

Abstract:

Significance of the Scream: Otherness in Postcolonial and Gothic Fiction

Starting with an examination of some of the gothic tropes used to narrate India in colonial literature (fiction and non-fiction), this paper will look at some highly visible postcolonial narratives of/about India and compare them to 19th century Gothic narratives. It will argue that the problem of narrating otherness can only be resolved partially – and in very different ways – by Gothic narratives and postcolonial ones. It will propose that the imperial Gothic sometimes manages to address aspects of colonial otherness that overtly postcolonial texts cannot access.

TABISH KHAIR:

Born and educated in Bihar, India, Tabish Khair has won the All India Poetry Prize and published a number of critically acclaimed collections of poetry, including *Where Parallel Lines Meet* (2000) and *Man of Glass* (2010), and novels. His novels have been translated into various languages and short-listed for a dozen major awards, including the Man Asian Prize, the Encore Award and the Hindu Best Fiction Prize. He has also written or edited several ground-breaking studies and anthologies, including *Babu Fictions: Alienation in Contemporary Indian English Novels* (2001) and *Other Routes: 1500 Years of African and Asian Travel Writing* (2005). Apart from contributing to major academic and literary journals, he writes regularly for the Hindu in India and papers in UK. His latest novel is *How to Fight Islamist Terror from the Missionary Position*. Khair now lives in Denmark, where he is an Associate Professor at Aarhus University. Home page: <http://www.tabishkhair.co.uk>