



Indian Diaspora Centre

**The CoHaB IDC
University of Mumbai**

Invites you for a talk by
Java Singh

**Elements of Object Oriented Literary Criticism: Spatiality in Ursula Le Guin's
Dispossessed**

When literary criticism traces the new directions suggested by object oriented theory, a theme in the wider trend of speculative realism, it furthers the project undertaken by Structuralism, Post-structuralism and New Historicism of opening up the text. Object oriented literary criticism, however, differs from the major trends of the twentieth century by adopting a post-humanist emphasis, urging a concerted effort to understand the affect capacity of non-human actants in a narrative. Space in a narrative can be treated as an autonomous object; descriptions of spaces in a narrative have the potency to act on reader. The differences between the two imaginary worlds of *Dispossessed*, the planet Urras and its moon Annares, are communicated through opposing Weltanschauung comprised of differing gender hierarchies, forms of economic and social organizations but the differentiation acquires a fuller potency on a close examination of the spatiality of the two worlds– the topography, the vegetation and the size of animals.

This talk considers the above aspects of this criticism as applied to *Dispossessed*.

Bio note



Java Singh is pursuing her PhD from the Centre for Spanish at the School of Languages, Linguistics & Cultural Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University after completing her BA and MA (2012) in Spanish from JNU. She is the winner of the Rafael Iruzebieta Prize at JNU, awarded in recognition of highest academic achievement in MA. She also holds a BA in Economics from Lucknow University and an MBA from IIM, Ahmedabad (1994). She has been a visiting lecturer for the Spanish Department at Doon University, Dehradun. Her area of specialization is literary criticism with a focus on feminist and post-colonial approaches. In this lecture titled "Autonomy of Space in Ursula K. Le Guin's *Dispossessed*" she presents a framework for an object oriented literary criticism.

**Venue: ICSC, Room No. 49, Ranade Bhavan, University of Mumbai,
Date: 16 January, 2017 (Monday)
Time: 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm**