

# *Dossier of the Muses*

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## Contributors

**Dr. Lakshmi Bandlamudi** is a Professor of Psychology at LaGuardia Community College, City University of New York. She works within the Bakhtinian/Vygotskian framework to explore questions about Dialogic Consciousness and Socio-historical epistemology. She engages in interdisciplinary work – bridging humanities and social sciences and Indian and western philosophies – to understand the interconnections between myths, culture, history and consciousness. Her recent book – *Bakhtinian Explorations of Indian Culture: Pluralism, Dogma and Dialogue Through History* (Springer, 2018) – co-edited with E.V. Ramakrishnan, emerged from a Bakhtin Conference convened by her in Gandhinagar, India in 2013. The volume points out the natural fit between Bakhtin’s ideas and the pluralistic culture of India and premised on the fact that long before principles of dialogism took shape in the Western world, these ideas, though not labelled as such, were an integral part of intellectual histories in India. Her other recent book – *Difference, Dialogue and Development: A Bakhtinian World* (Routledge, 2015) is an in-depth exploration of the collected works of Mikhail Bakhtin to find relevance of key concepts of dialogism for understanding various aspects of human development. Taking the reality of differences in the world as a given, Bandlamudi argues that such a reality necessitates dialogue and actively responding to that necessity leads to development.

Her earlier book – *Dialogics of Self, The Mahabharata and Culture: The History of Understanding and Understanding of History* (Anthem Press, 2010) draws from the works of Mikhail Bakhtin, Lev Vygotsky, Giambattista Vico, Yuri Lotman and others, focusing on the broad problems of interpretation and in particular, about interpreting the personal past and cultural past (the epic text) to demonstrate how multiple histories (individual, cultural, that of the text and the very categories of understanding) intersect in the processes of novelization and canonization of the epic text. This interdisciplinary work is about answerability between lived life and living text and how the images of self and characterological profiles of the epic characters are drawn through the genres of interpretation.

Dr. Bandlamudi has been engaging in doing comparative analysis between Mikhail Bakhtin and Sanskrit Grammarian Bhartrhari, and Abhinavagupta's Aesthetics and has published papers in this area, in addition to several papers on dialogicality and various domains of human development. She is also an author of a travelogue – *Movements with the Cosmic Dancer: On Pilgrimage to Kailash Manasarovar (2006)* with a Foreword by H. H. The Dalai Lama and Introduction by Dr. Karan Singh. This work records the spiritual quest against the backdrop of the physical journey in the Himalayas, weaving Hindu and Buddhist tales and philosophies.

**Dr Lily Want** is Professor, department of English Language and Literature, Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), Awantipora, Director, Averroes Centre for Philosophical Studies, IUST and Dean Outreach, IUST. Prior to her present appointment at IUST, she was Professor of English at the University of Kashmir, Hazratbal where she served as Dean, School of Arts, Languages and Literatures and Head, department of English. Earlier, she was Associate Professor at Faculty of Humanities, American University of Asia, Sharjah (UAE). Professor Want has been teaching for the last more than 37 years and has been rated as an excellent teacher by students in the various surveys by the University of Kashmir from time to time. She has been teaching courses like British Poetry: 16th to 19th Century, New Literatures in English, South Asian Diaspora Literature and Literary Theory. Professor Want is the author of several books mostly published by Cambridge University Press. Her articles have appeared in national and international journals. She also made numerous presentations at various workshops, orientation and refresher courses for College and University teachers both within and outside the country. She has organized a number of national and international seminars and workshops.

**CHAITALI GIRI** is a lecturer in English at MUCWC, Burdwan West Bengal, India. Her literary essays on various topics were published in many reputed journals. A short story of her was published in the daily, *The Statesman*. She has also authored a comprehensive study book on Agatha Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*. Her interest lies in both creative and critical writings.

**Shivali Kharbanda Kadian** is an Associate Professor of English Literature at University of Delhi, India. She attained her M.Phil in English Literature from Department of English, University of Delhi. She is currently pursuing doctoral research at Centre for

Trauma and Violence, Department of English, University of Delhi. Her area of research includes South Asian Studies, particularly Partition Studies and Literature. She has published research papers in the field of Partition Studies. She has presented papers and has also been an invited speaker at various national and international conferences and seminars. Her current research focuses on the legacies of Partition and its effects on the Punjabi/Seraiki migrants in Delhi who were uprooted from their ancestral homelands in West Punjab and Northwest Frontier Province, i.e. the Seraiki region in Pakistan

**Dr. Pradipta Sengupta**, Associate Professor of English, M.U.C. Women's College Burdwan He did his Ph.D. on "The 'Hawthorne Novels' of John Updike" from the University of Burdwan. He also completed a Postdoctoral research project on "Recasting Contemporary America: A Study of John Updike's 'Rabbit Tetralogy'" as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow from Osmania University Center for International Program, Hyderabad during September-October 2013. He has published national and international articles on Keats, Hawthorne, Tagore, Dickens, Robert Frost, Peter Carey, Joseph Heller, W. B. Yeats, Emerson and Updike, including publications in such journals as The Belgrade BELLS( University of Belgrade) , The John Updike Review(University of Cincinnati), Knijzenstvo and Lexington Book Series(New York). Pradipta Sengupta figures in the Updike Bibliography, 2009-2015, prepared by the Updike critic James Schiff, and published from the University of Cincinnati.