



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
Franklin College  
of Arts and Sciences

# Franklin International Faculty Exchange (FIFE)

## Presents Two Lectures

offered by visiting FIFE scholar

### ◆ Dr. E.V. Ramakrishnan ◆

(Central University of Gujarat, India)

**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4th at 4:00 pm**

**147 Miller Learning Center**

#### ***Narratives of Memory: Representations of the Other in Postcolonial Indian Fiction***

In postcolonial fiction memory is a site fraught with conflict and turbulence. This is particularly true of some of the recent Indian works in Indian languages as well as Indian writing in English. In this presentation it will be shown how remembering becomes an act of recovery and healing by making alternative discourses of the past available to a living community. Events that are excluded from official narratives of history are encountered in the private memories of individuals who are scarred by the traumatic remains of the past. Often there are hidden recesses of cultural memory that can only be indirectly accessed as they refuse to be translated into worldly discourses. The lecture will discuss in some detail two fictional works, *The Hungry Tide* (2005) by Amitav Ghosh (originally written in English) and *Pterodactyl, Puran Sahay and Pirtha* by Mahasweta Devi (originally written in Bengali and translated by Gayatri Spivak) to bring out the nature of their representation of memory. In the former novel, the incident of Marichjhanpi where thousands of refugees were forcibly evicted from an island in the Sundarbans resulting in the death of hundreds of them is recovered from the official amnesia surrounding it. The latter is more complex in suggesting layers of cultural memory that will remain inaccessible to modern nation-state and its representatives. The very question of representation is problematized by Mahasweta Devi by focussing on the ethical dilemmas of memory and forgetting. The novel, *The Storyteller* by Mario Vargas Llosa will also be mentioned in the discussion to highlight the parallels between the books discussed and the Latin American novel and draw attention to the larger implications of the theme of memory in the postcolonial context beyond the frontiers of India.

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5th at 5:00 pm**

**S150 Lamar Dodd School of Art**

#### ***Alternative Modernities: Mapping Modernism from the Margins***

The modernist writing in India was a response to the disruptions brought about by the colonial modernity. What took more than two centuries in the West happened in India in less than half a century. The breaching of entrenched traditions resulted in a crisis that had to be tackled creatively by interpreting alien traditions. The modernist sensibility that made its presence felt in India was oppositional in its orientation, and questioned the consensus regarding categories like 'Indianness' which was largely constructed in elitist terms in the dominant narratives of the nation and the nation-state. It is argued that modernisms as it emerged in non-Western societies are not derivative discourses, but embody certain clearly defined ideological resistance to local and regional hegemonic structures of power. The trajectory of modernism in India will be illustrated with examples from Indian fiction and Indian poetry. The novels that will be discussed will include, *Legends of Khasak* by O.V.Vijayan and *Samskara* by U.R.Ananta Murthy apart from poems by Arun Kolatkar and K.G.Sankara Pillai.

**Free parking after 4 p.m. in Lot E7.**



**PROFESSOR E.V. RAMAKRISHNAN** is an eminent academic with more than forty-one years of experience in teaching and research in the University system. Born and educated in the southern state of Kerala in India, he served in various institutions of higher learning such as EFL University, Hyderabad, J.E.S.College, Jalna, Maharashtra and Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat before joining Central University of Gujarat in 2010, where he is presently Professor and Dean of the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies.

Prof. E.V.Ramakrishnan is a well-known bilingual writer with ten books in English and six books in Malayalam, his mother tongue. Among his most recent books are *Locating Indian Literature: Texts, Traditions, Translations* (2011) and *Interdisciplinary Alter-Natives in Comparative Literature* (Co-edited, 2013). He has presented over one hundred and twenty research papers in seminars and conferences and has published over eighty papers in journals and books.

His areas of specialisations are Comparative Literature, Translation Studies, Culture Studies, Postcolonial Literatures, Literary Theory and Malayalam Literature. He has translated literary works, particularly poetry from Indian languages into English. He has supervised more than twenty dissertations leading to research degrees.

Prof. E.V.Ramakrishnan is widely travelled and has presented papers in international conferences held at the University of Paris (2013), the Chinese University of Hong Kong (2010), the Bogicazi University of Istanbul (2009), the University of Jordan (2006), South Illinois University, Dekalb, Chicago (2002) etc. He was part of an Indian delegation of writers to Moscow, Russia in 2010. He recently attended the International Conference of Sinology held in Beijing, China in September, 2014.

Prof. E.V.Ramakrishnan has been the recipient of several awards and honours such as: Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for Literary Criticism (1995), U.G.C Career Award for young scholars (1987), Indian Institute of Advanced Study Fellowship (1993), K.K.Birla Foundation Fellowship (1999), Fulbright Fellowship (2001) and the Government of Canada Fellowship (2012). He is a member of the Executive Council of the International Comparative Literature Association, the Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi for English, and several academic bodies in several Universities across India.