research group head at East Central European Humanities Centre in Leipzig, and, following that, a full professor Salzburg university. He has been at the University of Göttingen since 2003 where his focus is on Slavic literatures. His research interests include Czeslaw Milosz, Bakhtin, 19th century Russian literature, literary history, narratology, comparative literature. He has published in German, English, Russian, Polish, Croatian, and Czech. Freise is a board member at the department for comparative studies, and is the deputy dean of humanities faculty. He has also been a visiting professor in Krakow, St. Petersburg, Voronezh, and Shanghai. Freise is a member of the Karl Lamprecht Gesellschaft für Universalgeschichte. In Göttingen, he is implementing a new program on World literature.



## Mercy Vungthianmuang Guite

Mercy V. Guite is an assistant professor at the Centre of German Studies, School of Languages, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Dr. Mercy has been awarded the Wuppertal Scholarship for her Doctorate (2014), the DLA-Marbach scholarship for the 5th International summer school in Marbach, Germany (2011), and the DAAD scholarship – A New passage to India at the University of Konstanz, Germany (2009-2010). Since 2018, she is the co-coordinator of the Konstanz-JNU (Baden-Wuerttemberg) Scholarship. One of her recent projects examines German 'Intercultural' literature (post-war to present day) and is currently working on the Intersection of the verbal and the visual arts in German Literature from the 18th-20th Century. She has translated several Paite folktales into English and has contributed much to the academic development of the literature of the Paite community. Her research interests include literature, language, art history, and culture studies.





## Katja Freise

Katja Freise is Assistant Professor at Göttingen University and coordinator of Göttingen University's World Literature teaching program, which incorporates 16 departments in the Faculty of Humanities. She specializes on film analysis, psychopoetic fairy tale analysis, comparative literature, and cultural theory. She has been a member of the Postavantgarde Research Group at the Humanities Center of East European Cultures in Leipzig and has contributed to Kindler's Encyclopedia of World Literature. She is teaching at Göttingen University since 2005, and since 2019 in its World Literature program. She has published a monograph on Anton Chekhov's plays, on Polish and Russian cinema, Metapoetics, European Avant-Garde, and on Fairy Tale analysis.



## Sudha Mishra

Dr. Mishra is a Professor in the Department of English, School of Liberal Arts at XIM University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India. She is an MA, M. Ed. and Ph. D. in English. She is a passionate Teacher and Soft Skills Trainer with keen interest in Applied Linguistics and Didactics. She has taught different streams at postgraduate, undergraduate and school levels for more than 20 years. She has published research papers and articles in the areas of linguistics, didactics and English literature, and has delivered keynote addresses, chaired sessions, and presented papers in international and national symposiums, seminars and conferences. A recipient of several prestigious awards and honours, Dr, Mishra is a member of ELTAI, IATEFL, TESOL, CLAI, ISCS. She is a Reviewer and Editor of several International Journals and has also edited a book on Reforms in Teaching.



## Pooja Sancheti

Pooja Sancheti, Assistant Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune (IISER Pune). She specializes in Postcolonial literature, South Asian literature, postmodernist fiction, literary theory, magical realism. Pooja Sancheti has been working at IISER Pune since 2014 (2014-2020: Visiting Faculty; 2020-present: Assistant Professor) in the Humanities and Social Sciences Department. Pooja obtained her PhD in English Literature from EFLU (English and Foreign Languages University; formerly CIEFL) Hyderabad. She was a Fulbright FLTA at Stanford University from 2010-2011. At IISER Pune, she teaches courses in (English) Literature and Theory and English Language. She is involved in some interdisciplinary projects that tie the humanities with the natural sciences. Pooja's research interests in literary studies include postmodernism, magical realism, and South Asian Anglophone Literature. She is keenly interested in understanding the transition from postcolonial to transnational in contemporary South Asian Anglophone fiction, in women's writing from this region, and in attendant issues of borders, identities, language, and conflict. Her research relies on both literary texts and critical theory. She is also an Hindi/English literary translator.



## Saugata Bhahduri

Saugata Bhahduri is Professor at the Centre for English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. He has also served as Visiting Professor at many universities and colleges in Europe, UK, and the USA, and has been recipient of several international research grants and awards. His areas of research interest include literary and cultural theory, popular culture, translation and comparative literature studies, and the cultural history of colonial Bengal. His latest books are *Polycoloniality: European Transactions with Bengal from the 13th to the 19th Century* (Bloomsbury 2020) and the forthcoming *A Critical History of Bengali Literature* (Orient Blackswan). His earlier books include *Transcultural Negotiations of Gender: Studies in (Be)Longing* (Springer 2015), *Literary Theory: An Introductory Reader* (Anthem 2010), *Perspectives on Comparative Literature and Culture in the Age of Globalization* (Anthem 2010), *Negotiating Glocalization* (Anthem 2008), and *Translating Power* (Katha 2008).



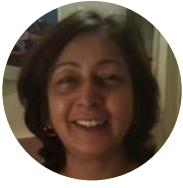
## Rosy Singh

Rosy Singh is Professor of German literature at Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. Her research interests include semiotic studies, arts and literature and translation studies. She has worked extensively on Franz Kafka, Rainer Maria Rilke, Thomas Mann and Peter Handke and in the South-Asian context on Shah Hussain and Manto. She is the author of *Rilke, Kafka, Manto: Semiotics of Love, Life and Death* (2001), *Tagore, Rilke Gibran. A Comparative Study* (2002), *Autobiography: Fact and Fiction* (ed.) (2009), *Franz Kafka and Literary Criticism: "The Metamorphosis" and "The Burrow"* (2010) and *Essays on Contemporary German Literature* (2017). Her latest book is *Aesthetics across Cultures. Intertextuality, Intermediality and Interculturality* (ed.) (Routledge, 2024)



## H.S. Gill

H.S. Gill is among the first generation linguists of India. Professor Gill was one of the youngest professors to head the Department of Anthropological Linguistics, Punjab University, Patiala way back in 1968. In 1984 he was invited to join the Centre of Linguistics and English, Jawaharlal Nehru University as Professor of Linguistics. He was the first Indian scholar to be invited to contribute to Encyclopedia Britannica's Encyclopedia of Semiotics. Gill is known for his translations from French, English, and Punjabi. His translation of *Japuji of Guru Nanak and Jāp Sahib of Guru Gobind Singh* into English (1993) is a noted translation. Gill spent his formative years (1963-1968) studying linguistics and semiotics at the Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in Paris under the tutelage of the well-known French linguist Andre Martinet. During that period, Gill interacted with some of the great modern-day thinkers of the time, such as Jean-Paul Sartre, Michel Foucault, and Claude Levi-Strauss. Gill returned to Punjab in 1968 as a Professor of Linguistics at Patiala University and started the department of Anthropological Linguistics there, one of the first of its kind in South Asia. In 1984 he moved to New Delhi to take up the post of Professor of Linguistics at Jawaharlal Nehru University. From 2000-2003 he was also a fellow at the Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla. Gill continued his close engagement with the French academy, taking up visiting professor roles at the Maison de L'Homme and the College de France.



## Sadhana Naithani

Sadhana Naithani is a professor of German literature and cultural anthropology at the Centre of German Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She is also the Coordinator of Folklore Program at the same institution. She is president of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research and Fellow of the American Folklore Society. Currently she is a Fulbright Visiting Professor (AY 2022-23) teaching at the Department of Anthropology/Folklore, U C Berkeley, and researching narratives about wild life created under contexts of colonialism, conservation movements and scientific discoveries. Sadhana Naithani's inter-disciplinary work has traversed international folklore and folkloristics. She has studied the history of folkloristic since the nineteenth century in Europe, India and the United States in the contexts of nationalism, colonialism, socialism and postcolonial paradigms. Challenging eurocentrism in folkloristic in the study of folklore collections compiled by British colonial rulers, she brought forth the role of native scholars in the making of those works.



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