



Loreto College, Kolkata
Department of English
presents

JANE AUSTEN: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

A National PG Student Conference on Austen
29 November 2025

Concept Note

Academic research on Austen has undergone a paradigm shift in the past few decades. Scholars have explored various aspects of her work: the ways in which her novels negotiate femininity and subvert prevailing notions of masculinity, the psychological complexity of her characters, her critical engagement with the tradition of courtly love and the economics of marriage, and the significance of garden landscapes in her narratives. In addition to traditional studies of the period, Austen scholarship has also focused on book history, archival studies, material objects, and postcolonial perspectives. The intermediality of her work in other languages and cultures has been an area of particular interest. New lines of enquiry continue to explore Austen's enduring relevance and appeal in the twenty-first century, with innumerable adaptations and reinventions of her work in the digital mode. As an undisputed figure in the English literary canon and a popular cross-generational phenomenon, Jane Austen has thus been the subject of diverse and innovative academic approaches.

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We invite post-graduate students of all disciplines to contribute to this evolving conversation on Austen through paper presentations of 15 minutes duration. The papers may address topics including, but not limited to the following fields:

- Jane Austen's Life and Times: Letters, Poems, Juvenilia
- Theoretical Approaches to Jane Austen
- Narrative and Textual Strategies in Austen's Novels
- Spaces in Austen's Works: Domestic Interiors, Parks and Gardens, Estates, Rural and Urban Locations
- Material Culture in Jane Austen's Time
- Austen and Book History
- The Politics of Class, Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Empire in Austen's Works
- Illness and Disability in Austen's Novels
- The Regency Period: Art, Music, Dance, Fashion
- Jane Austen and Modernity
- Jane Austen: The Global Phenomenon
- Afterlives of Austen: Adaptations in Film, Television, Novels, Drama, Fanfiction
- Austen in Translation
- Reading Austen in the Classroom
- Digital Austen(s)/Austen on Social Media

To submit a proposal, please send abstracts of 300 words to chattopadhyay.sulagna27@gmail.com by October 16, 2025, 8 p.m.

Please include the following in one PDF file:

- Paper title
- Abstract (maximum 300 words)
- Bio note with full name, institutional affiliation (if applicable), and email address

Paper presenters will be informed by October 31, 2025.