



International Conference

MAPPING THE GLOBAL LEGACY OF THE MAHATMA: REFLECTIONS ON POLITICS, RELIGION AND CULTURE

**24-25TH JANUARY 2020
ZAKIR HUSAIN DELHI COLLEGE**

ABSTRACT

Scholars across disciplines have examined M.K. Gandhi's life and philosophy from varied vantage points. Adjudged the 'Time person of the 20th Century', he is one of the most widely read and explored political leaders of our times. It is a challenging task to read and re-read Gandhi amidst the plethora of existing works and academic discussions on him. Mahatma continued to bemuse his supporters and opponents alike for his conventional, innovative, and at times, eccentric approach to the personal and the political. He was equally passionate in his experiments with diet, clothing, and sexuality, as he was with his political programmes. His portrayal in literature and cinema provides us ways to comprehend popular and cultural representations of Gandhi. For some, he was a 'philosopher', for others, a 'post-modern thinker'. His trenchant critique of 'modern civilization' in 'Hind Swaraj' echoes the concerns of J.J. Rousseau, Leo Tolstoy and Jonathan Swift.

Gandhi's philosophical inconsistencies were evident from his ideas on 'trusteeship', religion, language and colonial modernity. His proposal 'NaiTaleem' is yet to gain wide recognition in India. The conference seeks to invite Gandhian scholars, political philosophers, theorists, historians, activists, policy-makers, intellectuals to converse about and engage with the legacy and contemporary relevance of M.K. Gandhi by exploring the aforementioned themes.

PRINCIPAL

Dr. Masroor Ahmad Beg

CONVENER

Dr. Ravi Ranjan

A WORD ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The 5th January 1931 issue of the TIME Magazine featured Gandhi on its cover page, conferring on him the title of 'Man of the Year' in 1930. Placed in the category of 'Peacemakers and Statesmen' of the magazine, Gandhi preceded Winston Churchill, the man who had ridiculed him as 'half-naked fakir'. The West could not comprehend a political leader who wore a loincloth, drank goat's milk, heard 'inner voices' and resorted to fasting to solve political problems. (B.R. Nanda, 142; Gandhi and his critics)

Gandhi has been the subject matter of inquiry for scholars cutting across discipline. His life and philosophy has been examined from varied vantage points. To some, he was a saint personified; to others, he was merely a conservative Hindu 'upper caste' leader. The varied hues in his eventful life made Akeel Bilgrami search for a 'philosopher' in Gandhi; while for the late L. Rudolph and S. Rudolph Gandhi was a 'post-modern thinker'.

Amidst the plethora of existing works and academic discussions on Gandhi, how does one read Gandhi? One way of reading him could be through his life, as he himself suggested, 'my life is my message'. Paying close attention to his life journey from a timid 'Gujarati Bania' boy to his experiments as a Satyagrahi in South Africa's Tolstoy Farm and eventually his political role as 'father of the nation' can reveal a lot about the man and his times.

Another way of reading him could be through his writings and speeches (including letters). One can also understand the nuances in Gandhi's life and his philosophy by reading what his associates, friends, acquaintances and contemporaries had written about him. Last but not the least, several commentaries, essays and books on Gandhi by scholars can also be insightful.

IMPORTANT DATES AND INSTRUCTIONS

Deadlines

Submission of abstract	30th November 2019
Notification of acceptance of abstract	5th December 2019
Submission of full paper (max.7000 words)	10th January 2020
Dates of Conference	24th and 25th January 2020


REGISTRATION, PUBLICATION AND TRAVEL

Registration charges for paper presenters is **Rs 1000 (One thousand only)**. Selected Quality Papers of the conference will be published in a special volume on Global Gandhi in UGC - Listed Journals and Few papers can be published in an edited Volume as the outcome of this conference. Local hospitality will be taken care by organizers and all participants will be provided conference kits.

Submit your abstract to ranjanr1@gmail.com.

Few Travel Grants/Subsidies are available (depending on financial support) for paper presenter. After receiving acceptance letter selected authors may apply for travel grants once their registration is complete.

The Conference shall be organized around the following themes;

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- 1 Gandhi in conversation with national and world leaders and philosophers
 - 2 Literary and cinematic representation of Gandhi and Gandhian thoughts
 - 3 Gandhi and modern civilization/modernity
 - 4 Gandhi through his biographers
 - 5 Gandhi and language/education
 - 6 Gandhi as a post-colonial thinker
 - 7 Gandhi, the philosopher
 - 8 Gandhi and the body
 - 9 Gandhi and religion

CONTACT

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