

Two-Day International Conference on Law, Language, and Literature

Dates: 27th & 28th September 2025

About the Conference

Law and Literature movement which first began in Europe and the U.S.A. has shown its deep roots in the democratic traditions and celebration of individual freedom and liberty. The movement may be also related to, even if indirectly and tangentially, Critical Legal thinking and methods of analysing not only literary texts, but larger historical, social and cultural formations, legal Institutions and practices. While traditional jurisprudence claims to be able to reveal through pure reason, by applying certain juristic techniques, a picture of universal principles and truth operating beneath historical and social variability of laws, legal Institutions and practices, Law and Literature enterprise, when allied to critical legal theory, would open up such a model of jurisprudence for further scrutiny.

Ever since the publication of *The Legal Imagination* by James Boyd White (Chicago, 1973), the argument that Law as an intellectual discipline is constituted more as a discursive form of liberal arts than social sciences or Logic has been gaining momentum. Several noted philosophers, including a few legal theorists, have contributed to this line of argumentation, employing very diverse methods of inquiry and tools of analysis. These diverse forays of inquiry into the field of jurisprudence, legal doctrines and Institutional practices call into question the founding assumptions of Law as a discrete and autonomous form of intellectual discipline ----which is buttressed by specific rule-based rational practices---- and sought to restore it to a humbler place of narrativity, story-telling or a highly stylised register of language use. Thus, narrativity or narrative logic can be said to be at the heart of the Law and Literature movement, where attention to rhetoric and imagination is foregrounded in comprehending parallels or similarity between legal and literary interpretations, and indeed the world of 'objective reality'. Search for meaning and the best interpretation in this endeavour becomes a matter of ethical and moral choice and responsibility rather than of rational and logical conclusions.

While in Europe and the U.S.A. the movement gathered some steam and, to a very limited extent, influenced some policy makers and Jurisprudential trends in India this is still a work in progress. The proposed conference aims to bring together leading scholars, academicians, and practitioners from diverse backgrounds to explore the intricate and dynamic relationships between law, language, and literature. The conference will also address emerging challenges and innovations in these disciplines. The event will include keynote speeches, paper presentations, panel discussions, and workshops.

Themes for Paper Presentations

- ❖ Legalese and its rectification
- ❖ Law and Literature in relation to Artificial Intelligence
- ❖ History, Fiction and Law
- ❖ Literary and Art Censorship
- ❖ Similarity between Legal and Literary Interpretation
- ❖ Law, Music and Cinema

- ❖ Poetic justice in the Age of Reason
- ❖ The predicament of the 'Post-Truth' era in literature and law.

Note: The above themes are only suggestive. Participants may choose their own phraseology and topic under the broad area of Law and Literature.