

## **KERALA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL**

### **Workshop on “Epistemological Shifts and Research in Humanities”**

**(11—17 February, 2018)**

Venue: KSHEC, Trivandrum

#### **Objective & Relevance**

This workshop on paradigm shifts in research in Humanities (Language and Literature disciplines) is meant for the regular teachers of Humanities disciplines, with not more than 12 years’ service, in the Universities and Govt./Aided colleges in the state. It may be carefully noted that the workshop aims not so much to deliberate on the various theoretical schools in contemporary theory as to explore the epistemic and hermeneutical shifts that infuse the philosophical foundations and perspectives of critical theory in general and contingent trajectories in particular. It is also aimed at improving the quality and social responsibility of research and knowledge production in higher education.

This is the first of a series of workshops in Humanities which KSHEC is planning to conduct in future. The purpose of this 7 days’ workshop is to produce a vibrant and theoretically informed group of teachers who can function as resources in their respective regions. Further, their equipped status may be a great resource for Universities while curriculum revisions are carried out.

#### **A Brief Thematic Introduction**

Methods and means of enquiries in Humanities have undergone significant transformation in the last fifty years. The period is also marked by an explosion of theoretical turns in literary studies. The fall of the work of art from its esteemed position of being a ‘creation’ of the creative genius to the status of ‘text’ and ‘textuality’ raising questions of representation, ideology and discourse has not only challenged the established epistemological foundations and hermeneutic trajectories of reading and research, but has also ruptured the boundaries of literary disciplines, giving way to interdisciplinarity itself as a platform for interpretation and enquiry. The theoretical turn in literary studies vehemently interrogated and challenged the politics and nature of knowledge production in Humanities by critiquing universality, truth, meaning, fetishism of identity, power centres of production of knowledge,

construction of subjectivities in historical/and literary narratives, and so on. Though these theoretical turns adopted varied forms and strategies, a common factor is that they are not only academic tools but are highly polemical, resistant and subversive with serious political, cultural and activist dimensions which transformed 'epistemes' and challenged centuries of epistemic violence perpetrated on communities and social categories.

Hence, the Workshop is intended to identify and explore the paradigm shifts that have occurred to enquiries in Humanities. It seeks to explore how these shifts have impacted research and studies in Humanities. It also aims to generate questions concerning the subjectivity of the researcher, objectification in research, neutrality Vs. positioning and so on. It will also locate interdisciplinarity itself as a theoretical position by which the interconnectedness of narrative texts (across disciplines, verbal and visual) and the cultural politics of life as performance will be examined.

**The following is a list of resource persons who are expected to lead the sessions and interactions:**

Prof. Romila Thapar (Renowned historian)

Ashish Nandy (Political psychologist, social theorist and critic)

Prof. Rajan Gurukkal (Historian, Social Scientist and Vice-Chairman, KSHEC)

Prof. Udaya Kumar (School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, JNU)

Prof. Chitra Panikkar (Dept. of English, Bangalore University)

Prof. Meena T. Pillai (Professor, Institute of English, University of Kerala)

Dr. Rochelle Pinto (former faculty, CSCS, Bangalore)

**Who is Eligible?**

Regular faculty members from Humanities disciplines (below 12 years of service) in the Universities and Government/Aided colleges in the state may apply for the workshop.

**Travel and Accommodation**

KSHEC will provide accommodation for the outstation participants.

TA/DA will be provided as per Govt. rules.

**Application Form**

Application form can be downloaded from the link 'Workshop' on KSHEC website (<http://www.kshec.kerala.gov.in>). Please attach a separate statement detailing out your interest in attending the workshop along with the application (not more than 200 words).

The application form duly filled in and recommended by the Head of the institution may be scanned and sent along with a STATEMENT OF INTEREST as attachments via e-mail to the co-coordinator of the Workshop. The applicants shall also send a hard copy of the application together with enclosures to KSHEC. **The selection will be based on first come first served basis.** KSHEC can accommodate up to a maximum of 35 participants for the Workshop.

Please note that each participant will be required to make a presentation of 15 minutes duration on his/her current/proposed research work.

**Important Dates**

Last date for the receipt of Application – 25/01/2018

Notification of the list of selected participants – 01/02/2018 (on KSHEC website)

Workshop Dates – 11/02/2018 – 17/02/2018

**Hard copy of the application form may be sent to:**

The Registrar

Kerala State Higher Education Council

Science and Technology Museum Campus,

PMG Junction, Trivandrum – 695033

**Workshop Coordinator**

Dr. Saji Mathew

Research Officer

Kerala State Higher Education Council

(Mob: 9847237570; E-Mail: sajikshec@gmail.com)

**NB: It is mandatory for all the participants to be present in all sessions. Please note that the sessions will begin at 9.30 AM and end by 7 PM on all days.**