



**Sylff**

The Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund

The JU-SYLFF Association invites you to

**JU-SYLFF Lecture series**

**Lecture No. 2018 - 1**

**Speaker:**

**Dr. Shuhita Bhattacharjee**

Assistant Professor of English, Presidency University.

**Topic:**

**Hijab, the Search for Freedom and the Meaning of Rebellion:**

**The Case of Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis***

**Date:**

**January 15, 2018 (Monday)**

**Time:**

**4:00 pm-5:15 pm (Including Q & A Session)**

**Venue:**

**Global Change Programme,**

**1st floor, Biren Roy Research Laboratory, Jadavpur University**

## Note on the Lecture :

My talk drawn from my forthcoming monograph addresses the contemporary geopolitical narratives surrounding 'fanaticism' and 'terrorism' from a postsecular perspective by looking closely at Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*. I show that while *Persepolis*, at one level, does present us with the spectre of Islamist patriarchal oppression, it also much more profoundly helps us question the credence we offer to western narratives of 'liberty' and 'rights.' I show how it is productive to examine this text to glean a wider understanding of freedom itself that is able to incorporate other forms of feeling which ordinarily baffle the secular imagination. I study how *Persepolis* does not merely stage the reinterpretation and contextualization of western modes of rebellion in the Middle East but also dramatizes its irrelevance in this context. In this new space etched by Satrapi, the western modes of rebellion, founded on west-inflected definitions of 'individualism' and 'rights', are actively challenged and even rendered ridiculous.

## Note on the Speaker :

Shuhita Bhattacharjee is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at Presidency University, (Kolkata) India, where she teaches eighteenth and nineteenth century literature and culture. She completed her PhD from the University of Iowa (2015) and has received several fellowships for international and archival research such as the Stanley Award for International Research, the Robert L. Platzman Fellowship, the Frederick P.W. McDowell Award, and the Marcus Bach Fellowship.

She has published an article on the presence of Indian idols in late-Victorian fiction in *English Literature in Transition* (January, 2018). She is currently at work on her monograph, *Postsecular Theory: Texts and Contexts*, for Orient Blackswan (Literary/Cultural Theory Series). She has a forthcoming book chapter, "Relocating Home and Diasporizing the South Asian Queer" in an edited anthology being published by Rowman and Littlefield, Lexington. She is also collaboratively writing "A Report on the Awareness about Anti-Sexual Harassment Laws in Higher Education Institutions of India: A Study of College and University Students Across Five Indian States." Other forthcoming publication ventures include works on the Victorian Gothic Animal, and the cinema of Gurinder Chadha and Mira Nair.