The Department of English Studies,
Central University of Tamil Nadu,
organises

Shakespeare and Masculinities
A Two-Day National Seminar
on February 27-28, 2020
Concept Note

In an age when gender has become a subject of constant academic and cultural debate and scrutiny, it is pertinent to look at the ways in which literature, and especially drama, has been instrumental in creating gendered identities for characters that establish as well as test the norms of individual and social conduct. In this context, a critical examination of Shakespeare’s works is particularly rewarding, as they offer us a wide range of subjects whose ‘performance’ of their roles as men and women not only implicates them in the discursive and ideological structures of power specific to the Renaissance, but also suggests ways of ‘deconstructing’ the meaning(s) of gender(s) in ways that make them relevant to a modern audience. While it is a critical commonplace to say that Shakespeare created great heroes for his tragedies and great heroines for his comedies, it is perhaps more fruitful to go beyond such generic classification and look into the recurrent themes that Shakespeare explores through his portrayal of gendered subjects.

The seminar proposes to focus on various aspects of masculinity in Shakespeare’s dramatic and poetic works and aims to generate critical engagement with the representational category of gender both as a determinant of individual and social identity and as a dynamic means of pushing the limits of those identities.

Given below is an indicative (though by no means exhaustive) list of themes that interested participants may consider for sending in proposals.

- Paternity, authority and family
- Violence, heroism and masculinity
- Masculinity, deformity and corruption
- Masculinity, class and subversion
- Masculinity, power and kingship
- Masculinity, friendship and rivalry
- Masculinity, sexuality and romance
- Cross-dressing, performance and masculinity
- Shakespeare’s men on stage and screen

Send your abstracts to cutn.seminar2020@gmail.com on or before January 15, 2020

Deadline for full papers applicable only for those who wish to submit their papers for the Best Paper Award. Papers that are not submitted by 15th February will not be considered for the award.

The registration fee, payable upon acceptance of the submitted abstract, is Rs.500 for student participants and Rs.1000 for faculty.
The Department of English Studies, the first among the departments to be instituted at the Central University of Tamil Nadu in 2009, started its journey with the introduction of the M.A. English programme. From a modest beginning with just 2 teachers and 8 students, the Department has evolved significantly over the following decade and now offers post-graduate (M.A.) as well as full-time research programmes (M.Phil. and Ph.D.) in English. The Department extends academic support to other departments by offering general language courses to students enrolled for Integrated M.Sc. /MA and B.Ed. programmes in various subjects. Besides, the Department offers a certificate course in French language.

How to reach the Central University of Tamil Nadu:
By air:
The nearest airport to university is Trichy which is roughly 100 kilometers away. Upon reaching the airport, hire either a taxi to CUTN or get on a bus to Thiruvarur.
By train:
There are frequent trains from Chennai Egmore to Thiruvarur railway station as well as from Trichy to Thiruvarur. From the station, the nearest bus stop is 2 minutes away by foot. Auto-rickshaws are also easily available from the railway station. The campus is approximately 10 kilometers away.
By bus:
From the railway station, board one of the many buses plying between Thiruvarur and Mayiladudhurai. Get down at Kangalancheri and hail an auto to the university campus.

Contact us: cutn.seminar2020@gmail.com
This event is conducted by The Department of English Studies, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvarur.

Organising Secretaries
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Dr. Punnya Rajendran
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