

MULTI LINGUAL NATIONAL SEMINAR

ON

BADAL SIRCAR AND POST-COLONIAL THEATRES IN INDIA:

SOCIETY, POLITICS AND PERFORMANCE

বাদল সরকার এবং ভারতে উত্তর-ঔপনিবেশিক নাট্যচর্চা: সমাজ, রাজনীতি এবং অভিকরণ

Date: February 12-13, 2025

Organized by : DEPARTMENT OF BENGALI, ASSAM UNIVERSITY, SILCHAR

In collaboration with :

INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH, North Eastern Regional Centre
& RABINDRANATH TAGORE UNIVERSITY, HOJAI

CALL FOR PAPERS:

Research papers are invited from interested academicians, theatre practitioners and researchers for a multi lingual national Seminar on "Badal Sircar and Post Colonial Theatres on India: Society, Politics and Performance" organized by the Department of Bengali, Assam University, Silchar in collaboration with ICSSR-NERC, to be held during **January 22-23, 2025**. The abstract (both in MS word and pdf format) should be submitted within **25th December 2024**. It should not exceed 200 words. For English, Times New Roman font to be used and for Bengali, Assamese, Hindi and Manipuri, Unicode should be used. Registration Link will be shared to the participants only when abstracts are accepted for presentation in the seminar. Online registration process will be completed by 10th January 2025. The seminar will be in **blended mode** (both online and offline). Paper presenters will have to submit soft copies of their full papers by 20th January 2025. Paper presentation will be allowed only on receipt of full paper. Full papers should be limited to 3000 thousand words with MLA referencing style. After peer review, selected papers will be published in book form with ISBN.

ABOUT THE SEMINAR:

Badal Sircar, a pioneering playwright of post-Independence India, revolutionized theatre by transitioning from traditional proscenium plays to experimental works that stood upon folk and traditional Indian theatrical presentations. This shift challenged the colonial legacy of urban theatre and also gave voice to the struggles of the toiling masses. Sircar's plays not only presented a critique of social injustices and oppressions, but also his revolutionary approach to theatre evolved the form of "Third Theatre" to encompass a comprehensive theatre philosophy. He dismantled the conventional inter-relationships between the performer, recipient, and performance arena, challenging traditional notions of theatre and its engagement with audiences. By reconfiguring the role of above elements, Sircar created a more inclusive, collaborative, and socially conscious theatre practice that continues to influence contemporary theatre makers. His philosophy not only liberated theatre from its colonial legacy but also empowered it to become a powerful tool for social change and community engagement.

Marking Sircar's centenary, this seminar aims to have illuminating interactive sessions to evaluate the varied ways of countering colonial legacy in theatre, the debates on limitations of proscenium, the journey from proscenium to forms of free theatres and alternative theatres in India. It intends to delve into India's theatrical transformations since the sixties of last century, focusing on Badal Sircar and pivotal playwright-directors- Bijay Tendulkar, Girish Karnad, Habib Tanvir, Mohan Rakesh, Heisnam Kanhailal, Safdar Hasmi, Ratan Thiyam and others- who spearheaded decolonization and innovation. This seminar hope to foster a deeper understanding of post-colonial Indian Theatre's history, key figures, and ongoing influence on contemporary performance practices. This seminar will shed light on the ways in which Sircar's approach continues to shape the trajectory of Indian theatre, inspiring new generations of theatre makers to push boundaries and challenge conventions.

SUB THEMES:

1. Sircar's theatre as a response to colonialism and its legacy. (বাদল সরকারের থিয়েটার: ঔপনিবেশিক ঐতিহ্যের বিকল্প সন্দর্ভ)
2. Post-colonialism and Indian theatre: Sircar's contributions and influences. (উত্তর ঔপনিবেশিকতা ও ভারতীয় থিয়েটার : বাদল সরকারের অবদান ও প্রভাব)
3. Society and identity in theatre and post-colonial India. (উত্তর ঔপনিবেশিক থিয়েটারে সমাজ ও পরিচিতির প্রশ্ন)
4. Performance as resistance and decolonization. Badal Sircar and contemporary theatre practitioners. (প্রতিরোধ ও বি-ঔপনিবেশায়নের অভিকরণ : বাদল সরকার ও সমকালীন নাট্যকার)
5. Politics, marginal voice and social justice in plays and performances. Badal Sircar and contemporary playwrights. (বাদল সরকার ও সমকালীন নাট্যকারের নাট্য ও অভিকরণে প্রান্তিকের স্বর আর সামাজিক ন্যায়ের রাজনীতি)
6. Theatre and community engagement. Sircar's model and contemporary Applications. (সামাজিক সংযোগ মাধ্যম হিসাবে থিয়েটার : বাদল সরকারের মডেল এবং সমকালীন প্রয়োগ)

7. Post-colonial Indian theatre. The journey beyond proscenium. (উত্তর ঔপনিবেশিক ভারতীয় থিয়েটার : প্রসেনিয়ামের সীমানা ছাড়িয়ে)
8. Revisiting Indian tradition. Twentieth century Drama. (বিশ শতকের নাটকে ভারতীয় ঐতিহ্যের পুনরাবিষ্কার)
9. Regional Voices. Sircar's influence on theatre in different Indian languages. (আঞ্চলিক থিয়েটারচর্চায় বাদল সরকারের প্রভাব)
10. IPTA, Group Theatre and Third Theatre. The theatrical journey in Bengal. (গণনাট্য, গ্রুপ থিয়েটার থেকে থার্ড থিয়েটার : বাংলা নাট্যশালার বিবর্তন)
11. Magic Realism and theatre. The Indian perspective. (থিয়েটারে জাদু বাস্তবতা: ভারতীয় প্রেক্ষিত)
12. Women in theatre. Colonial and Post Colonial Experience. (থিয়েটারে নারী পরিসর : ঔপনিবেশিক ও উত্তর ঔপনিবেশিক অভিজ্ঞতা)
13. Sircar in Translation. Dialogue of Cultures (অনুবাদে বাদল সরকার : সংস্কৃতির সংলাপ)
14. Deconstruction of Myth and history. Post Colonial Drama. (উত্তর ঔপনিবেশিক নাটকে পুরাণ ও ইতিহাসের বিনির্মাণ)
15. Trajectory of Language of Theatre. (থিয়েটারের ভাষা স্রণি)
16. Existentialism and absurdity in post independence Indian drama. (স্বাধীনতা পরবর্তী ভারতীয় নাটকে অস্তিত্ববাদ ও কিমিতিবাদ)
17. Any other topic related to theme of the seminar. (প্রাসঙ্গিক যে কোনো বিষয়)

ABOUT ASSAM UNIVERSITY:

Set up in 1994, Assam University, Silchar (a central university established by an act in the parliament) has established itself as a leading institute of higher learning in north-east India. Set amid sprawling hillocks and serene landscape of north east, the main campus of university is situated at Dorgakona, 20 km away from the city of Silchar at south Assam. Silchar is well connected by air, railways and bus route via Kolkata, Guwahati and Agartala. Generally weather is cool and pleasant in January, with average temperature of 18°C.

DATELINE AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

1. **Last date of Submission of Abstract:** 25-01-2025
2. **Confirmation of Acceptance:** 30-01-2025
3. **Last date of registration:** (Filling up of Form and Submission of Fee in online mode): 05-02-2025
4. **Submission of Full paper (soft Copy):** 10-02-2025
5. **E-mail id for sending abstract and full papers:** debasishbhattacharya.aus@gmail.com
123.santanu@gmail.com

Accommodation: The outstation participants will have to arrange their stay at Silchar at their own cost. The department can help in booking accommodation in hotels, if required.

Registration Fee	:	(Cash payment is not accepted)
Faculty & Theatre Practioners with paper	:	Rs 1500.00
Faculty & Theatre Practioners without paper	:	Rs 1000.00
Research Scholars with paper	:	Rs 800.00
Research Scholars without paper	:	Rs 500.00

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THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

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