

Department of English, DAV University, Jalandhar: Report (2016-17)
Coordinator/Head of the Department: Dr. Nakul Kundra

1. PGCTE Contact Programme at EFLU, Hyderabad

Dr. Nakul Kundra, Assistant Professor, attended PGCTE Contact Programme at English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad in June –July 2016. This was a four-week programme focusing on seven courses. Six of these were in the following areas: Phonetics, Grammar, Linguistics, Literature, Methods of Teaching English and Materials for the Teaching of English. The seventh course was Practice Teaching.



Dr. Kundra during a practice session of skill-based teaching

2. Faculty Development Programme

Ms. Nivedita and Dr. Nakul Kundra, Assistant Professors, attended a weeklong Faculty Development Programme (FDP) (26-30 July 2016) on “Research Methodology & Tools for Data Analysis” at DAV University, Jalandhar. This programme was organized with an aim to acquaint the teachers with various research tools used in statistical analysis and hypothesis verification.



DAV UNIVERSITY JALANDHAR



Faculty Development Programme On "Research Methodology & Tools For Data Analysis" (26-30 July, 2016)

3. The Tribune Published an Interview with Prof. Mohineet Kaur Boparai

The Tribune published an interview with Ms. Mohineet, Assistant Professor, on 5 Sept. 2016. Notably, Ms. Boparai is a budding international poet. Her research interests include subalternity, agency, postcolonial studies, and poetry. She has presented several papers in national and international conferences. She was nominated for the important Pushcart Prize twice for her poetry (in 2014 and 2015). She has published 4 books of poetry. Her poetry has been published in international and national journals of repute. Her interview, "India's Rising Star" was published by Zymbol Magazine, USA.

Limited poetry readership a big issue, believes English poet Mohineet Kaur Boparai

CITY LIGHTS



MOHINEET KAUR BOPARAI
Research scholar

When did you start feeling that you should start writing poetry professionally?
My husband has a very key role to play in making me a poet. I started writing poetry largely at the same time when I met him for the first time in 2007. That was when I took up writing poetry more professionally. Sometimes, he gives me certain ideas about what to write. Though he is not a poet, his sense of observing life has also helped me in evolving as a poet. I got married to him in 2012.

When did you get your first book published?
It was published in 2007 with the title "Poems That Never Were". That was largely an experimental work. I wrote that poetry when I was pursuing my last year in BA. I wasn't really mature as a person and a mature poet at that time. Every poetry has different forms of voice. Very unstable voices are found in my first book. However, I found my individual voice when I wrote my second and third books. To find your individual voice, you have to first read a lot. In the beginning, you copy other authors' voice. Gradually, you find your way of writing, way to see things and your way of putting them into expression.

Which sphere of life does your poetry express the most?
My best poems are love poems. That is what I feel and that is what my readers feel. Even my love poems are philosophical. I always try to make some meaning of what life is all about. When you make meaning of life, you obviously try to philosophise about it. There aren't really rebellious poems I have written.

What inspired you to express your innermost feelings through poetry only instead of other mediums of storytelling?
I think there are different ways of observing the world and every writing basically comes from some sort of the need to understand. How it operates? What are the processes that go onto make life? So to understand these processes, there are so many different kinds of mediums and subjects. I am basically a student of literature. I have some idea about which is the best way to express which kind of knowledge. In prose, you have to go by a plot and you reach that knowledge through that plot and narration. But I am basically an observer. When I write, I first observe something and if there is something amiss in my observation, something incomplete, I embark on writing a poem. For me, it becomes complete through poetry and not through prose.

Did you face any kind of hurdles initially to pursue your hobby and then profession as a poet?
Everyone was just after me to opt for medical field when I was in class 10. I got very good marks in 10th, yet I opted for arts. I felt this is what I like doing. People need to understand that whatever you are best at, you should do that. Basically that was first difficulty that I found. Then other difficulty is very few people read poetry. There are people who read prose and novels. But very few people read poetry. The poetry most of the people like is simple poetry, whereas my poetry, you'll find, is a little complex. Limited readership has always been a big issue.

Have your parents been supportive?
They introduced me to a lot of books in my early life like fairy tales, Arabian Nights and bed-time stories of different genres. They bombarded me with a variety of books. During my summer vacation, I would have a pile of books that actually helped me a lot in becoming what I am today. They have been a very great inspiration in my life. Both my parents are geography professors in Patiala which basically helped me as a poet as I was exposed to the subject at a very early age and there are so many geographical images you will find in my poetry. My poetry is full of geography and biology. I started liking that subject. You might find images of pinnacle or eroded mountains.

Is there any new poetry project in the pipeline?
I am writing another poetry book that has multi-coloured observations. I am trying to find what a tree means actually. When I see a tree standing there, what does it mean to me and to world? When you observe the cycle of life growing from a baby to teenager to adult to old persons, how does that process go on? These sorts of observations will be taken in the next book as I am basically a poet of perception.

Is there any particular poet you followed in your life?
I have got influenced by many poets. The very first poet to impress me was Polish poet Wislawa Szymborska, then Austrian poet George Trakl, Pablo Neruda, John Donne and Keats.

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/.../limited-poetry-re.../290469.html>

4. Skit Competition at KMV College, Jalandhar

The students of the Department of English won 3rd prize in a skit competition in Litmania-16, organised by KMV College, Jalandhar on 10 September 2016. Their skit was based on Anton Chehov's story "Joy". The host college appreciated the students' zeal and motivation.

5. Seminar on Career Counselling and Guidance at Police DAV Public School, Jalandhar

Dr. Nakul Kundra, Assistant Professor, along with Er. Naveen Bilandi and Er. Vikramjit Singh conducted a seminar on "Career Counselling and Guidance" at Police DAV Public School, Jalandhar.

6. Seminar on Career Counselling and Guidance at DAV BRS Nagar, Ludhiana

Choosing a career that suits one's abilities is a daunting task for students of class 12th these days, as plenty of options are available at hand but children do not have sufficient knowledge about the same. Keeping this in mind, DAV BRS Nagar, Ludhiana organised a One-Day Seminar on Career Counselling and Guidance in collaboration with DAV University, Jalandhar.

The resource persons for the seminar were Dr. Nakul Kundra (Assistant Professor, English Dept.), Dr. M.P. Garg (Associate Professor, Mechanical Dept.), and Dr. Ashutosh (Assistant Professor, CBM). The seminar was attended by around 500 students of DAV BRS Nagar, DAV School Pakhowal Road, Tagore Public School and Malwa Khalsa Sr. Sec. School.



Dr. Kundra during an interaction with the students

7. Interactive Session/Invited Talk at Panjab University Regional Centre, Hoshiarpur

Dr. Nakul Kundra was invited for an interactive session/invited talk on “Key Concepts in Business and Technical Communication” and “Oral Communication Skills to Land a Dream Job” at Swami Sarvanand Giri Panjab University Regional Centre, Hoshiarpur on

24 October 2016. Dr Harminder Singh Bains, Director and Professor, Panjab University SSG Regional Centre, Hoshiarpur thanked Dr. Kundra for accepting the invitation and motivating the scholars.



Dr. Nakul Kundra during an interaction with the students of Panjab University Regional Centre, Hoshiarpur



Nakul Kundra being honoured by the faculty members of Panjab University Regional Centre, Hoshiarpur

Dr.

8. Students Shine in Spectrum 3.0

Ankita Rana and Jaspreet Singh, students of B.A. (Hons.) English- Ist Semester, won competitions of modeling and singing respectively in Spectrum 3.0.

Ankita Rana was declared Miss Spectrum 3.0.

9. Educational Visit at NITTTR, Chandigarh

To get hands-on experience of the various technical devices employed in cinematic production, a group of fifty students from the Department of English, DAV University, Jalandhar visited NITTTR, Chandigarh on 8th February 2017.

At NITTTR, the students understood the recording process and its accompanying paraphernalia closely. The studio facility at the institute is quite advanced and up to date, richly equipped with modern cameras, acoustics, and lighting structure. Since an educational lecture was being recorded live, the students got an opportunity to learn some practical nuances.

The students also got to know about several short- and long-term workshops and diploma programmes on script writing, operating camera, film direction, etc. that are offered by the Institute. Many students were inclined to take up some of these during their summer vacation.

Above all, the students became familiar with the emerging trends in cinematic and literary studies. During the trip, the students were guided and supervised by Dr. Nakul Kundra and Dr. Kapil.



A group photo of the participants during the visit

10. Film Making Project of the English Department

To use the knowledge gained at NITTTR, Chandigarh practically and effectively, the Department of English, DAV University, Jalandhar has made a movie based on Dr. Kapil's short story "Professor Relativist". This production is an enriching experience for the students of B.A. (Hons.) English-6th Semester, who are studying a paper titled "Cinema and Literature".

One pertinent question about adaptation is not the degree to which a film is faithful to its literary reference but the possibilities offered by cinema to treat a literary work. The visual dimension of literature has simply ignited the student's imagination. It has, to a remarkable degree, revived interest in and love for literature in them. It is hoped that the film will benefit the students both academically, artistically, and creatively.

On the first day of shooting, Dr. Nakul Kundra, Coordinator, English Department, congratulated Dr. Kapil for taking the initiative. He encouraged the students, without whose participation the project would not have seen the light of day. Dr. Kapil expressed special thanks to our worthy Vice Chancellor Dr. A. K. Paul and Dean (Academics) Dr. Naresh Sahajpal for their support.



A Still of Aman Rana, a student of B.A. (Hons) English- 3rd year, acting as a professor



Dr. Kapil at a movie shoot

11. Faculty Honoured by Alma Mater

Sh. Digvijay and Dr. Nakul Kundra were invited to attend the alumni meet that was organized by the Dept of English, Doaba College, Jalandhar on 23 February, 2017. Both the faculty members shared their memories of the days spent in the college and interacted with the young scholars of the Department of English. Dr. Vineet Mehta said that the college was proud of Dr. Nakul and Sh. Digvijay, who are working with an esteemed university. Both the faculty members were honoured by the department.

Dr. Nakul Kundra completed his B.A. (Hons. School in English) from the Department of English, Doaba College in 2006. He stood first in the University. Sh. Digvijay did his M.A. in English from the same department in 2001.



Dr. Kundra being honoured by Doaba College

**12. Invited as a Resource Person at D. D Jain Memorial College for Women, Ludhiana
16 Feb. 2017**

D. D Jain Memorial College for Women, Ludhiana invited Dr. Nakul Kundra as a Resource Person for a National Seminar on “Art Under Scanner: Challenges to Artistic Expression” on 16 February 2017. Dr. Kundra delivered a lecture on the seminar topic and chaired a technical session.

Dr. Sarita Bahl, Principal of the college, expressed her gratitude to Mr. Kundra. She said about Mr. Kundra’s inputs in an interaction, “We feel privileged that someone of your professional expertise and credentials became a part of our seminar. It was an honour for all of us to be able to be enlightened by your ideas.”



Dr. Kundra during his lecture on “Challenges to Artistic Expression”

13. Prof. Mohineet Kaur Published Poems

Ms. Mohineet Kaur Boparai published “Epitaph” in an anthology titled *A Successful Completion* and “Mother” in *All We Can Hold* in 2016. Her another poem “Unearthing” was published in *The Pantheon Magazine* in 2017.

14. Aman Rana Brings Laurels to the Department.

Aman Rana, a student of B.A. (Hons.) English, actively participated in sports events throughout the session and came off with flying colours. He stood 1st in long jump, 1st in triple jump, 2nd in 200mt race, 1st in relay race, and 1st in volleyball in the different events organized by the University.



15.The Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Hans Raj Ji

Mr. Digvijay, Assistant Professor, along with a team of the University teaching and non-teaching staff participated in the Samarpan Divas, which was organized to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Hans Raj Ji at D.A.V. Centenary Public School, Jaipur on 22nd of April, 2017.

16.Literary Week -17

The Department of English organised “Literary Week 2017”, a weeklong festival, from 1st May 2017 to 5th May 2017. Marked by enthusiasm and exuberance, the literary week was named “**Carpe Diem**” which means '*seize the moment*'.

The week, coordinated by Dr. Nakul Kundra and Ms. Mohineet, aimed to promote writing and reading with a focus on storytelling, poetry and self-development. To unleash the hidden talent of our students, many competitions, viz. Creative Writing (Short Story), Debate, Poetry Recitation, Declamation, Literary Quiz, Spell Bee, One Word Oratory, and Photography, were organised.

On the first day, Dr. Kapil's short-movie "Professor Relativist" was released and screened in the Conference Hall of the University. The movie was a cynosure of all eyes. Each following day, two events were conducted. The week was concluded by screening some popular short movies.

The response of the participants was overwhelming. Around one hundred and forty students took part in different competitions. The following is the list of winners in the events:-

1. **Creative Writing:-**

- 1st Jaskiran Kaur, BA (Hons.) English
- 2nd Hemant Kashyap, BSc (Hons.) Physics
- 3rd Supan, BSc (Hons.) Chemistry & Riya Dadhwal, BA (Hons.) English

2. **Poetry Recitation:-**

- 1st Mehak, B.Tech (CSE)
- 2nd Abishai Godwin Andrew, B.Tech (Civil)
- 3rd Suveta, MSc & Md. Sadik, BA (Hons.) English

3. **Debate:-**

- 1st Bhuvan Ningania, B.Tech (EE)
- 2nd Japnam Singh, BSc (Agriculture)
- 3rd Gurprit Singh, B.Tech (CSE) & Jaskiran Kaur, BA (Hons.) English

4. **Declamation:-**

- 1st Bhuvan Ningania, B.Tech (EE)
- 2nd Ankur Srivastava, BSc. (Biotech)
- 3rd Jaiveer Singh, B.Tech (CSE)

5. **Literary Quiz:-**

- 1st -Team Firestones
 - Surabhi, B.Tech (CSE)
 - Tanya Mahajan, BSc (Eco.)
 - Anubhav, B.Tech (CSE)
- 2nd -Team Dead Poets

Hanu, BSc (Chemistry)
Tarun, BSc (Physics)
Hemant, BSc (Physics)

6. **One Word Oratory:-**

1st Japnam Singh, BSc (Agriculture)
2nd Supan, BSc (Chemistry)
3rd Tarun Sethi, BSc (Physics)

7. **Spell Bee:-**

1st Jaskiran Kaur, BA (Hons.) English
2nd Vivek Dogra, B.Tech (Chemical)
3rd Suchita, BA (Hons.) English & Muskaan, B.Tech (CSE)

8. **Photography:-**

1st Nikhil Khurana, BSc (Physics)
2nd Siddharth, BA (Hons.) English
3rd Anshul, BCA

The teacher coordinators thanked Abhishek Bhau (Student Coordinator), Gurkirpal & Siddharth (Student Co-coordinators) and the volunteers for their sustained efforts to make the festival a grand success. They also expressed their gratitude to Dr. A.K. Paul, Vice Chancellor, and Dr. Jasbir Rishi, Dean (DSW), for their consistent support and encouragement to organise such activities.



Prof. Dr. A.K. Paul, worthy Vice Chancellor, awarding a Certificate of Appreciation to a student participant during the prize distribution function

17.Prize Distribution Function-cum- Farewell Party

The Department of English organized Prize Distribution Function-cum- Farewell Party on 22 May 2017 to honour the winners of Literary Week-17 and to bid adieu to the outgoing batches of B.A. (Hons.) English and M.A. (Hons.) English.

The venue reverberated with the students' enthusiasm and gusto. The programme commenced with a welcome speech, delivered by Dr. Nakul Kundra (Coordinator). He wished the students good luck and said the students should make their parents as well as alma mater proud by attaining success in whatever they do. The speech was followed by the prize distribution ceremony, after which the juniors literally rocked the stage with some amazing performances amid a lot of cheering and screaming from the audience.

The Miss Farewell award went to Gurleen Kaur and Mr Farewell award to Aman Rana, whereas Miss Priya was declared Miss English Department-2017. Dr. Kapil, Ms. Nivedita, Mr. Digvijay, Ms. Mohineet, Dr. Gurpreet, Ms. Namita, and Ms. Protima organized fun games for the students. All the arrangements for the party were made under the supervision of Dr. Kapil.

The event was graced by Dr. A. K. Paul (Vice Chancellor) and Dr. Jasbir Rishi (DSW), who blessed the students and wished them luck for their all future endeavours. The Vice Chancellor congratulated all the winners of Literary Week-17 and said, "A festival like Literary Week celebrates and nurtures the creative talents of students, providing a platform for the budding artists to colour their thoughts and imaginations".



Mr. and Miss. Farewell-17 posing with a student



Dance Party