

EDITOR'S NOTE

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Even as we welcome a new year, there hardly seems to be anything refreshing about the dynamic of the current world order where millions of refugees, whether in the border regions of Myanmar and Bangladesh or in the crisis zones of West Asia and Africa, continue to suffer from abominable trauma of displacement, dehumanisation and possible extinction even as states continue to roll out punitive and belligerent measures in the name of borders, or security or law and order, where the rise of xenophobia and religious fanaticism continues to spew violence, and the majority of the nations' wealth remains locked in the hands of a miniscule elite.

We have been here for quite a while without any specific roadmap, without any bridge that can join the

present to some blessed future. It is not as if we have not been trying. The postcolonial experience is an experience of manifold struggles. All the papers in this volume attest to such struggles. Lukas Musel's exploration of the installation named *Exhibit B*, especially in the context of the refugee crisis is a case in point as it traces the repetition of colonial discursive categories in the dehumanising scenarios of the present. But of course, struggles are also about the entrenched barriers of caste, gender and class which a country like India has been experiencing for eons, with more complex changes seeping in owing to India's integration with the neo-liberal economic order. Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger* offers an incisive critique of this so-called "Shining India" and Amrita De foregrounds the nature of this critique, especially in relation to the kind of toxic masculinity it generates. These issues of gender and sexuality and the multi-dimensional conflicts associated with them are also explored by Ives. S. Loukson and Dima Tahboub in their papers, which focus on homosexuality in the context of South Africa and the marginalisation experienced by women in the context of Irish nationalist movement, respectively. The marginalisation of women is also analysed from a linguistic perspective by Joshua Agbo, particularly in the context of Nigeria.

While such local examinations of unequal hierarchies and their cultural manifestations remain crucial, what

our time also lacks and perhaps desperately desires, is an over-arching paradigm through which there might emerge a crystallisation of the different struggles into a holistic alternative. This is precisely why Madina Tlostanova's intriguing and insightful paper, the featured opening paper of this issue, is of such critical importance. With wonderful erudition and width of understanding, she delves deep into Soviet history to showcase the racist and imperialist projects that uncannily went hand in hand with projected socialist ethos and thereby opens the avenue for a possible comparative dialogue that links the postcolonial experience with that of the post-socialist experience of several eastern European and central Asian communities. The ultimate aim of such an exercise is to create a network of horizontal solidarity from below which might propel us precisely towards those decolonial horizons of dignity, equality and plenitude that seemingly continue to recede. This contribution and the very fact that she so graciously accepted our invitation, are indicative of a fusion between theory and praxis which offers grounds for hope. As academics we can only create new knowledges which might be useful to others and provide our readers with possible perspectives with which they might make better sense of the present, the past and the future. One indeed hopes that students, academics and scholars will find enough such components from her dexterous arguments.

Her contribution also indicates the journal's abiding commitment to explore evolving theoretical horizons to tease out suitable alternatives imbued with radical potentialities. And this of course is not an easy task, especially for a three-year old journal which has neither institutional support, nor assistance from commercial enterprises nor any profiteering scheme. This is a labour of love that depends entirely on the selfless devotion and hard work of the editorial team and the support and encouragement that we receive from our revered advisors and peers and contributors. It is this combination of encouragement and dedication that also helps us to overcome the countless obstacles that beset an enterprise such as ours.

Thank you all! We hope to continue for many more years and therefore seek your continued support and guidance for our future enterprises.