

National Conference on Munro Magic

24 - 25, October 2024

"Memory is the way we keep telling ourselves our stories-and telling other people a somewhat different version of our stories," said Alice Munro.

The UGC Area Study Centre for Canadian Studies along with the Institute of English proposes to host a two day National Conference to pay a tribute to the Canadian Nobel Laureate renowned as the titan of the short story, Alice Munro (July 1931 - May 2024).

Alice Munro occupies an unenviable position as an author of short stories in North America. She began her career with "The Dimensions of a Shadow" (1950) and retired from the field of writing with "Dear Life" (2012). She is reputed for her precision in storytelling while accommodating almost all possible concerns. She foregrounds the themes of regionalism and domesticity and, of course, women, life and its many vicissitudes in her stories. Memory and time have an indelible place in her stories. Her characters have a rare psychological depth and are very individualistic. Munro's narratives are known for their fluidity and intense imagery. As readers we get involved in the story, not to see what happens or what happens next; we get inside to discover the unpacking. And we discover that that unpacking is a story by itself.

Alice Munro once told the *New York Times* about the tension she often felt while writing a short story which she never felt while trying to write a novel. The Nobel Prize committee called her the "master of contemporary short stories;" we would call it Munro Magic. For the UK based author Susanna Clarke, a "piece of writing is like a piece of magic. You create something out of nothing." Known also as the Canadian Chekhov, Munro's writings are marked by a rare capacity to capture the epic complexity of a novel within the confines of a short story, reiterated the Swedish Academy in the Nobel Prize citation. It will only be an understatement to say that Munro's writings evince this magic of storytelling. She was a master of that as well.

The two day National Conference is an opportunity to celebrate Munro's works and explore the magic in her writings.

Call for papers

Broad areas

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Munro: "Master of contemporary short story" • The literary influence of Munro • The literary influence on Munro • The thematic world of Munro | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Munro in the 21st century • Narrative technique in Munro • Feminist concerns in Munro • Ecological concerns in Munro |
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Note: Papers are expected to be based on, but not limited to, the above mentioned areas.

Competition

There will also be a celebration of the genre of the short story. A short story writing competition for students will be held in the afternoon on the first day of the conference. The theme will be given on the day of the competition. The first prize will be a cash award of Rs. 1000/- and the second prize will carry a cash award of Rs. 500/-.

General Information

- The conference is conducted offline.
- The participants are requested to arrange for their accommodation and travel expense on their own.
- Lunch will be provided on both days.

Guidelines for Abstracts and Paper Submission

- Abstracts of the paper should not exceed 150 words.
- The abstracts should include the title of the paper, name of the author, designation, institutional affiliation, mobile number and email ID.
- The participants are requested to send the abstracts to ccskerala@gmail.com
- The last date for submitting the abstract - **30 Sep 2024**
- The abstracts will be shortlisted by a screening committee.
- The authors of the selected abstracts will be intimated and the full length paper in the range of 3500 - 4000 words may be sent to ccskerala@gmail.com
- Certificates will be provided for all the participants.
- The last date for paper submission- **20 Oct 2024**

Each participant will be given 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion.

For any queries please contact:

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