

Public Relations Office
Jamia Millia Islamia

June 26, 2023

Press Release

JMI organizes Lecture on “Multilingualism in Literature and Society: Rethinking Theory and Method in Indian and Global Contexts”

The Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), organized the thirty-third lecture of the Distinguished Lecture Series, “Multilingualism in Literature and Society: Rethinking Theory and Method in Indian and Global Contexts” by Prof. Vinay Dharwadker, Professor of English, World Literature, and South Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison & Affiliate Faculty: Center for South Asia; Center for Visual Cultures, on Thursday, 23rd June, 2023, 7:30-8:30 PM IST on Zoom. The talk was organized as part of the ongoing Distinguished Lecture Series and promises to be one in a line of successively pertinent lectures.

The talk was conducted by, Ms. Zahra Rizvi, Ms. Suman Bhagchandani, and Ms. Aparna Pathak Ph.D. scholars, Department of English, JMI, and was enthusiastically attended by a large crowd of scholars, students, and faculty from all over the world and across various time-zones.

Prof. Simi Malhotra, H.o.D., Department of English, JMI, Indian PI, delivered the welcome address, greeting the invited speaker, faculty, scholars, and students. She spoke about the discussion as a part of the ongoing lecture series by the Department of English, JMI which aims to facilitate academic and research collaboration between higher education institutes in India and abroad. She then introduced the esteemed speaker, Prof. Vinay Dharwadker, who was greeted by a round of applause.

Prof Vinay Dharwadker’s lecture deliberated on the conceptual frameworks available to think about the phenomenon of multilingualism through a range of interdisciplinary and comparative contexts. The lecture highlighted, amongst other things, the inherent monolingual bias that underlies the notion of lingua franca, and subsequently challenged the same through a detailed exploration of the different spheres in which societal multilingualism exists. Through many examples including the works of Fernando Pessoa, Faiz Ahmad Faiz, and Amrita

Pritam, Prof Darwadker emphasized the complex dynamism within our own conceptualization of multilingualism.

This was followed by an engaging, in-depth Q/A session coordinated by Ann Susan Aleyas, Ph.D. Scholar, Department of English, JMI. The event was brought to an end with a Vote of Thanks by Ms. Aparna Pathak.

To ensure a wide range of viewership and participation, the event was also live streamed on YouTube, and was attended by over a hundred participants.

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