



A TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

ON

Mnemonic Spaces: Mapping Identity and Representation in Contemporary Literature, Society and Culture

(Hybrid Mode: Virtual and Physical)

Organised by

The Department of English
H. P. B. Girls' College (Autonomous) Golaghat

In collaboration with

IQAC, H. P. B. Girls' College (Autonomous) Golaghat
and
ACTA, H. P. B. Girls' College (Autonomous) Unit



Date: 2nd and 3rd September, 2026

Venue: H. P. B. Girls' College (Autonomous), Golaghat, Assam, India

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

As a result of the 21st century processes of migration, the digitalisation of society, the proliferation of social movements, the environmental crisis, and socio-cultural transformation, identities have become a central theme in the production and contestation of culture. In cultural and literary studies, mnemonic spaces are material and immaterial spaces in which social actors construct, store, transmit and perform memory. While Nora's *lieux de mémoire* (sites of memory) are the fixed and enclosed spaces of monuments, archives, ritual and clichés, mnemonic spaces are concerned with the interaction, negotiation, circulation and contestation of memory across time and space. According to Ann Rigney, memory studies is therefore less concerned now with understanding memory spaces (as 'sites') and more engaged with memory 'dynamics' and their continuous reconfiguration with and within the contemporary social and political contexts.

Memory has become an increasingly frequent topic of analysis in popular culture, literature, and cinema. Memory and how it is seen, lived, and negotiated can provide understanding into the formation and development of a collective consciousness and identity in relation to trauma, marginality, gender, indigeneity, and displacement. James E. Young has demonstrated that memorials and cultural texts are not fixed sites of meaning, but meaningful locations for the performance and interpretation of meaning.

Having these interdisciplinary concerns in mind, the seminar invites papers and reflections that focus on how memory, identity, space and representation resonate in the contemporary moment in relation to expanding spaces (literary, cultural, virtual, transnational) of representation. Papers are welcome from the interdisciplinary fields of literature, history, media studies, sociology, cultural studies, anthropology, and spatial theory, and from research that engages with the range of themes indicated above.

This seminar proposes to:

- Examine the relationship between memory and identity formation within contemporary literary and cultural discourses.
- Analyse the politics of representation as they pertain to gender, caste, race, ethnicity, and marginality.
- Analyse literary and cultural texts as mnemonic archives of trauma, resistance, and belonging.
- Investigate how digital and virtual spaces contribute to the formation of collective memory and cultural identities.
- Foster interdisciplinary dialogues concerning memory studies, cultural representation, and contemporary social realities.
- Re-examine issues of nation, homeland, diaspora, indigeneity, and locality through the framework of mnemonic practices.
- Explore any new perspective(s).

The following sub-themes are suggestive rather than exhaustive:

- Memory, Identity, and Subject Formation
- Homeland, Nationhood, and Territorial Consciousness
- Postcolonial Selfhood and Decolonial Perspectives
- Caste, Marginality, and Social Hierarchies
- Ethnicity, Community Formation, and Cultural Belonging
- Queer Histories and Non-Normative Subjectivities .
- Gender, Power Structures, and Embodied Experiences
- Memoirs, Autobiography, and Life Narratives
- Trauma, Testimony, and Healing Practices
- Conflict, Violence, and Political Consciousness

- Resistance Movements, and Contemporary Political Discourses
- Memorialisation, Monuments, and Public Commemoration
- War Narratives and Collective Remembrance
- Diaspora, Mobility, and Transnational Networks
- Migration, Exile, and Forced Displacement
- Spatiality, Mapping, and Narrative Geographies
- Ecology, Landscape, and Environmental Humanities
- Borders, Statelessness, and Transnational Experiences
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Cultural Practices
- Native Narratives and Community Expression
- Oral Traditions, Documentation, and Archival Practices
- Literature as Repository of Cultural Memory
- Performance, Ritual, and Communal Practices
- Translation, Multilingualism, and Linguistic Consciousness
- Folklore, Myth, and Vernacular Histories
- Digital Cultures, Cyber Memory, and Social Media Practices
- Media, Communication Technologies, and Cultural Production
- Cinema, Visuality, and Mnemonic Representation
- Feminist Spatiality and Gendered Environments
- Digital Storytelling, Virtual Communities, and Networked Cultures
- Memory of Home and Domestic Imagination
- Homecoming, Homesickness, and Emotional Geographies
- Home Aesthetics and Material Cultures
- New Found Homes and Processes of Resettlement
- Hiraeth, Nostalgia, and Emotional Longing
- Architecture, Dwelling, and the Building of Home
- Postmemory and Intergenerational Transmission
- Collective Consciousness and Shared Histories
- Mnemonic Contestations and Memory Politics
- Restoration, Preservation, and Cultural Expression
- Transience, Permanence, and Temporal Experience



As these were suggestive topics, you have the freedom of blending them and think outside them too. Usually that is called 'any other related topic', but we encourage you to invent a topic as well. Because, memories have no bound!

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Hemo Prova Borbora Girls' College (Autonomous), a premier women's college of Assam, was established in 1969, to impart higher education to girls, particularly those belonging to economically and socially backward, rural, semi-urban and remote areas in the district of Golaghat. The College owes its establishment to the generous donation of the Late Alock Chandra Borbora, in memory of his mother, the Late Hemo Prova Borbora, after whom the College is named. The College is affiliated with Dibrugarh University and is recognised under Sections 2(f) and 12(B) of the University Grants Commission (UGC). The College attained Autonomous Status on 4th June 2025 providing more opportunities for academic and curricular flexibility. As per the National Education Policy 2020, the College offers Four Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP, Integrated Teacher Education Programme (B.A.-B.Ed.), and Postgraduate Programmes from the 2025-26

academic session. After completing the Golden Jubilee year in 2022, H. P. B. Girls' College continues to strive for excellence and offers quality education with the vision to promote ethics and critical thinking and women's empowerment.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

The Department of English has been one of the leading departments of literary study, critical inquiry and humanistic approach since the establishment of the Hemo Prova Borbora Girls' College (Autonomous) in 1969. It offers the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP), and from the academic year 2025-26, the Postgraduate Programme in English. Curriculum of the course, as envisaged in the National Education Policy 2020, offers Indian and Western, Classical and Contemporary Literatures, Literary Theory, Cultural Studies and Language, and nurtures skill for critical and analytical study, research and effective communication. The students are exposed to lectures, literary forums, workshops, research, extension activities, and cultural programmes. The Department approaches literature as a form through which we understand society, culture and the human condition, and fosters curiosity, empathy and intellectual integrity. Its alumnae have served as teachers, scholars, administrators, authors, and professionals. The Department stresses scholarly and rigorous learning, holistic learning, and engaged scholarship on campus, in society, and globally.

GOLAGHAT: A LAND OF HERITAGE, NATURE AND CULTURE

Situated in the eastern part of Assam, the district of Golaghat is where history, culture, and nature meet each other in a beautiful way. Golaghat is famous for its archaeological remains, tea gardens, wildlife, and customary culture. The district represents Assam in multiple ways and is a tourist destination of choice for travellers.

Several archaeological and historical sites, such as the Deopahar Archaeological Site, dating to the eighth to eleventh centuries, have ruins of intricately sculptured temples and sculptures that testify to the early medieval art and architecture of Assam. The ethnic history of the district is also evoked in the ancient Kachomari Monoliths, and in the history of Negheriting Shiva Doul, a religious centre established in 1765 at Negheriting hill by the Ahom king Swargadeo Rajeswar Singha. Other sites of erstwhile colonial interest include the British Cemetery in Golaghat town where soldiers from the First and Second World Wars are buried, and the Baptist Church built in 1898, one of the first such churches to be built in the region.

Nature lovers will find plenty to keep them engaged with the world famous Kaziranga National Park located in the district. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the park is home to the world's largest population of the one-horned rhinoceros and is one of India's most famous and well recognised national parks. Apart from Kaziranga, there is the Nambor wildlife sanctuary in the district that is very rich in flora and fauna. Golaghat is bestowed with natural hot water springs with scenic beauty and therapeutic value.

The district is also famous for its tea plantations, tea-garden bungalows built in colonial era and the tea industry, which is an economic and cultural powerhouse of the region for over a century. Kaziranga Orchid and Biodiversity Park is one of the largest orchid parks in India. It celebrates the biodiversity of the region and its many native communities. The town has the Natural History Museum, the only of its kind in Golaghat, built by the famous naturalist and wildlife documentary filmmaker Dr. Robin Banerjee, who left an important collection of the natural history of the region. The museum commemorates the pioneering work of one of Assam's first conservationists.

Here, the history, heritage, wildlife and scenic beauty combine to make Golaghat one of the most enchanting places of Assam, and of India as well for scholars, tourists and nature lovers.

REGISTRATION FEE

(The registration fee covers access to all plenary and technical sessions, a seminar kit, a certificate of presentation/participation, and working lunch and refreshments throughout the seminar.)

Category	With Paper Presentation	Without Paper Presentation
International Delegates	USD 50	USD 50
Faculty Members	1,500 INR	500 INR
Research Scholars	1,000 INR	400 INR
Students	500 INR	400 INR

IMPORTANT DATES

- Abstract Submission Deadline: **2 August 2026**
- Notification of Abstract Acceptance: **4 August 2026**
- Full Paper Submission Deadline: **20 August 2026**
- Registration Deadline: **21 August 2026**
- Seminar Dates: **2–3 September 2026**

GUIDELINES

- Papers must be original, not published elsewhere, nor under consideration.
- Manuscripts must be at least 3,500 words excluding references.
- The papers must be consistent with either the MLA Handbook (9th Edition) or the APA Publication Manual (7th Edition) and include in-text citations and references.
- Manuscripts must be submitted in Microsoft Word, using Times New Roman, 12 points, 1.5 spacing, and exactly justified type.
- Authors must submit their full paper in both MS Word (.doc/.docx) and PDF formats.
- Authors take responsibility for the originality of their own ideas and the source of any material quoted in each submission. Papers that are suspected of plagiarism or academic misconduct will be rejected.

PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITY

Submitted papers will be peer-reviewed in double-blind review process, and published as per the review recommendations either as a book with ISBN subject to the recommendations of the reviewers, the editorial policy, and adherence to publication ethics. Acceptance of a paper submission does not guarantee publication.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Authors are requested to submit their abstracts only by e-mail to mnemonicseminar2026@gmail.com. The abstract file should be named after the title of the paper (e.g., Reimagining Identity in Contemporary Literature.docx), and the same title should be used as the subject of the e-mail.

REGISTRATION LINK



PAYMENT DETAILS

Name of the Account	: RESOURCE MOBILIZATION HPB GIRLS GOLAGHAT
Bank Name	: ICICI BANK
Account Number	: 132301002378
IFSC Code	: ICIC0001323
Branch	: GOLAGHAT
SWIFT Code	: ICICIBBNRI
MICR No	: 785229102

HOW TO REACH THE COLLEGE

H. P. B. Girls' College (Autonomous) is centrally located in Golaghat, Assam, and is easily accessible by road, rail, and air.

By Air: Jorhat Airport (Rowriah) is the nearest airport, located about 35 km from the College. Taxis and buses regularly connect the airport to Golaghat.

By Rail: Furkating Junction, the nearest major railway station, is about 6 km away. Golaghat Railway Station also offers convenient access. Taxis and auto-rickshaws are available at both stations.

By Road: Golaghat is connected by National Highway 715 (formerly NH 37) to major cities including Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Nagaon, Tezpur, and Guwahati. The College is within the town and accessible by taxi, auto-rickshaw, and local transport from the bus terminus.

ACCOMMODATION

Assistance in arranging accommodation may be provided upon prior request. Accommodation charges shall be borne by the participants.

- **PATRON:** Dr. Deepa Phukan Baruah, President of the Governing Body
- **CHAIRPERSON:** Dr. Bulbuli Boruah, Principal
- **ADVISORS:** Mr. Prasanta Bora, Vice Principal
Dr. Palash Handique, Coordinator of IQAC
Dr. Arunima Das, President of Teachers' Unit
- **CONVENOR:** Dr. Santulan Mahanta, HoD (Dept. of English)
- **ORGANISING SECRETARY:** Mr. Mongolsing Rongphar, Dept. of English
- **ASSOCIATE ORGANISING SECRETARIES:** Dr. Dibyajyoti Bora, Dept. of English
Dr. Harit Sambhabana Khandayatray, Dept. of English
- **ORGANISING COMMITTEE:** Ms. Himashri Dutta, Dept. of English
Ms. Shelly Viridi, Dept. of English

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Avishek Parui

(PhD, Durham University)

Associate Professor (English)

Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT Madras
Founding Chairperson, Indian Network for Memory Studies

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER



Dr. Clara Vlessing

Post Doc Research Fellow (University College, Dublin)

Co-chair of the Memory Studies Association's working group on
Memory and Activism

**For further information or
assistance regarding the seminar, please contact:**



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