

**Department of English  
Jamia Millia Islamia  
New Delhi**

**[MHRD-SPARC supported] International Conference**

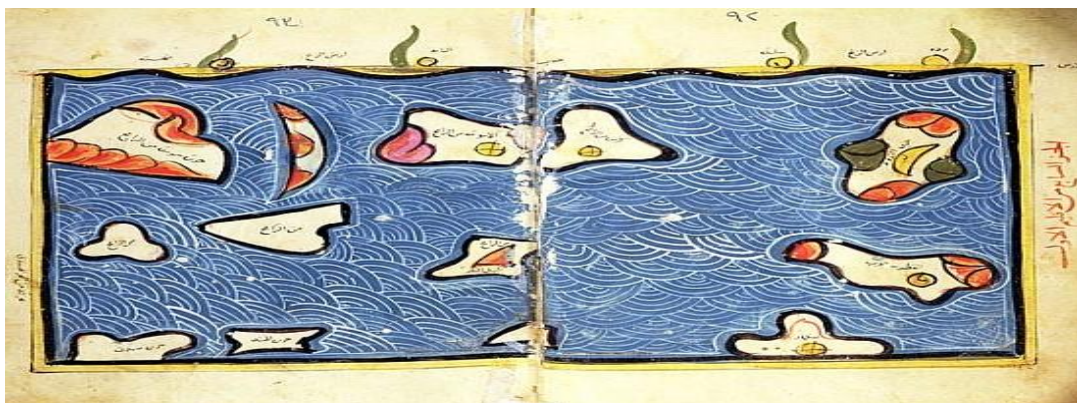
**On**

**‘Cosmopolitan Cultures and Oceanic Thought: Thinking through History  
Across the Waters’**

**23-24 November 2020**

**Call for Papers**

12th century Map of the Indian Ocean, Muhammad al-Idrisi (1099-1166)



**Keynote Address by Professor Elleke Boehmer** Professor of World Literature in English; Fellow, Wolfson College; Director, Oxford Centre for Life Writing

For too long, we have worked with the Global South as the space of “experience” and Euro-America as the space of “thought”. What would it mean to think about both history and thinking as fluid: not premised on terrestrial locations and incarcerated within the nation state or paradigms of area studies. Perhaps we need to start thinking with “geographies of affinity”

rather than the geographies of colonialism and nationalism. The proposed conference, connected to a SPARC-sponsored collaboration between Jamia Millia Islamia and Centre for Indian Studies in Africa, University of the Witwatersrand, aims to foreground mobility, circulation and the *longue duree*-thinking with movements across the Ocean rather than terrestrial histories.

The proposed conference concerns itself with mobility, circulation and cosmopolitanism in the Indian Ocean space while engaging with traditions of reflection and intellection in the global south in order to think about an alternative history of concepts for the social sciences. Edouard Glissant in the Caribbean draws upon the histories of movement and enslavement in the ocean; Frantz Fanon thinks with France, Algeria and Martinique simultaneously; and Mandela draws upon Nehru, even as Nehru thinks with Julius Nyerere and Kenneth Kaunda. This is an exigent need since we do not think often enough of how a University in the global south should think its intellectual project, its syllabi and pedagogy what would it mean to think with the connected histories of the global south through the movement of people, ideas and material through the ocean? Yet again, what would it mean to derive a conceptual vocabulary from these sedimented histories, where we can address our amnesia, born of the colonial wound, towards Indian, Chinese, Islamic and Caribbean thought?

Paper proposals may be about, but not confined to the following themes:

- Interconnected-ness in Narrative traditions and folk cultures of the global south
- Cross-current of Ideas in Theatre and Cinemas from the Global South
- Trade, Commerce and Identities
- Sufi orders, and the Spread of Islamic Thoughts: Travelogues, Hajj Narratives, Ziyarat Narratives
- Sanskrit cosmopolis, Arabic cosmopolis and the Indian ocean world
- Trajectories of Buddhist Thoughts across the Indian Ocean
- Traders, Merchants, Merchant Guilds and their Role in Identity formation
- Intertwined Networks of kinship, religion, commerce and scholarship
- Transoceanic Movements and Anticolonial Struggles in Global South
- Global Economy, Migrant Labour and Transnational Identities
- Sail Boats to Steam ships- Transformation through Technology
- Movements of material goods and its impact on configurations of culture
- Islands and archipelagic imagination
- Creolization
- Indigeneity and Indigenous Knowledge Systems
- Wang Hui and other social theorists from Lu Xun to Mo Yan

- Anglophone Literature from China, Africa, India to the Caribbean Islands
- Slavery and caste
- Literary and Cultural narratives of Indian Ocean

### **Important Dates**

Submission of Abstracts: 30 July 2020

Intimation of Accepted Abstracts: 30 August 2020

Submission of Full-Length Papers: 30 September 2020

### **Guidelines for Abstract and Paper Submissions:**

Abstracts of about 300 words along with short bio-note of about 100 words be preferably sent by e-mail to [oceanic.conference@gmail.com](mailto:oceanic.conference@gmail.com) on or before 30 July 2020. Full length papers of 6000-8000 words, citation style: MLA 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, should reach on or before 30 September 2020.

### **Registration Fees**

Registration fees would include conference kit, refreshment, and conference dinner. Registration details will follow soon.

	Early Bird Registration 30 September 2020	Registration
Students/Research Scholars	INR.1500/-	INR.2000/-
Academic delegates/ Faculties	INR.3000/-	INR.5000/-
Foreign Delegates	USD.200/-	300/-

[Registration fee can be submitted through Demand Draft drawn in favour of The Registrar, Jamia Millia Islamia, payable at New Delhi].

### **Accommodation**

For outstation delegates shared accommodation can be arranged at the University Guest House and assistance can be provided for hotel bookings.

**For further queries and submissions kindly mail at [oceanic.conference@gmail.com](mailto:oceanic.conference@gmail.com)**

**Patron:**

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