

## EDITORIAL

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A very warm welcome to the tenth issue of *Indialogs*. Our first issue came out in 2014 and since then we have published 65 articles, 38 miscellanea and 5 reviews (this section was only incorporated in 2021). The journal is the flagship of the Spanish Association of Interdisciplinary India Studies (AEEII) and has worked alongside the association to continue to promote the culture and society of the Indian subcontinent. This tenth anniversary issue is devoted to roots, which in British English is a homophone of routes, so the articles in this volume either uncover origins or map the development of traditions and customs.

The first article by Bhanupriya Rohila entitled “Graphic Novels and Traditional Art Forms: the Indian Context” traces the roots of the graphic novel in India back to traditional art forms and shows how the former can be used to contextualize the latter in contemporary times. With the help of pertinent illustrations, she notes how these new art forms have challenged stereotypes in particular as regards women and dalits. Pritha Sarkar analyses literary representations of the Naxalbari movement in her article “Violence, the Naxalbari Movement (1965-1975) and its Representation in Indian Literature in English: a Re-Reading of History through *The Lives Of Others* (2014).” Sarkar focuses on Neel Mukherjee’s novel to tease out the inherent contradictions in the use of violence by both parties, the Indian State and the peasant revolutionaries. Thus the contrast between the historical narrative and the contemporary novel showcases the repressive measures both sides resorted to but Sarkar also puts the spotlight on the individual traumas of the ordinary people caught up in the rebellion, as Mukherjee’s novel expertly explores. Jogamaya Bayer rereads Salman Rushdie’s novel *The Enchantress of Florence* from an ethical perspective in her article “Culture and Ethics in Salman Rushdie’s *The Enchantress of Florence*.” Bayer notes how, despite the title of the novel, the name of the princess Qara Köz is erased from history. Her article in fact

focuses on the character of Akbar and how the novel emphasizes ethical considerations that are shared across cultures. Amandeep Rana and Harpreet Kaur examine the third space that playwright Mahesh Dattani presents in his play *Do the Needful*. Their article “Communicating in the Third Space: a Psycho-Cultural Reading of the LGBT Community in Mahesh Dattani’s Radio Play *Do The Needful* (1997)” argues that Dattani skilfully depicts how men and women are obliged to secretly and silently share certain different spaces in a society that promotes only traditional heteronormative structures.

The AEEII awarded Marion Bastiana Debrois Castro the prize for the best BA dissertation in 2022 and we are delighted to publish her work in this issue of *Indialogs*. She analyzes the musical activities of Casa de la India (Valladolid) in her article “Interculturality, world music and management of musical heritage in musical shows: an approach to the Casa de la India Foundation in Valladolid.” Debrois Castro undertook exhaustive research into the musical output of the Foundation and her article provides a detailed discussion of the activities carried out and their repercussion. This section concludes with Karam Damodaram Pillai’s highly original explanation for the exact origins of Brāhmī, an issue that Indologists have been debating for many years, in his article “The Hybrid Origin of Brāhmī Script from Aramaic, Phoenician and Greek Letters.” He undertakes a comparative letter by letter analysis with other Semitic origin scripts and concludes that Brāhmī was a hybrid invention by Indian scholars from Aramaic, Phoenician and Greek letters. His article is a perfect example of academic archaeology, that is, digging up roots.

In our miscellanea section, Braj Mohan in his text “Interpreting Nationalism in the Indian Context” explores the meaning and reach of nationalism in contemporary India. He concludes that the strength of the Indian nation lies in the narrow identities of religion, ethnicity, and language which are always surmounted by a collective Indian identity and patriotic fervour. India not only protects and preserves diversity but also celebrates it. Finally we are pleased to present three reviews of contemporary books which deal directly or indirectly with the Indian subcontinent. Jaouad Jabri presents a detailed discussion of Alfonso Ojeda’s *Historia compartida de España y la India* in which the author seeks to trace parallelisms between Spain and India. Ana María

Crespo Gómez has carefully reviewed Avtar Brah's recent work *Decolonial Imaginings: Intersectional Conversations and Contestations*. Brah is a particularly appropriate choice for this volume as she is herself a living example of the South Asian diaspora, that is transnational routes. Last but not least, Basudhara Roy provides us with an enchanting reading of Jaydeep Sarangi's latest collection of poems 'letters in lower case' in her review "Autumnal Chords. A Marginal Place in Poetry."

We hope this issue of *Indialogs* provides food for thought for our readers and as usual, we wish to thank our reviewers, copyeditors and authors for their time and dedication.