Papers are invited for the forthcoming International Seminar being organized by the Centre on 31st March 2014 at H. P University, Shimla.

(Auto)Biography: Strategies of Writing the Self

The narratives of autobiography and biography traditionally have been accounts of the lives of heroes and achievers. However, increasingly life narratives have been emerging even from persons on the lowest rung of social hierarchy, from the marginalities of race, class, caste and gender. Structured largely around memory, the narratives of autobiography and biography—both from the mainstream and margins—can have varied strategies of representing the self: celebration of a glorious life to confrontations with the failures of self in a confessional mode, from negotiating inner conflicts to a conscious construction of a ‘self’ for public consumption, from narrating the pain and humiliation of the oppressed self to the heroic survival, from political activism to cathartic release, or apolitical recording of a family, place or time, and so on. Some of the areas to be explored in the seminar are:

- Remembering and Reconstructing the Self
- Authenticity and Invention
- Memory, Resistance and Reconciliation
- Autobiography as History
- Autobiography as Fiction
- Memory: Personal and Collective
- Autobiography as Political Activism
- Healing the Fractured Self

Please send or email an abstract of around 200 words of your paper to the Seminar Coordinator at pankaj.canz@gmail.com or Deputy Coordinator at neelima.canz@gmail.com latest by 20th March 2014 and full paper is to be submitted at the time of presentation. Hospitality will be provided at HPU by the Centre and T.A will be given only to the paper presenters as per rules.

Pankaj K Singh (Coordinator of the Seminar)

and

Neelima Kanwar (Deputy Coordinator of the Seminar)