

What Postcolonial Theory does not say and can say

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The present volume addresses the question of postcolonial studies, its failures, apprehensions and possible futures. It primarily argues its case through the review of recent works in this field such as *The Future of Postcolonial Studies* (Zabus, 2015) and *What Postcolonial Theory Does not Say* (Bernard, et al., 2016), etc. The 2006 MLA Convention on Postcolonial Studies pronounced the death knell of postcolonialism, calling it dead and since then scholars and researchers in this domain have continued discussing about the implications of such as observation. Recent literature, however, have once again reopened this debate. The book edited by Chantal Zabus celebrates the twenty-fifth year of publication of the seminal work on postcolonial studies, *The Empire Writes Back* (Ashcroft, et al.1989), a work considered to be the genesis of subsequent ideas in postcolonial studies. It takes as its point of departure, prevalent debates in postcolonialism and explores possibilities of expanding the field by incorporating new findings and newer horizons of thoughts. It revisits the points raised by Ashcroft and others in the *Empire Writes Back* and relocates the postcolonial discourse in today`s perspective. This issue of *Kairos* engages with the findings of Chantal Zabus work as well with other recent works on postcolonialism such as *Reworking Postcolonialism: Globalization, Labour and Rights* (Malreddy, et al.

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2015), *Can Non-Europeans Think?* (Dabashi, 2015); *Globalectics: Theory and the Politics of Knowing* (Ngugi wa Thiong'o, 2014), etc to arrive at a possible future road map. It seeks to invoke a dialogue among many discursive terrains to forge the ground for new cognitive universes. New emergent areas of research under the rubric of postcolonialism such as *Postcolonialism and the Anthropocene*, *Dalitude and Postcoloniality*, *Postcolonialism and the Neo-subaltern*, or *Postcolonialism and new critical theory*, *Gendering the Postcolonial Paradigm*, *Postcolonialism and Life Writing*, *Revisiting the Postcolonial through Working Class fiction*, *New Social Movements and the Postcolonial State*, *Redefining World Literature and the Postcolonial*, *Postcolonial and the Arab Spring/Middle East*, etc can be taken up for future discussion and research.

Contributors in this issue have addressed some of these issues. While Pavan Malreddy in his thought-provoking essay has focused on Bollywood and Naxalism, Chakrabarty and Purakayastha have brought in the Arab Spring and the Middle East as an important domain of postcolonial research. Alam and Ahmed in their essay have looked into the plight of the immigrant labourers as neo-subalterns.

This issue contains two crucial interviews one with Prof. Ngugi Wa Thiong'o and the other with Prof. Ajay Gudavarthy who has recently written extensively on Indian socio-political realities and changes. Ngugi's interviews throw up important openings in postcolonial episteme and both the interviews we believe would be of great help in forming new ideas in postcolonial transdisciplinary studies. Neil Lazarus in his essay, "What Postcolonial Theory Doesn't Say" published in *Race and Class* (53(1), 2011) did critique postcolonial theory for its dismaterialist approaches and its category errors but recent works in this field have actually attempted to redress this lacunae and this issue of *Kairos* intends to contribute in that new direction to suggest that although postcolonial theory failed to say many things but with

renewed efforts and new optics it can open new avenues and can say many new things that have contemporary relevance.

Kairos would seek to break new grounds through the review of latest books on wide range of issues that have relevance in postcolonial politics, society and governance. The present volume has got four densely written reviews of new books in these fields.

We would prefer to have only one issue at the moment in a year because we would focus on quality research and once the platform is established then we can think of two issues per year. ■