



## **SPECIAL LECTURE ON: HISTORIOGRAPHY; INSIGHTS, ISSUES, CHALLENGES TODAY**

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On 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020, a special lecture on Historiography was collaboratively organized by Department of Christian Studies, University of Madras and the Department of History, Loyola College. Prof. Chandra Mallampalli, who received doctorate in South Asian history and a life member of Clare hall, Cambridge University and a Professor of History, Westmont College, CA, was the resource person. This special session was conducted on Zoom where around 100 students and scholars participated from various colleges and universities.

Prof. Dr. Patrick of University of Madras University welcomed the participants and the resource person. He acquainted the participants with the objectives of this lecture. From there, Dr. Chandra Mallampalli, the resource person started the lecture by sharing his own experiences as a historian and a writer of 3 books. He discussed about his visits to South India especially the Egmore Museum, Tamil Nadu, which he regarded as, 'the hub for historical artefacts' for his research work. As a historian, he shared his views on development and globalised trend of the humans in this transition period. He quoted the 400 years' anniversary celebration in the US for Africans in America. He added that slavery and subjugation has also changed and he discussed his views on the 1619 Project and considered it as 'legitimate for historians'.

Then, he gave an introduction to historiography and stated, 'history has different perspectives'. To augment his statement, he proceeded to discuss about different books which have different perspectives.

- 1- The Anarchy written by William Dalrymple - He discussed about the positivity of the relationship between Europeans and the Indians during East India company reign. Also, he added that this led to the infrastructural and technological development in India.
- 2- Is Indian Civilization A Myth? written by Sanjay Subrahmanyam.

He spoke on writing of history in a most sophisticated and challenging manner for which he suggested the following structure:

- 1- Background of an event
- 2- Overarching claim about the event- a historian has to address this with facts
- 3- His own disagreements with previous literatures
- 4- Proceedings in your own perspective.

Also, he laid down the characteristics of a successful historian would be to be very curious about the events, and committed to oneself with the questions, slowly and patiently gathering the facts.

He then went on to respond to the questions put forth by the participants for almost 30 minutes. Participants came up with different tactical and challenging questions which were answered very succinctly by Dr. Chandra Mallampali.

Finally to conclude his lecture, he suggested to the listeners the following:

- 1- To practice history with integrity and subject discipline.
- 2- To make use of Google books for gaining various aspects of knowledge
- 3- To make book reviews to clearly summarize the idea of the event.

Dr. Arputha Selvi, Assistant Professor, Department of History, proposed a vote of thanks.