The 3rd International Conference of the World Association of Authors and Researchers (WAAR) on

Decolonisation through Language and Literature

Organised by
The Department of English
Université Numérique Cheikh Hamidou Kane, Senegal
in association with
Senegal Chapter (West Africa) & Prayagraj Chapter (India) of WAAR

July 25-26, 2026
Saturday and Sunday
Online Mode



About the University

Established in 2013 under the name Université Virtuelle du Sénégal (UVS), it was renamed Université Numérique Cheikh Hamidou Kane (UN-CHK) in 2022. As the first public digital university in Senegal and West Africa, it represents a pioneering model of technology-driven higher education in the region. Grounded in an educational framework centered on information and communication technologies (ICT), the university plays a strategic role in democratizing access to higher education. It serves new high school graduates, working professionals, and public and private sector partners, regardless of their geographical location.

Currently the second largest university in Senegal in terms of student enrollment, UN-CHK is widely recognized as one of the most innovative higher education institutions in West Africa. Its academic structure comprises three main schools: the School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education; the School of Law, Political Science, Economics and Administration; and the School of Technical and Digital Sciences. In addition, the university hosts a Centre for Innovation, Expertise, and Development, as well as a multidisciplinary Doctoral School.

Within the School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, the Department of English offers training in Linguistics, Grammar, Literatures and Civilizations of the English-speaking world, equipping students with both theoretical knowledge and analytical competencies in language and cultural studies.

About WAAR

The World Association of Authors and Researchers (WAAR) is a wing of Applied Education and Welfare Foundation®, established by Prof. Vijay Kumar Roy in 2014. Though it was conceived by him in 1997 for the cause of quality education, research and social welfare. The Association promotes research, creativity and exchange of scholarly knowledge and scientific innovations through its journals: *Akshara* and *Ars Artium* and other academic and social activities.

The Association aims to help the members in publication of their books (written, edited and translated) in literary, linguistic, scientific, spiritual, philosophical, social, political, cultural, human rights and other areas. It also supports them in organising conferences, seminars, webinars, invited lectures and workshops. At present WAAR has its chapters in various cities of India and abroad to carry out academic and social activities. For more information, please visit the website: https://www.waoar.org/.

Concept Note

Contemporary research in African studies, Black diaspora studies, South Asian studies, applied linguistics, and world literature converge on a shared insight: colonialism was fundamentally a linguistic and epistemic project. It reorganized societies not only through territorial control but through language hierarchies, canon formation, racialised epistemologies, and institutionalised education systems. Decolonization, therefore must address knowledge structures and linguistic systems that continue to shape global modernity. In this regard, scholarship highlights language as colonial legacy, literature as counter-archive, remapping curriculum reform and reconfiguring cultural bonds. These trajectories give language and literature key roles and position them as central sites of decolonial struggle.

Colonialism institutionalized European and other dominant languages as instruments of governance and education across Africa, South Asia, and the Americas. African languages and traditions were marginalised while European literatures were codified as universal. This draws the attention of postcolonial critics on how literatures in African languages were sidelined even within world literature. Some scholars also argue that

applied linguistics in Africa often reproduces Eurocentric paradigms, necessitating epistemic restructuring rather than superficial inclusion. African, African-American and Asian-American literary and histories challenge linear Eurocentric narratives. While these situate themselves within their older oral or diasporic circuits, Western criticism seems to view them as avatars of its literatures; hence, postcolonial theories reframe the debates toward Afro-Atlantic struggles.

In the Indian subcontinent, English became both a colonial imposition and a tool of empowerment. Scholars critique persistent Eurocentric frameworks within world literature curricula, arguing that decolonising the English curriculum requires structural transformation of interpretive paradigms and historical periodisation. In the same vein, African diasporic traditions reveal how language is racialised within imperial centers and advocate for a transnational Black language pedagogy that reframes raciolinguistic experiences globally. Such a link positions them as epistemic resources for decolonial politics. Decolonisation through language and literature today requires confronting how colonial hierarchies persist within language regimes, literary institutions and academic structures. Language and literature are not merely reflective mediums, they are architectures of possibility. Decolonising them is foundational to reimagining global knowledge itself.

We welcome submissions addressing these issues. A list, though not exhaustive, has been provided below for help.

Key Domains

Domain I: Decolonising the Literary Canon

Focus: Challenging Eurocentric literary standards and highlighting indigenous/marginalised voices

- Rewriting the canon: Including postcolonial, subaltern, and marginalised texts.
- Decolonising Modernism: Anti-colonial perspectives in early 20th-century literature.
- Folk traditions, orality and indigenous storytelling as literature.
- Indigenous literature and the reclaiming of native narratives.

Domain II: Linguistic Imperialism and Linguistic Justice

Focus: Analysing the role of English and other colonial languages in suppressing indigenous languages

- Linguistic imperialism and the hegemony of English.
- Language policy in postcolonial education: From “English-only” to multilingualism.
- Indigenous language revitalisation and maintenance.
- Code-switching, bilingualism, and the indigenisation of global languages.

Domain III: Translation as a Decolonial Tool

Focus: How translation can break the “epistemicide” of colonial powers

- Translating between African/Asian/Indigenous languages rather than through English.
- Domestication vs. Foreignisation in postcolonial translation.
- Translating silenced and subaltern voices.

Domain IV: Pedagogies of Resistance and Decolonising the Classroom

Focus: Rethinking how language and literature are taught in schools and universities

- “Why is my curriculum white?” — Diversifying the curricula of language and literature.
- Culturally responsive pedagogy in the teaching of language and literature.
- Dismantling “banking” models of education.

Domain V: Digital Decoloniality

Focus: The intersection of new technology, social media and colonial legacies

- Digital colonialism and data extraction.
- The role of social media in linguistic and literary resistance.
- Decolonising digital archives and open access platforms.

Domain VI: Body, Land, and Literature

Focus: The connection between environmental justice, bodily autonomy, and postcolonial narratives

- Eco-decoloniality: Land and environment in postcolonial literature.
- Gendered and racialised bodies in postcolonial texts.
- Trauma, memory and healing through literature.

Who Can Participate

- Faculty members, Research Scholars, School Teachers, PG and UG students
- Journalists, Industry Professionals and Independent Researchers
- All those who are interested in the theme of the conference

Membership of the World Association of Authors and Researchers (in Indian Rupees)

- Annual Membership Fee: ₹ 1000 Life Membership Fee: ₹ 5000 (for ten years)
- Link for membership fee: **https://www.waoar.org/become-a-member/membership-fee/**
- Link for membership form: **https://www.waoar.org/become-a-member/**
- **Please send the filled in membership form to the given email address along with the proof of payment for issuing the membership letter.**
- **Membership of the Association is not compulsory to participate in the conference.**

Registration Fees (in Indian Rupees)

- All Members of WAAR (Life/Annual): ₹500
- Non-members (Faculty): ₹1000
- Post-Doctoral Fellows/Journalists/Industry Professionals: ₹1000
- PhD Research Scholars/School Teachers: ₹ 500
- Independent Researchers/UG & PG students: ₹500

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- **E-Certificates will be provided to all successfully registered participants.**
- **Fees once paid will not be refunded.**
- **Payment of group registration fee from outside India is permitted, provided that each individual pays the amount specified above and a list of the detailed information about all applicants is sent to the email (decolonizationconference.waar@gmail.com).**

Make Payment in Favour of

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Important Dates

- Announcement of the conference: 07 March 2026
- Last date for submission of abstract EXTENDED: 10 June 2026
- Notification of acceptance of abstract: 15 June 2026
- Last date for registration: 20 June 2026
- Dates of the conference: 25-26 July 2026
- Last date for submission of full paper: 15 August 2026

Requirements for Registration

- A Word file of the abstract with keywords, if you want to present your paper in the conference. Below the title of your abstract, please mention your full name, designation, name of your department, full institutional address, your correct email address and your WhatsApp number.
- The screenshot of payment details of registration fee paid after acceptance of your abstract.

Register Online Following the Submission Guidelines

Abstract Submission

Scan & Register

- Times New Roman, 12 Font Size
- Title of the abstract/paper should not exceed 15 words.
- Abstract of the paper should be in about 150 to 200 words with 5 to 6 keywords and your full institutional address.
- Originality: The abstract must be original and not submitted to any other conference/seminar.
- Avoid Repetition: Do not repeat the title of the abstract of your paper within the abstract.
- Submission mode: Abstract should be submitted only online through the registration page.
- Use the link for registration: **https://forms.gle/dED13s3zzNWGQfCY6** OR Scan the above QR code and register online.

Full Paper Submission

- Length: Full paper should be between 4000 to 5000 words including Works Cited section.
- Abstract: Each paper must include an abstract of about 150 words (not exceeding 200 words).
- Format: Use A4 size, 1-inch margins on all sides, single spacing, and 12-point, Times New Roman.
- Place all tables, figures, and illustrations within the text, not at the end.
- Citation: Use MLA Handbook 9th edition. Ensure accurate citation and referencing of all sources. Wherever applicable, include URLs for references.
- Originality: Submission must be original and must not have been published or submitted for publication elsewhere.
- All papers will be checked for plagiarism and AI report before acceptance for publication. Plagiarised or AI generated submissions will be rejected without review.
- Selected full papers that follow the guidelines will be published in the journals of WAAR (*Ars Artium* or *Akshara*) and/or edited volumes by a reputed publication house. Intimation of selected papers will be given post conference.

Organizing Committee

CONFERENCE CHAIR

- **Prof. Susheel Kumar Sharma,** Professor of English, University of Allahabad, Prayagraj, UP, India

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