

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

CENTRE FOR WRITING AND COMMUNICATION,
ASHOKA UNIVERSITY

Online Summer School 2020



Online Creative Writing Workshop
(June 8 - June 11, 2020)

Online Research Writing Workshop
(June 15- June 18, 2020)

Deadline- May 15, 2020

The workshops are free.
For details on how to apply, please visit our website:
<https://www.ashoka.edu.in/page/CWC-66>

Centre for Writing
and Communication

"O RAMA WHAT RIGHT DID YOU HAVE TO KILL ME"

A READING OF A NEW, SECRET
VERSION OF THE RAMAYANA

BY POET VIVEK NARAYANAN

FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION
WITH SOURADEEP ROY

**18 NOVEMBER 2019
6:30-8:00 PM
ADMIN BLOCK LR-305**



**CAMERA
OBSCURA**

Workshop on
Writing
Speculative
Fiction

conducted by Anil Menon

Date: 25 January 2020
Venue: LR-305, 3rd Floor,
Admin Block
Time: 10:00am-5:00pm

LIMITED SPOTS LEFT. TO REGISTER, WRITE TO US AT
cwc@ashoka.edu.in

CENTRE FOR WRITING AND
COMMUNICATION

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020

*National Conference on
Challenges/Strategies in
Teaching English for
Academic Purposes (EAP)
in Higher Education in India*

16-17 APRIL 2020
TIME: 9AM-7PM
VENUE : AC01-106 LT



Centre for Writing
and Communication

DON'T HATE THE SLUSH PILE

A PRESENTATION ON
SUBMITTING SHORT-FICTION
ONLINE

BY **APPOORVA SAINI**
FOR CWC'S
CREATIVE PROGRAM SERIES

**26 NOVEMBER 2019
6:30- 8:00 PM
ADMIN BLOCK,
3RD FLOOR, LR305**

Centre for Writing
and Communication

Reading/Writing the 'Popular'

Looking at Popular
Women's Magazines

Dr. Akriti Mandhwani
Assistant Professor
Shiv Nadar University

Date: 17.02.20
Time: 6-8 pm
Venue: Admin block
3rd floor, LR-305

Listening To Those Who Build Communities Around Libraries

*Writing Geographies:
In Discussion with
The Community Library Project*

**January 30, 2020
4:30 PM
Venue- AC 02- 209**

CONTENT OR INTENT?

The Prickly Path of
Poetry Translation



DR. ANURIMA CHANDA
Assistant Professor of English
The Heritage College

**4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
29 OCTOBER, 2019 (TUESDAY)
LR 305, THIRD FLOOR, ADMIN BLOCK**

JYOTIRMOY TALUKDAR
Senior Writing Fellow
CWC



Writing 'their' Voices

HOW NOT TO DO
ETHNOGRAPHY

Poulomi Das (CWC)
in conversation with
Dr. Urmimala Munsi Sarkar

**25 FEBRUARY 2020
6-8 PM | ADMIN BLOCK, 3RD FLOOR LR-305**

Centre for Writing
and Communication

PHOTO CREDITS: URMIMALA MUNSI SARKAR, POULOMI DAS, SOUMAYA KARMAKAR.



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Publications by Team CWC



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The Centre for Writing and Communication (CWC) works closely with the academic community in Ashoka to develop critical thinking, writing, and communication skills. CWC is the largest centre in Ashoka and works with all the diverse sections that make the Ashoka community: the entire student body (from the undergraduate students to research scholars), faculty, staff, and other specialised centres in the university.

In the year 2019-20, our primary goal was to consolidate the centre's curricular engagement with different disciplines and centres within Ashoka and to improve our media presence. The centre worked closely with Introduction to Critical Thinking (ICT) instructors to collaborate on the syllabus and assessments and to build a feedback mechanism for improving writing pedagogy. This year, the centre organised course-specific workshops for several departments including Philosophy, Media Studies, History, Economics, and Masters in Liberal Studies (MLS). CWC's curricular work has expanded from addressing academic writing skills for undergraduates to include research writing support for graduate and postgraduate students.

English language teaching (ELT) now forms a major part of the centre's work and a number of steps were taken to improve the ELT programme this academic year, including training workshops for CWC tutors, acquisition of English language teaching-related books in the library that addresses both theoretical and practical aspects of ELT. Our curricular activities were complemented by the Creative Programmes which continue to be popular both in Ashoka and outside. Being open to public, these programmes have attracted students, academics, and professionals from across the NCR. Especially noteworthy were this year's events on community libraries, science fiction and ethnography.

CWC successfully improved its media presence through releasing periodic newsletters (both Ashoka and CWC ones), increased number of initiatives on social media platforms particularly Instagram, released its brochure and podcast and has an improved page on the existing Ashoka website. This was also the second year that CWC ran Summer Schools for students and professionals from other universities and organisations. Two Summer Schools were organised this year: *Short Story Writing Workshop* and *Research Writing Workshop*. We received a large number of applications and the participants belonged to diverse disciplinary fields and came from different institutions in India.

As the CWC developed and improved its existing programmes, the team began work on several initiatives which are crucial to the long-term intellectual vision of developing the centre as a platform for discussions around pedagogy, critical thinking, language, writing, and communication in the sphere of higher education in India. The most significant of these is the development of an open access knowledge bank which has learning material on writing, critical thinking, ELT in several Indian languages. The CWC team has begun the process of creating this learning material and we hope to develop and release at least one module in English in the coming year.

I am also happy to share that CWC successfully made the transition to online teaching as the world went into a lockdown because of the Covid pandemic. The preparations for online transition were made in the second week of March itself and CWC enabled the online-tutoring mechanism on 15 March 2020. Some of our major events were affected by this crisis, for instance, some creative programmes were cancelled, and the annual conference due in April has been postponed indefinitely. Despite the crippling effects of the pandemic and the lockdown, the team successfully continues its online academic support to the Ashoka community. The classes for *Intermediate English Communication*, both the summer schools, the staff sessions, and a dissertation writing workshop planned for AUD were all shifted online, and the virtual one-on-one sessions continue over the summer semester.

All this work is made possible by the diversity of the CWC team which is a vibrant group of professionals, scholars, writers, and researchers whose individual and combined expertise actively contributes to the interdisciplinary engagement at Ashoka. The team's academic interests are well illustrated by the last section of this report which highlights our publications and research work. CWC team members regularly publish in academic peer-reviewed journals as well as popular and journalistic forums. It is my great privilege to work with this CWC team. Their commitment, creativity, teamwork and energy are all too evident in this report. And, on behalf of the entire CWC team, I would like to express gratitude to our colleagues at Ashoka: the Vice Chancellor and the Pro-Vice Chancellor, the Senior Management, ICT team, faculty and teaching staff in the departments, Office of Academic Affairs, Media team, the other centres and support offices, the library staff, IT, Admissions and the entire administrative team of HR, Finance and Operations, whose guidance and support has ensured the success of CWC's work. Thank you and we look forward to working with you in the coming year.

With best wishes,
Kanika Singh
Director, CWC

OVERVIEW AND STATISTICS

ONE-ON-ONE SESSIONS

The academic session started on 26 August 2019 and ended on 18 May, 2020. From March to May the consultations and classes for students were held online.



1534

**TOTAL NUMBER
OF ONE-ON-ONE
SESSIONS
CONDUCTED
DURING THE
ACADEMIC YEAR
2019-20**

2019-20 NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS AND STUDENTS CLASSIFIED BY LEVEL

LEVEL	No. of students for Monsoon Appointments	No. of Monsoon Appointments	No. of students for Spring Appointments	No. of Spring Appointments	Total no. of students	Total no. of Appointments
1st Year	253	741	69	276	322	1017
2nd Year	39	107	25	63	64	170
3rd Year	26	84	15	57	41	141
4th Year	11	85	7	23	18	108
MLS	-	-	1	1	1	1
MA	1	1	-	-	1	1
YIF	5	6	7	9	12	15
PhD	3	21	1	8	4	29
ASP	14	36	4	4	18	40
Staff Classes	5	10	2	2	7	12

**These numbers reflect CWC interactions over one-on-one appointments, and do not include workshops and courses taught by the centre.*

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING (ELT) 2019-20

Semester	Monsoon Semester	Spring Semester	Total
No. of students	25		25
No. of classes	64	42	106
No. of hours in classroom teaching	96	63	159
No. of one-on-one ELT appointments	261	130	391

781

Total no. of ELT hours (including classroom teaching, training, preparation, & the Bridge Programme)

391

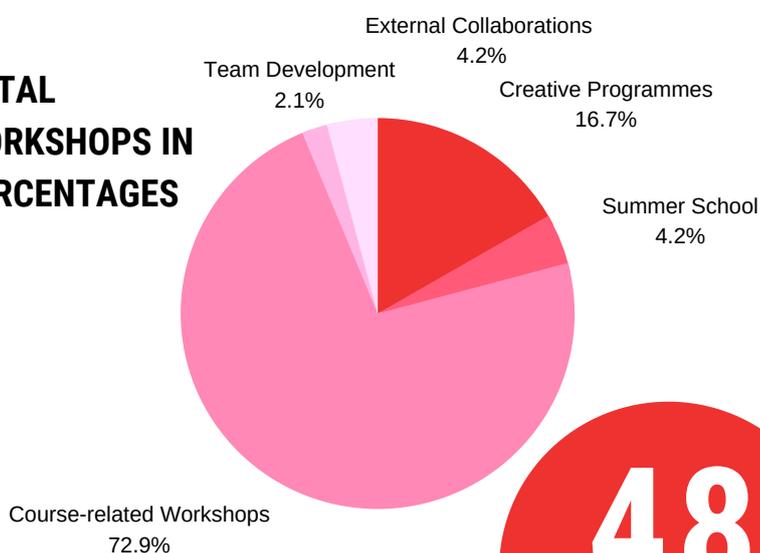
Total no. of ELT hours in one-on-one appointments, 261 in Monsoon and 130 in Spring semester

ENGLISH COMMUNICATION COURSE FOR STAFF

10 classes in Monsoon Semester and 8 in Spring Semester, one-hour each, and a total of 12 one-on-one appointments were conducted for the staff members.



TOTAL WORKSHOPS IN PERCENTAGES



SUMMER SCHOOLS

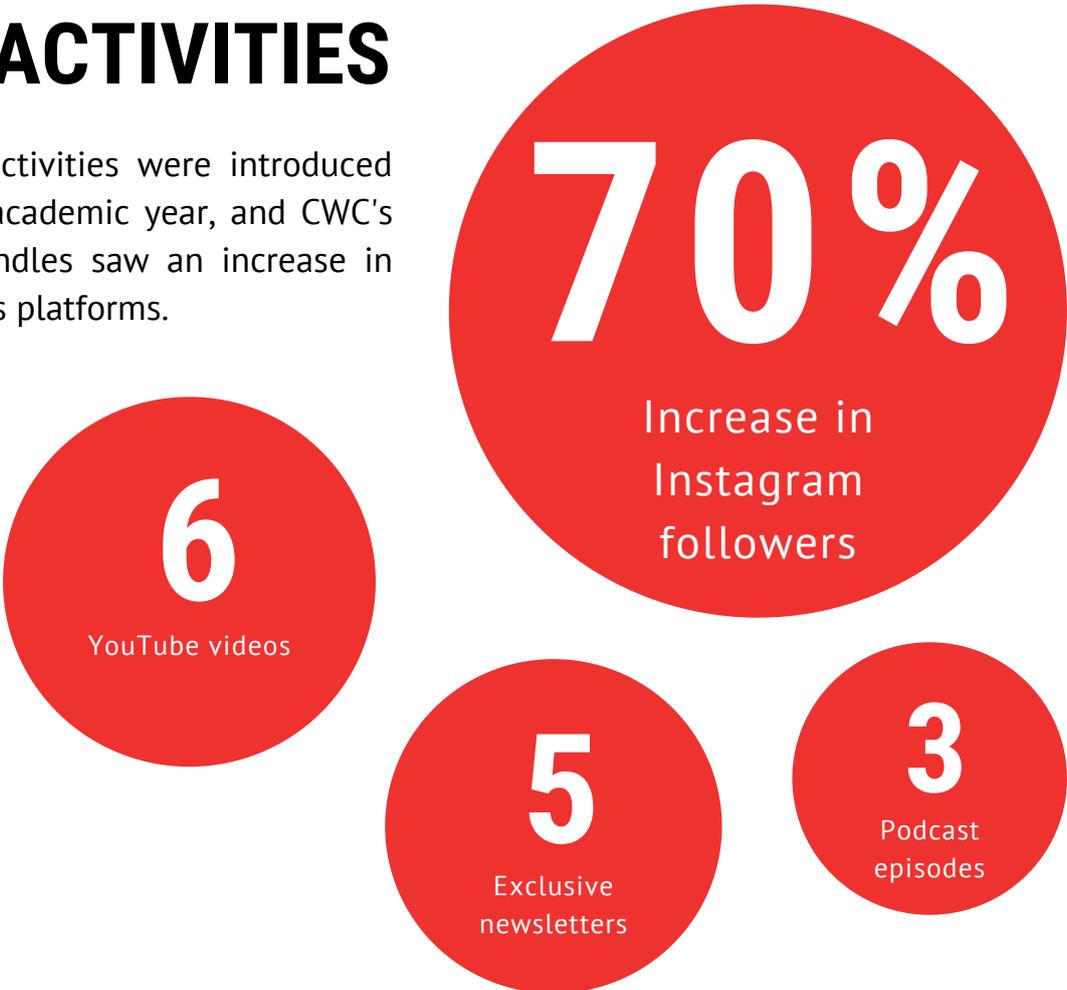
No. of Participants and their Affiliation	Creative Writing Workshop	Research Writing Workshop
No. of Participants	12	24
No. of Institutions	10	20

WORKSHOPS

CWC conducted **48** workshops during the academic session: **35** were course-related workshops, **two** were for institutions outside of Ashoka, **two** workshops for its online summer school, **eight** creative programmes, and **one** team development workshop. Out of the **35** course-related workshops, seven covered **122** students and faculty members, while the 'Plagiarism and Citation' workshops - a series of **28** workshops created exclusively for students under ICT program, addressed **28** sections having more than **600** first-year undergraduate students.

MEDIA ACTIVITIES

Various online activities were introduced throughout the academic year, and CWC's social media handles saw an increase in their reach across platforms.



READING GUIDE FOR THE REPORT

1. Curricular Activities

- **Course-specific workshops**

- Plagiarism and Citation Workshop
- Academic Writing Made Easy
- Headline and Strapline Writing Workshop
- Academic Integrity Workshop
- Learning to Synthesize Sources
- Headline and Strapline Writing Workshop
- Writing your argument
- Writing (for) a PhD

- **English Language Teaching**

- Academic Bridge Programme
- English Communication and Intermediate English Communication courses.

- **One-on-one Sessions**

2. Creative Programmes

- **Writing Geographies**

- Listening to Those Who Make Community Libraries

- **Other Creative Programmes**

- *Content or Intent: The Prickly Path of Poetry Translation*
- *O Rama what right did you have to kill me: A Reading of a Secret Version of the Ramayana*
- *Don't Hate the Slush Pile: A Presentation on Submitting Short Fiction (online)*
- *Camera Obscura: A Speculative Fiction Writing Workshop*
- *Reading/Writing the 'Popular': A Look at Popular Women's Magazines*
- *Writing 'their' Voices: How NOT to do Ethnography*
- *Insular Poetry: Online Workshop on Imagist Poetry*

3. Research

- Annual Conference
- Summer School

4. External Collaborations

- Academic Writing Workshop, Indraprastha College for Women, Delhi University
- Dissertation Writing Workshop, Ambedkar University, Delhi

5. New Initiatives

- Short Story Writing Workshop
- Podcast
- Open Access Learning Material
- English Communication Classes for Staff
- Collaboration with Science Departments

6. Media

7. Team 2019-20

8. Grants, Conferences, Presentations, & Public Talks

9. Publications



CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

CWC's interactions with the students are both in-class, through lectures, creative workshops, as well as through one-on-one sessions. Through the year, the CWC provides writing and pedagogical support to courses across disciplines at Ashoka.

Course-specific workshops

The course-specific workshops designed and conducted by the CWC address the most fundamental aspects of critical thinking required for writing and communication. For ICT courses, CWC's workshops are built into the curriculum and are mandatory. For other courses, they are optional and need based. A total of **35 workshops** were conducted for **five disciplines** including Philosophy, Writing, History, Media Studies, and Economics.

Course specific workshops conducted in 2019-20 are as follows:

1. Plagiarism and Citation Workshop *Introduction to Critical Thinking (UG),* **16 Sep 2019 - 3 Oct 2019**

CWC tutors designed and conducted a total of **28 workshops** on citation and plagiarism for all 1st year undergraduate students enrolled in the ICT courses. The workshops were conducted in an interactive format, engaging with the definition, processes, and tools for citation, and aimed at inducting the students into the Ashokan ethos of academic integrity while familiarizing them with the following ideas:

- Identifying Credible Sources
- Plagiarism
- Summary and Paraphrasing
- Citation Styles (with a focus on MLA).

2. Academic Writing Made Easy ***Masters in Liberal Studies, 25 Sep 2019***

The workshop, conducted by writing tutors Senjuti Chakraborti and Aakshi Magazine, aimed at introducing MLS students to the basics of academic writing. The topics covered included identifying the differences between genres of writing (academic and non-academic writing), unpacking essay questions, breaking down a sample introduction, coherence in argument, and citation and plagiarism. The workshop ended with the distribution of a short reading list on academic writing. It was attended by **15 students**.

3. Headline and Strapline Writing Workshop ***Media Studies, 23 Oct 2019***

The workshop, conducted by writing tutor Aakshi Magazine, introduced students of the Travel Writing course to headline and strapline writing. It was meant to prepare them for the travel writing essay they have to submit as a requirement for the course taught by Tisha Srivastav. As an introduction to non-academic writing, the workshop helped them work towards making their travel essays accessible for publishing.

Requirements for the headline and the strapline that were discussed included a focus on clarity of thought and the ability to glean through a piece of writing to articulate its essence us -

ing a precise but imaginative style of writing. The strapline, in particular, is helpful in pitching pieces to potential newspapers and magazines where the essays can be published. It was attended by one student and one Teaching Assistant.

4. Academic Integrity Workshop ***Economics (UG), 28 Jan 2020 & 21-22 July 2020***

Writing tutors Uday Kanungo and Aakshi Magazine conducted this remedial workshop intended for the students who had been listed for violation of Academic Integrity by the OAA. Employing an interactive format, the workshop discussed the concerns of the students regarding plagiarism and violation of academic integrity. The workshop also used a group activity to help students understand the importance of collaborative work without necessarily resorting to copying each others' ideas. The workshop meant for the monsoon semester was attended by **28 students**, while in July, **31 students** listed for the spring semester attended the workshop. The students included UG, PG, and PhD students from a range of courses.

5. Learning to Synthesize Sources ***Critical Thinking Seminar, 6 Feb 2020***

The workshop, conducted by writing tutor Aakshi Magazine, was meant for the students of the Critical Thinking Seminar (CTS) taught by ICT Instructor Kritikka Bhattacharjee

titled “Cult?”. The workshop was meant to be a refresher for a class assignment on synthesis. The topics covered by the workshop were:

- How to read multiple sources
- Differences between summary, description, and analysis
- Learning to synthesize sources into an analysis.

The workshop was conducted using reading and writing exercises. It was attended by **20 students**.

6. Headline and Strapline Writing Workshop

Media Studies, 11 Feb 2020

The workshop, conducted by Senior Writing Tutor Poulomi Das, introduced the students of the Travel Writing course taught by Tisha Srivastav to headline and strapline writing. The topics covered included the common pitfalls of headline writing, making articles publication-worthy, and targeting a specific audience. It included two group activities involving reading and writing exercises that introduced the students to the politics and problems of headline writing. The workshop was attended by **26 students**, one Teaching Assistant and Professor Srivastav.

7. Writing your Argument *Philosophy, 19 Feb 2020*

Senior Writing Tutor Poulomi Das conducted the workshop for the Philosophy of Art and Beauty CTS taught by Visiting Faculty Alex Haitos. The aim of the workshop was to introduce students to the structural components of an argument, acquaint them with common types of argument styles, teach them how to glean through an article, identify argumentation techniques, and apply them to their own writing. It included a discussion session and a writing exercise in which the students were expected to write a thesis statement on the basis of their reading of an academic essay prescribed by their instructor. The workshop was attended by **17 students** and Professor Haitos.

8. Writing (for) a PhD *History, 13 Feb 2020*

Writing Tutors Aakshi Magazine and Senjuti Chakraborti conducted the workshop for first and second year doctoral candidates of the Department of History. The workshop covered the following topics:

- Thinking about the research question
- Writing an abstract
- Chapterization and storyboarding

The format of the workshop included freestyle writing, structured writing, discussion, and storyboarding. It was attended by **12 students** from the two batches.

English Language Teaching

CWC provides year-long English language support to students. Starting with an Academic Bridge Programme conducted for incoming students in the summer, the support extends to English Communication and Intermediate English Communication courses in the Monsoon and Spring semesters respectively. These are credited-courses.

1. Academic Bridge Programme 5-16 Aug 2019



Writing Tutor Neerav Dwivedi conducting a session during the Bridge Programme.

CWC tutors Neerav Dwivedi and Jyotirmoy Talukdar conducted sessions as part of the Academic Bridge Programme for the undergraduate batch of 2022. In addition to sessions on English grammar and vocabulary, the programme also focused on critical thinking, research, basics of academic writing, and paper presentation. The two week programme was attended by **47 students** from across India and abroad, marking the beginning of the year-long English language support offered by the CWC to the Ashoka community.

2. English Communication and Intermediate English Communication courses

CWC offered two 4-credit courses - English Communication in the Monsoon Semester and Intermediate English Communication in the Spring Semester. The classes were held twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays. The courses were taught by CWC Tutors Ashwini Rajpoot, Deepti Sreeram, Jyotirmoy Talukdar, Neerav Dwivedi and Poulomi Das. The CWC tutors designed as well as taught the modules for the courses. The classes were attended by **25 students** for both semesters, and each course was divided into two sections, Section A and Section B.

In the Monsoon Semester, the course evaluation score for Section A was **4.61** and Section B it was **4.62**. In Spring Semester, this was **4.67** and **4.5** for the two tutors teaching Section A and **4.28** and **4.75** for the two teaching Section B. After the university's transition to online teaching post the Mid-term break, the Spring semester classes were conducted online.

In addition to the classes, the centre also provides support to the students through one-on-one appointments. This forms part of the centre's English language support to the Ashoka community.

One-on-one sessions



Senior Writing Fellow, Jyotirmoy Talukdar (left), and Writing Tutor, Aakshi Magazine (right), in one-on-one sessions with students.

CWC supports Ashoka's student community in academic writing and other research projects through one-on-one sessions in academic writing. The students can book appointments which last an hour (or longer based on the tutor's discretion) with any CWC tutor on a date and time of their convenience.

CWC can be approached for pre-writing brainstorming, rough/first drafts, pre-submission overview, techniques for better writing, citation, and other academic research and writing-related queries. Students book appointments for other non-curricular and personal creative writing requirements as well. Students with English-language needs also book appointments to address language-related concerns and doubts. The process of writing in an institutional space for an academic audience can be an overwhelming task, especially for students in their first year of study. One-on-one sessions help demystify and simplify the process and form a crucial support system as students navigate the unfamiliar waters of academic writing. Beginning on 15 March 2020, the sessions were moved online in view of the lockdown, while CWC offered these sessions over Summer Semester as well. In 2019-20, CWC conducted a total no. of **1534** one-on-one sessions.

CREATIVE PROGRAMMES

Besides course-specific activities, the CWC organizes a broad range of creative and research activities that address a variety of skills under the umbrella of writing and communication. In the past, these events have involved authors, academics, journalists, filmmakers, ethnographers, and several other experts from myriad avenues, as well as CWC team members themselves. By introducing the students to a host of creative fields and giving them a space to interact with experts, these programmes aim to foster curiosity within the student base of Ashoka and provide them with a window unto the craft and technicalities of a certain field. This year, the CWC has organized **eight** such programmes.

Writing Geographies

In the year 2018, CWC introduced Writing Geographies, a series of talks aimed to host performances and conversations with writers and artists from different parts of India. Geographies embody spaces which imagine new histories and identities. The spaces may be an actual location but they can also be conceptual and imaginative. Most importantly, they simultaneously exist in different languages and cultures. The diverse cultural geography of India manifests in multiple ways: while certain local geographies come to govern the national or global narratives, many others tend to get relegated to the margins. Writing Geographies was an attempt to investigate the purpose

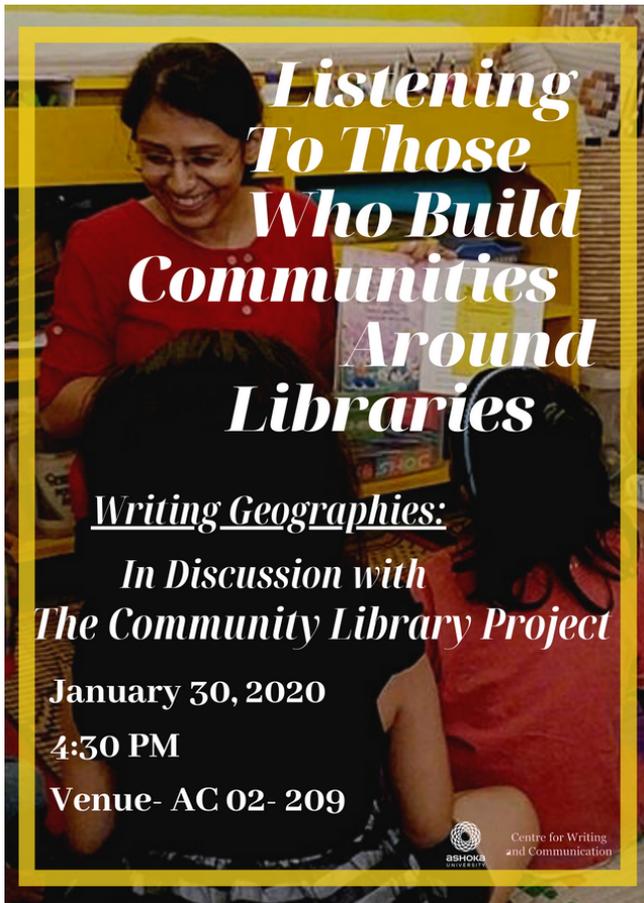
these different geographies serve in the modern world in which the ideas of time and space are constantly remade. The CWC organized **one** event under this section for the academic year 2019-2020.

1. Listening to Those Who Make Community Libraries : A Talk with the Community Library Project, 30 Jan 2020

Library activists Sumit Parewa and Bhawna from The Community Library Project, which runs libraries in Sheikh Sarai, New Delhi and Sikanderpur, Gurugram, were in conversation with Writing Tutor Souradeep Roy.

In the second half of the programme, five members from the library spoke about the transformational effects of libraries in their lives in a conversation moderated by Bhawna and Parewa. This programme aimed to introduce the audience to models of book acquisitions and learning outside of educational institutions such as the university. Since the two libraries are based in working class neighborhoods in Delhi, the programme also aimed to address questions of class, caste, and gender that affect the access to books.

-ding books, which helps in building communities in the spaces they are based.

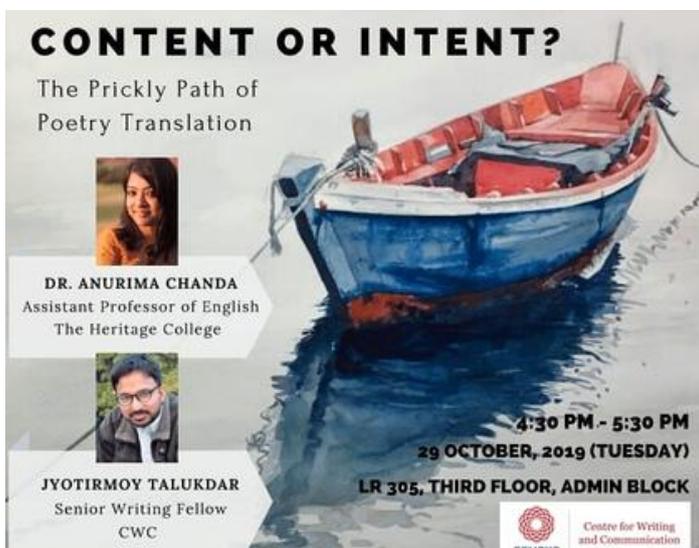


In the course of the event the library activists spoke of their vision of the library and discussed how their library focuses on organising activities outside of len-

Other Creative Programmes

The CWC organizes a wide range of creative programmes that aim to foster the reading and writing skills of students and address a variety of issues under the umbrella of writing and communication. Since the inception of CWC, these programmes have revolved around themes that include, but are not limited to, creative writing, research practices, everyday communication, music, computer programming, media, board games, law, and photography. Here is an overview of this year's **seven** events:

1. *Content or Intent: The Prickly Path of Poetry Translation*, 29 Oct 2019

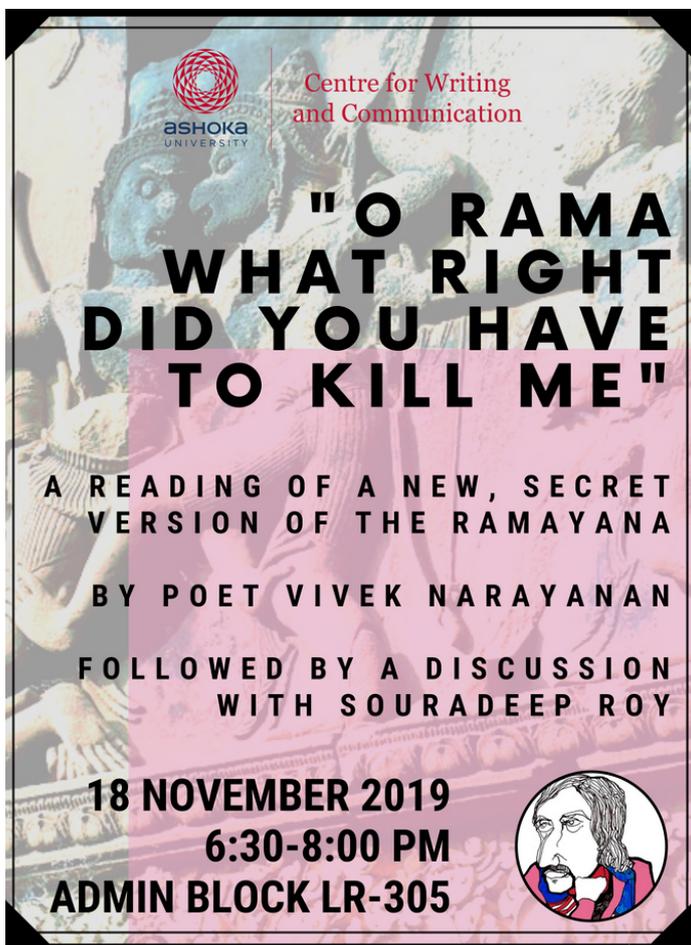


Conducted by Anurima Chanda, Assistant Professor of English at The Heritage College, Kolkata, and CWC Senior Writing Fellow Jyotirmoy Talukdar, the event sought to address certain dilemmas that a translator of poetry necessarily stumbles upon. In an attempt to think through these problems by laying out the various aspects of a poem that de -

mand attention from a translator, the presenters depicted how translators often have to pick a path, foregoing another. The presenters shared their personal experience of translating from Bengali and Assamese to English, and the aspects they prioritised while translating. While Anurima spoke about the choice to emphasize the socio-political motive of a poem, Jyotirmoy brought out the difference between a strictly literal and a more liberal and metaphorical approach. During the event, the presenters also showed the students many poems from diverse traditions and styles, and conducted an interactive activity where the students had to guess if the poem was original or translated. This spurred an engaging discussion whether poems essentially gather some distinguished characteristics when translated into English. The event closed with a short discussion with the audience on 'translatability', and whether a translation should carry the imprints of being translated.

2. *O Rama what right did you have to kill me: A Reading of a Secret Version of the Ramayana*, 18 Nov 2019

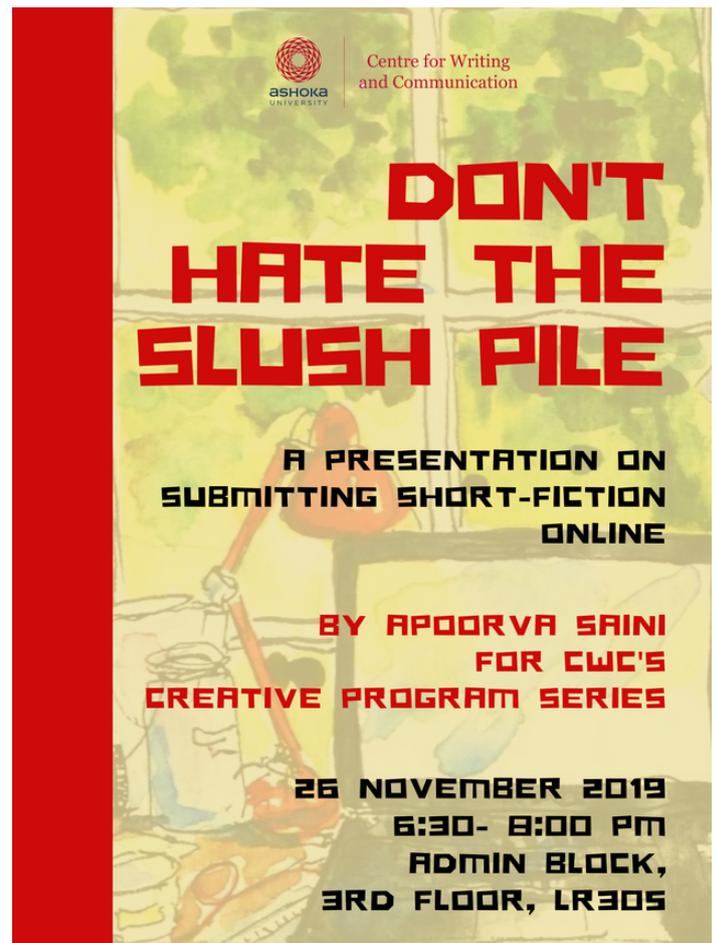
The event aimed to reframe many aspects of the epic Ramayana in new ways by introducing the poet's project - to 'write through' Valmiki's Ramayana in fragmented, unpredictable, and sometimes contrary ways - to a larger audience and incorporating their reactions in a hope to shape the original text's understanding. Poet Vivek Narayanan began by speaking about his approaches to the epic, and



discussed how he thinks of making the text fresh and relevant for our contemporary times. Following this, he read from his poetry to the audience. In the latter half of the event, Vivek was in conversation with Writing Tutor Souradeep Roy, and the conversation veered around critical thinking on poetry and translation, especially the need to acknowledge re-writing of the Ramayana through verse (as opposed to essays in disciplines such as philosophy, sociology, or history) as a form of knowledge in itself.

The event ended with an informative spell of discussion that involved a diverse crowd of students, visiting scholars, professors, and writers.

3. *Don't Hate the Slush Pile: A Presentation on Submitting Short Fiction Online, 26 Nov 2019*

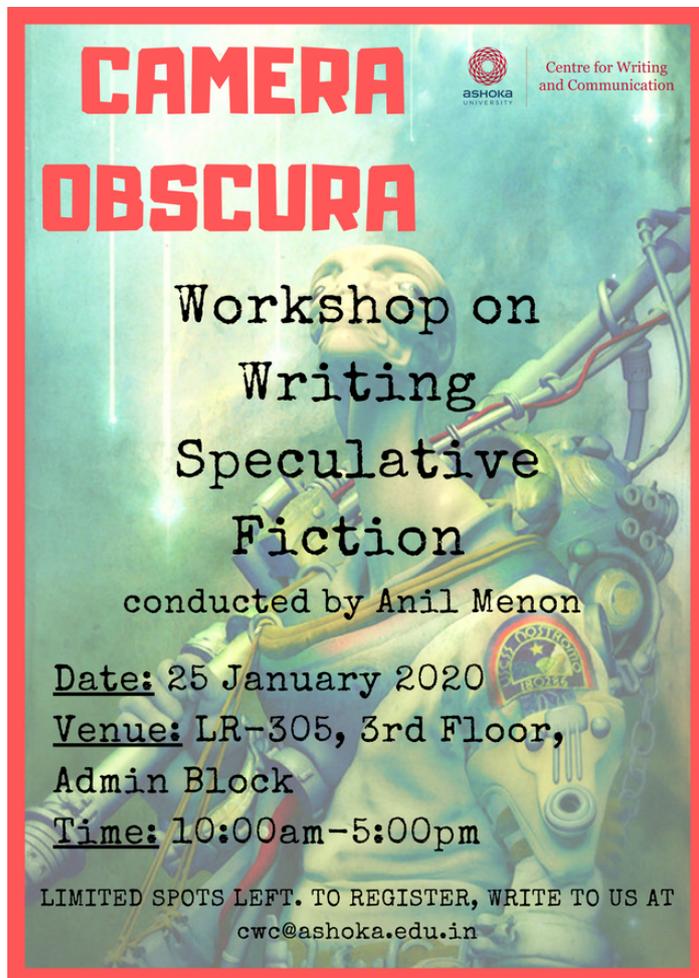


Conducted by Writing Tutor Apoorva Saini, this presentation aimed at helping students of English Literature and Creative Writing majors who struggle - often in collective isolation - to discover the right kind of platforms for publishing discrete short stories.

The audience was familiarized with the online magazines and journals that publish fiction by going over their past editions, call for entries, and general aesthetic bent. The presenter then sketched certain patterns that would help them draft their applications for submitting short fiction for online publication. The event also delved into how budding writers can improve their

online visibility as authors and deal with rejections, especially since the latter is an inevitable part of the process of becoming a writer. Near the end of the event, the students interacted in a lively discussion, speaking about the problems they have come across while submitting their work online, their work routine, and how to optimize their work to submit more regularly.

4. *Camera Obscura*: A Speculative Fiction Writing Workshop, 25 Jan 2020



Conducted by writer Anil Menon, the workshop aimed to push aspiring writers of speculative fiction and familiarise them with the landscape and history of the genre, while demonstrating certain crucial techni-

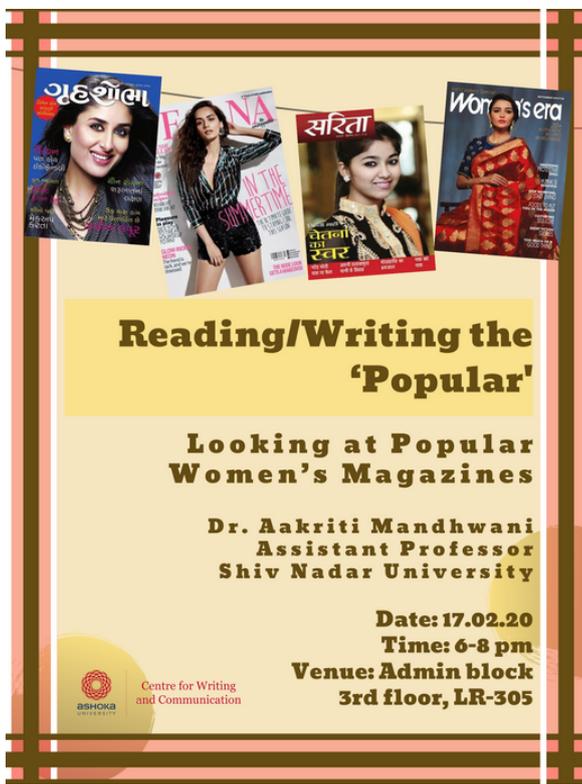
es to follow as a writer in it. The CWC received thirty registrations for the day-long workshop.

Anil started the workshop by discussing 'worldbuilding' - a crucial concept in the genre since it departs from realism per se. The workshop then continued to discuss certain sentences, and why some of them sound 'story-like' while others might not. There was continuous interaction between Anil and the students, who had been divided into small groups and were assigned certain prompts for on-the-spot writing. The post-lunch session began with the sharing of handouts that delved into plot and character construction. Anil relied on well known novels and plots before delving into more idiosyncratic plot-structures to familiarize the students about new ways to think about plotting stories/novels.

The workshop ended with a short Q&A with the students, where they sought advice about their own attempts at fiction writing.

5. *Reading/Writing the 'Popular'*: A Look at Popular Women's Magazines, 17 Feb 2020

The event sought to explore the history of popular women's magazines that were prominent in popular culture, and was especially aimed towards students who might have an interest in researching in this particular field. Aakriti Mandhwani, Assistant Professor at the English Department of Shiv Nadar University, began by engag-

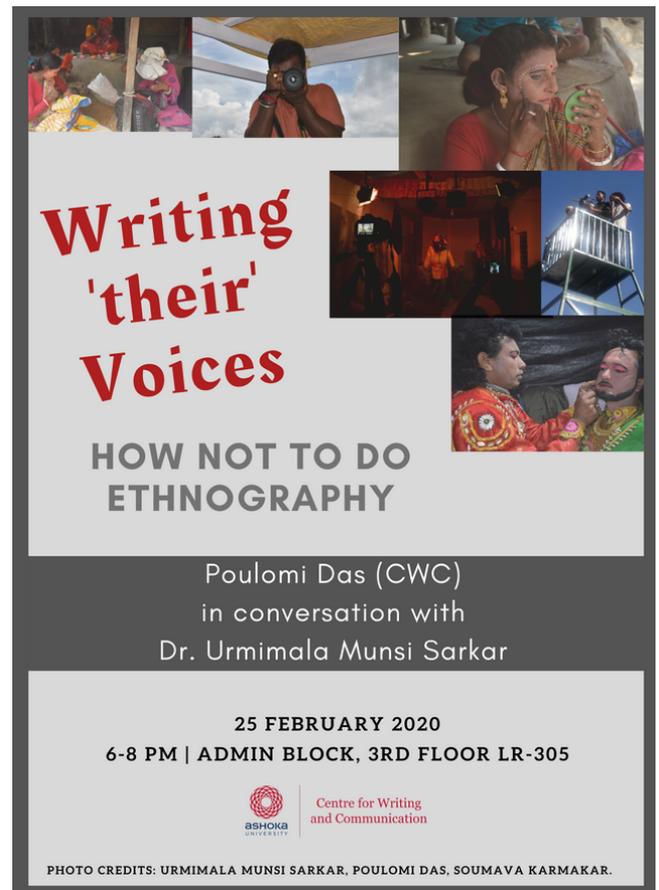


ing in a dialogue with the audience, gathering the students' reactions to some samples from womens' magazines from pre-Independent India. Elaborating on how these magazines helped to create an imagination of 'stri dharma' and new forms of reading practices, she segued into how these magazines connected with middle-class women, especially through proliferating conservative discourses of nationalism and sexual identity.

The second part of the event had the participants looking at some contemporary issues of magazines such as *Femina* and *Woman's Era*, and analyzing them not only in terms of their content, but also with regard to production, circulation, and readership. The conversation ranged from a discussion on varying costs/readership to an examination of magazine covers and advertisements, and ended with a discussion on the manner in which these magazines participate in the discourses around sexuality, body-

image, and 'self-care'.

6. Writing 'their' Voices: How 'not' to do Ethnography, 25 Feb 2020



The event aimed to open up a discussion on ethnographic practices by using the precautionary measures to be practiced as a starting point. Poulomi Das, Senior Writing Tutor at CWC, and Urmimala Sarkar, Associate Professor at the School of Art and Aesthetics at JNU, began the conversation by requesting the audience to say aloud a word they associated with ethnography, which paved the way for a discussion of differences between ethnography and oral history. Referring to her experiences during her college field-trips and the ones she takes her students to every year, Urmimala emphasized the importance of daily journaling in the field-diary.

She next addressed the question of how to practice caution, especially against the essentialist ideas that an ethnographer can fall prey to. Questions of vulnerability, intimacy, ethics, and the politics of representation were discussed in detail. Poulomi and Urmimala also suggested methods of how to repeatedly interrupt one's own processes of conducting ethnography to help oneself write a narrative that is informative, compelling, and yet honest to the 'voices of his/her subjects'.

The conversation ended on the note of maintaining the much-needed balance of information, affect and empathy with one's researched communities and was followed by a lively period of interaction between the audience and Urmimala.

7. *Insular Poetry*: Online Workshop on Reading and Writing Imagist Poetry Writing, 20 June 2020

Conducted by Shantam Goyal, an academic and PhD scholar at SUNY Buffalo, New York, this workshop aimed to uncover various nuances of reading and writing 'Imagist' poetry. The event began with Shantam showing many classic poems of the canonical imagist poetry tradition, and encouraging the students to give their impressions on them. Later, the students were also involved in creating their own short poems, taking inspiration from the aesthetic aspects of imagist poetry. It was attended by more than 40 poetry lovers, and aimed to help them pull themselves away from their immersion in what they read

ASHOKA
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CWC. ASHOKA UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

Insular Poetry

*Online workshop on reading
and writing Imagist Poetry*

By Shantam Goyal

20 June 2020

5:30 pm IST

Facebook Live Stream on:

<https://www.facebook.com/CWCAshokaUniversity/>

and to figuring out what makes something 'poetry'. A video recording of the workshop was made available [here](#).



RESEARCH

Annual Conference :

CWC's annual conference brings together educators, scholars, students, and activists working in the field of education. Our first conference in 2018, *Reflections on Writing*, critically examined the idea of writing in university spaces. The 2019 conference focused on *Inclusive Pedagogy: Teaching and Learning Practices in Higher Education in India*.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, CWC's 2019-20 Conference *Challenges/Strategies in Teaching English for Academic Purposes (EAP) in Higher Education in India* was postponed indefinitely.

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CENTRE FOR WRITING AND
COMMUNICATION

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020

*National Conference on
Challenges/Strategies in
Teaching English for
Academic Purposes (EAP)
in Higher Education in India*

16-17 APRIL 2020
TIME: 9AM-7PM
VENUE : AC01-106 LT

Summer School



CENTRE FOR WRITING AND COMMUNICATION,
ASHOKA UNIVERSITY

Online Summer School 2020

Online Creative Writing Workshop
(June 8 - June 11, 2020)

Online Research Writing Workshop
(June 15- June 18, 2020)

Deadline- May 15, 2020

The workshops are free.
For details on how to apply, please visit our website:
<https://www.ashoka.edu.in/page/CWC-66>

The Annual Summer School Programme for the 2019-20 academic year was conducted online from 8 June to 19 June and consisted of two separate workshops - a **four-day** short story writing workshop, followed by a **five-day** research writing workshop. CWC received more than 200 applications for both the summer school workshops, out of which a total of **36 candidates** were selected to be part of the workshops.

Short Story Writing Workshop (8 June - 11 June 2020):

This was the first creative writing workshop delivered under the summer school programme, and -

aimed to impart some key technical elements of short story writing - plot, character development, dialogue, narration etc. - along with exposing the participants to the stories of their peers to inculcate the practice of critiquing prose like a writer. CWC received **96 applications** for the workshop and selected **12 candidates** for the four-day workshop on the basis of their short story submissions. The candidates belonged to **ten** different universities (including Delhi University, Jadavpur University, IISER Kolkata, Aligarh Muslim University, to name a few) and included students from various disciplines like Physics, Information Technology, Engineering, Economics, etc. The workshop was conducted by Writing Tutors Apoorva Saini, Uday Kanungo, Souradeep Roy, along with ICT Instructor Sidharth Singh. Each instructor specialised in an exclusive element of short story writing, and they conducted a total of 12 hours of online sessions over four days. These sessions consisted of numerous group activities and encouraged participants to offer their interpretations of the readings discussed. This was also followed by an exclusive guest session conducted by the reputed novelist and short story writer Sumana Roy. All days of the workshop also included intensive peer-review sessions, in which all candidates reviewed each others' stories in a roundtable setting, giving important feedback and suggestions that would provide crucial practical solutions to improve their initial drafts. These sessions were further followed up by one-on-one sessions with each instructor, so that special that attention

could be given to each and every participant's stories, to discussing their queries, and to talking about the goals they want to achieve through their writing.

The online meeting software Zoom was used as the default meeting portal for all the sessions. All throughout the four days, the students engaged in lively discussion, especially in the peer review sessions, and showed great enthusiasm for the writing activities. The workshop concluded with a feedback session, and with the instructors setting up a dedicated forum for the students to interact with in future, so that they could continue reviewing each others' stories.

Research Writing Workshop (15 June- 19 June 2020):

The Research Writing Summer workshop was conducted by CWC writing tutors Aakshi Magazine, Senjuti Chakraborti, and Souradeep Roy. It was for a duration of five days and was attended by **24 participants** including MA, MPhil, and PhD scholars from **20** different universities across India (including TISS Mumbai, JNU, Central University of Kerala, Pondicherry University, to name a few). The participants were chosen after an intensive selection process from among **140 applicants**.

They were from diverse academic disciplines like English, History, Mass Communication, Political Science, Women's Studies, Geography, Education, Social Work, and Population Science.

The first three days consisted of lectures and writing tasks, while the last two days were dedicated to individual sessions with the tutors. The workshop sessions were designed to assist early-career scholars in dissertation writing. The sessions revolved around Myths of Academic Writing, Literature Review, Can Research Writing be Original, Structuring a thesis: Writing Plans and Abstracts, Plagiarism and Citation, and Editing and Revision strategies. The lectures included question and answer sessions, discussing the struggles and doubts of academic writing. The writing tasks, aimed at clarifying the topics discussed in the lectures, built on these topics. They introduced the participants to the practice of writing to prompts and then gave them tasks along with detailed feedback on editing their academic papers.

Following the pattern of the CWC one-on-one sessions, two days of the school were reserved for individual sessions with the participants. The participants were encouraged to come to the individual sessions having identified particular writing issues in the context of the workshop sessions. In these 30 minute sessions, each tutor discussed the writing sample of the participant, keeping in mind the stage of their research.

SUMMER SCHOOL 2020

PARTICIPANTS' INSTITUTIONS

AMITY UNIVERSITY | ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY | ASHOKA UNIVERSITY

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF HARYANA

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH BIHAR

COOCH BEHAR PANCHANAN BARMA UNIVERSITY, WEST BENGAL

DELHI UNIVERSITY

GB PANT SOCIAL SCIENCES INSTITUTE, UTTAR PRADESH

IIT, DELHI

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY (IGNOU), DELHI

INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, KOLKATA

JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA | JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY

REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, BHUBANESWAR

ROYAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY, GUWAHATI

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE, TAMIL NADU

TATA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, MUMBAI
&
THE MAHARAJA SAYAJIRAO UNIVERSITY OF BARODA

EXTERNAL COLLABORATIONS

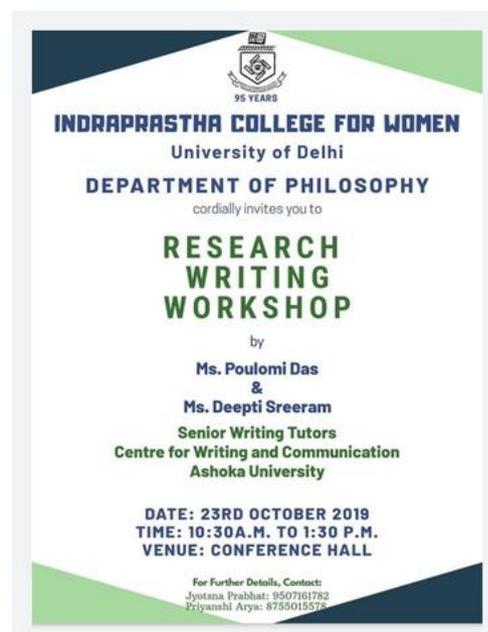
CWC team members - with their expertise and diverse academic backgrounds - also teach academic and research writing outside Ashoka. This is done by conducting workshops for students of various disciplines and levels across universities in India. Some of the institutions we have worked with include CEPT University, Ahmedabad, Indraprastha College for Women, Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University Delhi and Gauhati University. This year CWC was involved in **two** such collaborations:

Academic Writing Workshop at IP College:

Senior Writing Tutors Poulomi Das and Deepti Sreeram, conducted a workshop on Academic Writing for Department of Philosophy, Indraprastha College, University of Delhi, on 23 October 2019. It was a 3 hour long workshop which helped a group of around **70 undergraduate students** with useful strategies and methods for writing a good academic paper.

Dissertation Writing Workshop at Ambedkar University, Delhi :

Writing Tutors Senjuti Chakraborti and Aakshi Magazine, conducted a workshop on Dissertation Writing for Department of Urban Studies, AUD, on 24 April 2020. It was a three hours long workshop held online on Google Meet and was attended by **22 participants**.



NEW INITIATIVES

Short Story Writing Workshop:

As part of its annual summer school, CWC held its first creative writing workshop in June 2020, by selecting twelve candidates for discussing and experimenting with various techniques, modes, and examples of short story writing. The aim of the workshop was to familiarize the candidates with multiple forms of storytelling and equip them with as many tools to tell these stories. Crucial aspects of storytelling such as narrative, character, dialogue, plot, etc., were extensively discussed and many canonical, as well as underrated short stories, were part of the workshop.



Short story writing workshop participants in an online session with author Sumana Roy.

Students were required to read not only these short stories, but also theoretical concepts associated with literary theory in general and the genre of short stories in particular. Over four days, the candidates not only discussed and offered their interpretations of stories and storytelling, but also worked through writing exercises, prompts, and other interactive activities. Peer-reviewing was the chiefest of such group activities, where students and instructors read each other's stories in groups in a virtual round-table format, and offered writerly critiques of the stories.

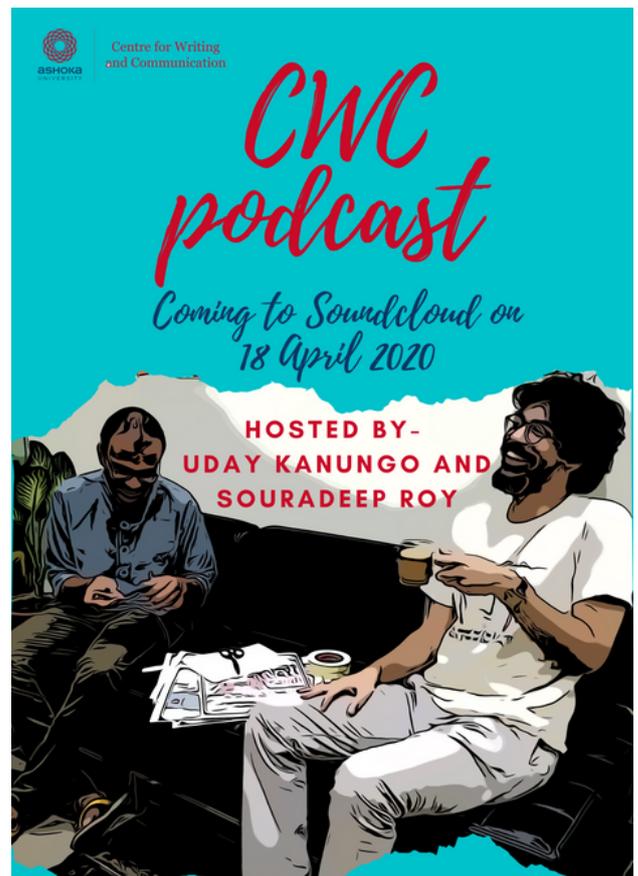
The workshop was concluded by a guest talk by noted novelist and short story writer Sumana Roy. With this beginning, the CWC expects to extend its areas of pedagogical work into the sphere of creative writing as well, and will attempt to link critical and creative dimensions of writing so as to exploit the interdependence between the two and accommodate even more students in this way.

Podcast:

In the month of May, CWC started a podcast series titled *Back to the Tutor* hosted by writing tutors Souradeep Roy and Uday Kanungo, and has released three episodes on Soundcloud. The podcast aims to invite academics, researchers, artists, writers, and anyone doing interesting and compelling work in the field of aesthetics, academia, or pedagogy. Intending to continue discovering issues surrounding language, writing, teaching, and critical thinking, the podcast will strive towards including diverse voices that could contribute to the discussion and foster interest around these topics among the student base.

Open Access Learning Modules:

CWC plans to release, through open online access, a few modules on Plagiarism, Citation, and other facets of academic and critical writing. The modules will feature pedagogical support for undergraduate students vis-a-vis concepts like academic integrity, close reading, ethics of research, etc. In addition to the course specific workshops conducted by CWC around academic writing, these modules aim to expand on the existing material, delve deeper into the area of academic writing, and offer it for use by students across institutions.



English Communication Classes for Staff:

In the Monsoon Semester, CWC organized a series of English Communication classes for staff members of Ashoka University. Conducted by writing tutor Souradeep Roy, the aim of these classes was to familiarize the members with the basics of the English language and equip them as much as possible to be comfortable with its usage around the workplace. **Five** members of the Ashoka staff attended these classes this year. In the first semester, Roy devoted **ten hours** of one-on-one sessions with **five** staff members.

In the Spring Semester, the format shifted from individual one-on-one sessions to classroom teaching. **Eight** classes of one hour each totaling **eight hours** were devoted to staff classes. The syllabi covered reading, speaking, email writing, and communication skills.

Collaboration with Science Departments:

CWC plans to initiate collaboration with the various science departments of Ashoka University and beyond in a move towards developing a Science Communication Course. Realizing that science writing is a growing genre within which several tenets of academic writing and critical thinking are involved, CWC aspires to cater to students outside of humanities and social sciences to accommodate science students who wish to engage in communicating their theories and thoughts through lucid and detailed writing. To this end, such a course will aim to uncover aspects of scientific academic writing so as to help convey ideas in the best way possible.

MEDIA

CWC successfully improved its media presence this year. Several online initiatives were introduced keeping student-specific needs in mind, and our social media handles saw a considerable increase in the number of followers across platforms.

The most popular of these activities were: Book and Film Recommendations on Instagram, YouTube series #DecodingCollegeApplications where scholars from around the globe answered questions about applying to graduate schools, and live workshop streaming on Facebook.

The centre released its brochure in the Monsoon Semester which is available on our improved page on the existing Ashoka website. Periodic newsletters (both Ashoka and CWC ones) were also released throughout the year.

Links to our social media: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Podcast](#), [Webpage](#).

Instagram series: Film and reading recommendations from team CWC

INSTAGRAM

70% INCREASE IN FOLLOWERS FROM LAST YEAR

YOUTUBE

CWC PRESENTS DECODING COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

ELT
RELATED
VIDEOS
ALSO
AVAILABLE



Episode 1

SANGITA SAHA
PhD Candidate

History and Women's Studies,
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor



Episode 2

SAYORI GHOSAL
PhD Candidate

Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies
(MESAAS), Columbia University



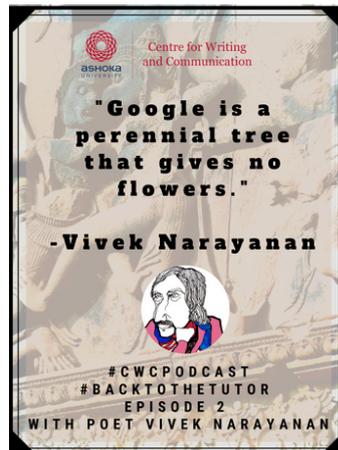
Episode 3

MOHINI MEHTA
PhD Candidate

Department of Sociology,
National University of Singapore

5
EPISODES
RELEASED

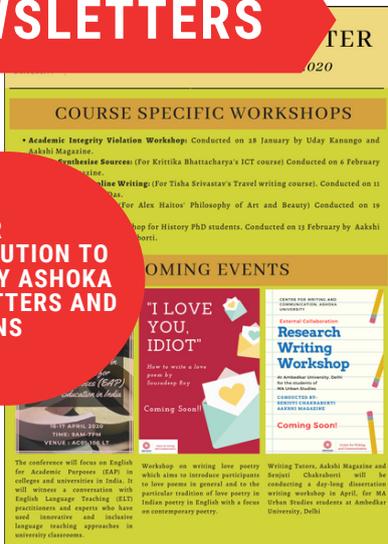
PODCAST



3
EPISODES
OUT

NEWSLETTERS

REGULAR
CONTRIBUTION TO
MONTHLY ASHOKA
NEWSLETTERS AND
BULLETINS



5
EXCLUSIVE
NEWSLETTERS
PUBLISHED IN 2019-
20, INCLUDING ONE
ALUMNI
NEWSLETTER

TEAM 2019-20



Kanika Singh, Director

She is a historian working on heritage politics and museums in contemporary India. She completed her PhD from Ambedkar University Delhi and Masters in Medieval Indian History from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her doctoral work examines the representation of heritage in Sikh museums in independent India. Her research interests include Delhi's history, architecture and urban history, visual culture, and pedagogy. She is the Co-founder of Delhi Heritage Walks, where she is involved in leading heritage walks, designing walking trails, and training volunteers and professionals in the field of cultural heritage. She has taught at Ambedkar University Delhi, CEPT University Ahmedabad, IGNOU, IITTM, NOIDA.



Jyotirmoy Talukdar, Senior Writing Fellow

He completed his MPhil in English from the University of Delhi. His dissertation, completed under the supervision of Dr Hany Babu, was on the process of standardization of the Assamese language. His areas of academic interest include language policy, disability studies, Dalit studies and the northeast. His first book of translation is forthcoming.



Poulomi Das, Senior Writing Tutor

She has done extensive fieldwork in the Indian mangroves for over a span of five years and has recently submitted her PhD titled "The Bonbibi Cult of Sundarbans: Expressions and Expectations in the Performances of Everyday Life" at the Jawaharlal Nehru University. She is interested in English Literature, Language and Performance Studies and has taught students of varying disciplines and age-groups for almost a decade.



Deepti Sreeram, Senior Writing Tutor

She is a linguist and a former journalist. She is interested in language pedagogy, socio-linguistics and literature, semiotics, gender studies, and graphic novels. Deepti has published articles on a variety of issues for *Tehelka*, *Outlook*, and other online news platforms. She has previously worked with Pratham and had coordinated the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2017 in Kerala.



Aakshi Magazine, Writing Tutor

She has a PhD in Film Studies from the University of St Andrews. Her doctoral thesis is on the Hindi film song of the 1950s. Her writings have been published in *The Hindu*, *DNA*, *Ladies Finger*, *Economic and Political Weekly* and *Popula*, among others.



Apoorva Saini, Writing Tutor

She is the Founder and Editor of an online magazine [The Bilingual Window](#), and writes short stories in Hindi and English. With a background in English Literature, she has a Masters degree in Literary Arts (Creative Writing) from Ambedkar University, Delhi. She was previously an Assistant Publicist with the independent publishing house, Yoda Press.



Ashwini Rajpoot, Writing Tutor

A English Literature post-graduate from Mumbai University, she is a former social sector professional with particular interest in education policies, libraries, technological interventions in education, folklore and popular Hindi film studies. She has previously worked with social sector organisations such as Ibtada (Alwar), Eklavya (Bhopal) and Teach For India.



Neerav Dwivedi, Writing Tutor

He has an Mphil degree in English Literature from Delhi University, where he also taught before joining Ashoka University. His research, examining some of Orhan Pamuk's novels, looks at different ways in which object assemblages construct the literary text.



Senjuti Chakraborti, Writing Tutor

She is a doctoral scholar at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC) finishing her dissertation on Toni Morrison. Her research interests include studies in the novel, African American fiction, critical race studies, law and literature, and Foucauldian jurisprudence. Previously, she has taught literature to undergraduates at Bhangar Mahavidyalaya, West Bengal, and at the Department of English and Humanities, Birkbeck, University of London.



Souradeep Roy, Writing Tutor

He is a poet, translator, playwright, journalist and has an Mphil degree in Theatre and Performance Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. His poems have appeared in several places and his most recent work is an experimental play, *A Brief Loss of Sanity* (Kaurab, 2018). He was previously an editor with the Indian Writers' Forum Trust, and is currently an Associate Editor of Almost Island.



Uday Kanungo, Writing Tutor

He has completed a Masters degree in English Literature, and has previously worked as a teaching and research assistant as well as an assistant editor. He writes fiction in English while translating prose and poetry from Odia to English. His writing has been published in *Pif Magazine*, *City Journal*, *Eleventh Column*, *The Hindu*, and *The Bombay Review*.



GRANTS/ CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS/ PUBLIC TALKS

- Jyotirmoy Talukdar was awarded the Zubaan-Sasakawa Peace Foundation Grant for Young Researchers, 2019. His ongoing research is titled “Unless you stop procreating *ema-dima* children: Class, Gender and Community Introspection in Miya Poetry”.
- Souradeep Roy was the Chair for a discussion on Dr Brahma Prakash's book *Cultural Labour: Understanding the ‘Folk Performance’ in India* (Oxford University Press, 2019) on 25 September 2019 at Studio Safdar, New Delhi.
- Jyotirmoy Talukdar moderated the session “Papery Lives: Citizenship from Accord to NRC and Beyond” on 26 September 2019 at Ashoka University, Sonipat.
- Souradeep Roy curated a discussion around Rahul Soni’s translation of Shrikant Verma's collection of poems, *Magadh* (Almost Island Books), on 19 October 2019 at The Seagull Space, New Delhi.
- Jyotirmoy Talukdar was invited to speak on “Contemporary Trends in Journalistic Prose in Assamese Newspapers and Magazines” on 2 November 2019 for the 21st Northeast Book Fair in Guwahati .
- Senjuti Chakraborti was invited to present her paper “Can we separate form and content? Exploring the conundrum in teaching academic writing” at *Classroom Affairs: A Symposium on Writing Pedagogies* on 9 and 10 November 2019 conducted by the Centre for Writing Studies, O.P. Jindal University.
- Souradeep Roy was the Chair for a discussion “Two voices: Zoe Wicomb and Togara Muzanenhamo” on 7 December 2019 at the Bangalore International Centre for the 13th Almost Island Dialogues.

- Kanika Singh participated in an eight weeks long online course *Memory and Human Rights*, on the role of memorial sites on understanding the past and shaping contemporary societies, organised by Global Campus of Human Rights, EU, in June 2020.
- Kanika Singh became the Reviews Editor for the peer-reviewed journal: Anthropology of the Contemporary Middle East and Central Eurasia
- Kanika Singh was a Member of selection committee of CEPT Essay Prize Committee 2020, organized by CEPT University, Ahmedabad.

PUBLICATIONS BY CWC

- Jyotirmoy Talukdar, Extensive report "For Bengali Muslims Whose Names Are in the NRC, the Struggle Isn't Over Yet", *The Wire*, 26 May 2019.
- Senjuti Chakraborti, "From 'Document' to 'Monument': Re-presenting the Testimony of Margaret Ganer in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*", *Gender: Constructions, Connotations and Representations*, ed. Sudeshna Chakravorty. Paschimbanga Anchalik Itihas O Loksanskriti Charcha Kendra, Kolkata, 2019.
- Souradeep Roy, "Remembering P Lal and Writers Workshop: The Original Publishing House for the New Author", *The Indian Express*, 30 August 2019.
- Uday Kanungo, "The Fig Flower", translation of Akhil Mohan Pattanayak's "Dimiri Phula", *City: A Journal of South Asian Literature*, Vol 1. Issue 7, eds. Ajmal Kamal, Sophia Naz. Bangalore, October 2019.
- Uday Kanungo, "Lost in Translation?", *The Assam Tribune*, 19 November 2019.
- Kanika Singh, "Building a Centre for Writing & Communication: Inclusion, Diversity and Writing in the Indian Context published in the book", *Diversity and Inclusion in Global Higher Education: Lessons from Across Asia*, eds. Catherine Sanger & Nancy Gleason. Palgrave Macmillan, Singapore, January 2020.
- Jyotirmoy Talukdar, "Anti-CAA Protests: The Importance Of Akhil Gogoi, Assam's Most Confusing And Powerful Activist", *HuffPost India*, 12 January 2020.
- Souradeep Roy, "Despatches: On Janam, and what transforms", *The Charles River Journal*, Boston, 2020.
- Jyotirmoy Talukdar, "The Filmfare Farce: Is Assam's BJP Govt Trying To Bury CAA Protests?", *HuffPost India*, 6 February 2020.
- Jyotirmoy Talukdar, "The Travails and Scuffles That Marked Akhil Gogoi's Rise in Politics", *The Wire*, 22 March 2020.
- Jyotirmoy Talukdar, "Hunger, Helplessness, Hope: How Five Young Assamese Poets Are Spending Their Lockdown Days", *Eleventh Column*, 19 April 2020.

- Jyotirmoy Talukdar, "In Assam, Syed Abdul Malik's Ode to Composite Culture Is Being Vilified on Social Media", *The Wire*, 22 April 2020.
- Uday Kanungo, "Every Bong Joon-Ho Film Ranked", *High on Films*, 23 April 2020.
- Uday Kanungo, "Pandemic!': Slavoj Zizek's Book on COVID-19 Calls for 'Reinvented Communism'", *Eleventh Column*, 11 May 2020.
- Jyotirmoy Talukdar, "Assam Scholar's Harvard University Claim Turns out to Be a Hoax, Raises Several Pressing Questions", *The Cross Current*, 15 May 2020.
- Jyotirmoy Talukdar, "Crisis and Compassion: How Six Music Stars of Assam Are Spending Their Lockdown Days", *Eleventh Column*, 25 May 2020.
- Jyotirmoy Talukdar, "'Cinema Will Help Us Survive': Five Assamese Filmmakers on the COVID-19 Crisis", *Eleventh Column*, 8 June 2020.
- Uday Kanungo, "My Time at Boyonika", *The Bombay Review*, 8 June 2020.
- Uday Kanungo, "The Language Man of Lucknow", *The Hindu*, 11 June 2020.
- Aakshi Magazine, "A language of its own: Mani Ratnam's Experiments in Song Picturization ", *Musicals at the Margins: Genre, Boundaries, Canon*, eds Martha Shearer & Julie Lobalzo Wright. Bloomsbury, New York, Forthcoming 2020.
- Kanika Singh, "Commemorating Baghel Singh's 'Conquest' of Delhi: The Fateh Diwas", *Studies in History*. Forthcoming 2020.
- Jyotirmoy Talukdar, "Hany Babu is Guilty - of Helping Students Develop an interest in Language, Region, and Culture", *The Wire*, 29 July 2020.
- Souradeep Roy, "Hany Babu: Potrait of a Professor as an Activist", *NewsClick*, 31 July 2020.



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