

From the Editorial Desk

Literature is an ever coalescing dynamic force which reflects the cultural values and ethos of the times that we live in. The CFP for the current issue of Fortell set out on a quest to capture the reconfigurations in the contemporary literary field at the close of the first quarter of the twenty-first century. While there are new approaches to examine canonical texts, the scope and concerns of literature have immensely broadened to map more marginalities through nuanced intersectionalities. Besides, an overarching planetary concern compels the literary imagination to devise newer forms of expressions. The selections in the current issue of Fortell are an ambitious attempt to examine the crisscrossing of emerging themes and issues with transformations in articulations which have increasingly become intermedial and digital.

The very first article, 'Beyond the Postcolonial Capitalocene...' leads the discussion on climate crisis and what Prof Pramod Nayar refers to as "ecopracity", by familiarising us with the theoretical approaches and widening diction of Environmental Humanities. Taking this thread further, Abinaya R and Angkayarkan Vinayakaservi's article on *Water Stories* explores the nature and scope of water literacy in the larger context of the eco-literacy discourse. The article on *When Fairyland Lost Its Magic* explores the ironic Indianized retelling of classic children's fairytales by B Vachharajani, who juxtaposes the comforting familiarity of fairytales with dystopian settings to articulate the narrative of anthropogenic climate change.

"Narrative Medicine Meets Fiction..." brings together emotional labour theory and feminist care ethics through its close reading of the novel, *Me Before You*, drawing also upon the intersectionalities of gender, disability and morality. The article, "Reimagining Humanity in Ruins: A Posthumanist Analysis of Select Post-Apocalyptic Fiction" looks at the envisioning of the post apocalyptic narrative genre and the "trans-formed" human species (transhumans and cyborgs) that inhabit the post-apocalyptic space.

Situated at the intersection of disability, marginality, sexuality and gender, Shilpa Gupta's article examines disability and desire in life narratives where the disabled individual is clearly not a vulnerable passive object, but an active, desiring sexual subject claiming agency for themselves. The article on Elif Shafak's memoir *Black Milk*, while noting the challenges of motherhood and career for women, demonstrates the blurring of boundaries between genres—how life narratives have given way for fictionalized memoirs on one hand and memoir-based novels on the other. The article, "Integrating Feminist Digital Narratives of Travel into Literature Pedagogy" delves into the complex intersectionalities of travel writing, digital media and women, including those with disabilities, at the helm of several travel blogs.

Vibhiti Wadhawan's article discusses two of Rukmini Bhaya Nair's poems where through the use of counterfactuality and feminine mythopoesis, the poet deconstructs both language/logos and myths to critique male subjectivity disguised as the positivist objective approach, simultaneously highlighting the erasure of women's voices. The next article on Girish Karnad's classic play, *Hayavadana*, seeks to examine the play from a post-dualistic point of view, factoring in post-humanist and post-anthropocentric theoretical approaches.

Ruchi Nagpal in "Maneuvering Metamodernism: An Oscillating Culture" explores the seemingly implausible success of the *Barbenheimer* phenomenon in terms of the framing discourse of metamodernism, which acknowledges and engages with both modernism and post modernism positions with a degree of earnest playfulness. P. Muralidhar Sharma's article argues that incorporating popular literature in undergraduate courses radically revolutionizes prevalent pedagogic practices, thus creating the need for a new, student-centric learning environment. Sanmit S. Sarkar's educative article demonstrates the role and function of assistive AI in pedagogical settings, its limitations and possibilities, and how it can be best harnessed. The essay section closes with a remarkable article which registers post-colonial marginality. P. F. John Bosco's article aims to shift focus from post/colonial discourses of the northeast as borderland by highlighting the subaltern's assertion of subject positions through a literary analysis of Siddhartha Deb's novel *Surface (An Outline of a Republic)*.

The highlight of this volume of Fortell is an Interview with Prof Pramod K. Nayar who is one of the leading voices in Eco-critical Studies, Vulnerability Studies, Postcolonial Studies and several other emerging areas of concern in contemporary literature. Our book review section also reflects the thematic concerns in the volume.

We do hope that the current volume of Fortell would equip scholars and academics engaged in research and teaching in the emerging areas of literary concern, which the editors have attempted to collate.

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