

**UGC SPONSORED SPECIAL LECTURE:
*How the railways Shaped Everyday life in Colonial India***
by

Dr. Ritika Prasad

Associate Professor, University of North Carolina, NC, USA

The Department of History, Loyola College had organized a UGC sponsored special lecture on “*How the Railways Shaped Everyday Life in Colonial India*” in the Yedanapally Hall on 19th July 2017. The speaker for the session was Dr. Ritika Prasad, Associate Professor, and University of North Carolina, NC, USA. Staff and students from various colleges across the city attended the lecture.



Brothers of the Department *Prayer Song*



Welcome Address HOD, Dr. L. Selvanathan

The session started with the prayer and the welcome note was given by Dr. L.Selvanathan, Head of the Department of History. The speaker was felicitated by Dr. I.Princes, Assistant Professor, and was presented a memento by Mr. Abishek Joseph, Association Secretary. Dr.V.Yesubhakthan, Coordinator, Shift-II, Department of History, introduced the speaker to the audience.



Honouring the Speaker

Shawl: Dr. I. Princes, Assistant Professor



*Memento: Mr. Abishek Joseph, III B.A,
Association Secretary*

In her hour-long lecture, Dr. Prasad explained how the introduction of the Railways in India had an impact on the lives of the common people with narratives of anecdotes and records from the colonial era. She emphasized on how the railways which was initially started as a commercial venture gained popularity among the Indians and grew exponentially. Her own work “Tracks of change” was also

quoted. The lecturer gave accounts on the commercial view of the colonizers and also presented the methods adopted by the colonizers to introduce a single standard time in different regions. So it contributed to the unification of India both in case of time and economy. It also removed the barriers among the divided India and presented a clear platform for their interactions. The lecture began with 3 narratives which



Introducing the Speaker:

Dr.V. Yesubhakthan, Coordinator, Shift II



Speaker's Address

Dr. Ritika Prasad

presented the new way of writing History through different voices. She also spoke about the comments made by the colonizers on Indians as “the immobile ones” who were not aware of rail travel and the crowd which was later visible in trains began to make the colonizers comment Indians as “following one another like sheep”. The lecture also supplemented with graphical slides Dr. Prasad also gave an insight into the racial and religious discrimination among the commuters using the Railways for transport. She also spoke about the comments made by the colonizers on Indians as “the immobile ones” who were not aware of rail travel and the crowd which was later visible in trains began to make the colonizers comment Indians as “following one another like sheep”. She portrayed the importance of

Interaction of the students and the response of the speaker



Mr. Yogeswaran, III B. A. (S-II)



The Speaker....

Railways in unifying India and presented the concept of technology eradicating social barriers. Incidents were also drawn from works like Mulk Raj Anand's "Coolie" in which the protagonist witnessed the selling of "Hindu sweets" and "Muslim breads" in the railway station in which the religious divisions appears to be clearly reflecting on other public space.

INTERACTION....



Mr. Goutham III B.A (S-II)



Mr. Sajeev, II B.A.



Mr. Joseph Rohit, III B.A.
Madras Christian College



Mr. Vidyadharan, III B.A.



Mr. Melvin, I B.A.



Dr. Grace Marylin, Assistant Professor
Madras Christian College

The lecture was both a new view on History and provided intellectual treat to the audience. The lecture was then followed by an interactive session where Dr. Prasad responded to a series of questions posed to her by the audience and our students Vidhyadaran, Jaiganesh, Melvin, Yogeshwaran and Marilyn, Assistant Professor, Department of History, MCC had asked innovative questions..



Vote of Thanks: Dr. Arputha Selvi, Association President



City College Professors National Anthem

Dr. A. Arputha Selvi, Association President, delivered the Vote of Thanks. In her address she has complimented that the department received national speakers in the last academic year and this year it has moving towards internationalizing the programme. The session came to an end with the National Anthem. The programme was compered by **Adhitya Karthikeyan**, II B.A., History and **Leanne Miranda Georgina**, I M.A., History.