

Abstract:

The central concern of the presentation is to decipher the relevance of comparative literature in the context of an inquiry within the parameters of liberal arts. Apart from an attempt to define 'comparative literature' by highlighting the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary dimensions, the presentation aims to unravel certain theoretical postulates that become relevant for inquiries within comparative literature. Some of the important concerns of the presentation would be – how could one go about comparing the literatures, and literatures with other branches of investigation under the rubric liberal arts? What are the grounds for comparison for a research inquiry in comparative studies? And what are the important areas of research in comparative studies that have acquired global significance? An attempt would be undertaken to highlight the major characteristics features of various schools of comparative literatures such as the French, the American and the Russian Schools of Comparison. The presentation seeks to bring in certain approaches within comparative studies such as genology, morphology, historiology and thematology, and deliberates upon their relevance and significance. The presentation also alerts us towards the necessity of incorporating comparative studies in the context of research and pedagogical curriculum within Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Speaker's Short Bio-Note:

*Dr Amith Kumar P. V. is Associate Professor in the Department of Comparative Literature and India Studies at the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India. He spent time as a Fulbright Visiting Fellow at Portland State University, Oregon, USA, from August 2007 to June 2008, and DAAD Visiting Fellow at Technical University, Dresden, Germany from April 2015 to July 2015. He has published numerous research articles in various international journals mainly on Mikhail Bakhtin's dialogic principles, with a focus on their extension and appropriation in the context of 'Indian literatures'. His book titled *Bakhtin and Translation Studies: Theoretical Extensions and Connotations* [2015] has received much critical acclaim among the scholars in the field of Translation Studies and Modern Literary Theories. He has presented papers at international conferences held in countries such as Denmark, Finland, Greece, the USA, the UK and Germany, and has delivered several key-note addresses at national conferences in India. His areas of research specialization include Bakhtin studies, comparative literary studies, translation studies and disability studies. He is currently the principal director of the Indian Council for Social Sciences Research [ICSSR]-sponsored special project on Disability Studies in India.*