

Schiller, Aesthetic Education and Globalization

**Centre of German Studies JNU, and Goethe Society of India
New Delhi, 17th-18th March 2005**

The Goethe Society of India plans to commemorate the 200th death anniversary of Friedrich Schiller with whom Goethe shared a long and fruitful intellectual bond by holding a seminar focussing on “The Aesthetic Education of Man”, one of Schiller’s canonical texts. This seminar will take place with the cooperation of the Centre of German Studies, JNU.

The consideration behind the choice of the theme of aesthetic education is that mere purposeful economical and technological development cannot fill the entire space characterising human development. This was one of the insights of the classical German heritage, and the value of aesthetic education has been recognized over centuries in various cultures the world over. Today with wide ranging economic and social transformations taking place in our society and the increasing enmeshment in global processes there seems to be an acute need to reinvent aesthetic education and inculcate and assert aesthetic competence vis-à-vis the power of a one-dimensional market and media.. The two day seminar will therefore reflect upon pertinent questions related to the contemporary relevance of the programme of aesthetic education, the pressure of legitimation of its space in the market where knowledge is to be sold as commodity measured on the scales of profit and vocational applicability. Aesthetic education, so it seems, has to reinscribe its space, i.e. to reflect upon questions of norms, canon and genres anew.

Members of the Goethe Society of India are invited to participate in this seminar and correspond with the organising secretary regarding papers.

This seminar is being organised on a limited financial scale in association with the Centre of German Studies, JNU. The larger annual convention of the GSI will take place towards the end of the year.

We will unfortunately not be in a position to take care of travelling expenses and request all those who are interested to approach their own institutions for funds. But we will make every effort to take care of local hospitality. As far as accomodation is concerned we can only offer limited accomodation in the Gomti Guest House since the Guest Houses of the JNU are being renovated.

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