

Cultural Colloquium**Conversations at Nagarjunakonda and
Historical Evidence****Aloka Parasher-Sen****School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad**

How does one recover the sensibilities of emotions, conversations, feelings, through historical data that are nonetheless part of our collective heritage now frozen on stone or an ancient script? It is legitimate to argue that since the “real” of the historical past is a consequence of representation, the “breadth of literary imagination” could also convincingly bring out the textures of history, its intricate patterns in symbols, actions, events and lived in experiences of men and women in times gone by?

In this presentation I draw upon a fictive account penned down by 1965 by Mulk Raj Anand entitled: “Conversation in Nagarjunakonda”. I shall read some extracts from this essay that throws light on the lesser known intangibles of history lived out in the lower Krishna Valley and juxtapose it, in the latter half of the presentation, with fragments of inscriptions and other historical data that complement this reading to argue how a literary representation infuses life into a historical discourse. The presentation will be accompanied by visuals of the site under discussion.

About the Speaker: Professor Aloka Parasher-Sen teaches History at the University of Hyderabad and is currently Director of International Affairs at the University.

Friday, Sep 16th 2016

4:00 PM (Tea/Coffee at 3:45 PM)

Seminar Hall, TCIS