

Humanities – Literary Studies 2012



“The kind of criticism I write has gone against the grain of a lot of academic thinking about the role of criticism today – where the role of literature and criticism are seen to be important as a kind of adjunct almost to history and the social sciences and not primarily undertaken for literature itself. I have tried to grapple with this particular problem and also find an answer to it without ignoring it.”

Amit Chaudhuri

Professor of Contemporary Literature, University of East Anglia, Norfolk

- B.A. in English from the University College London
- Ph.D. in Critical Theory and the poetry of D. H. Lawrence from Balliol College, Oxford

Prof. Amit Chaudhuri is one of India's foremost novelists and among its most widely-admired literary and cultural critics, and theorists. His literary research ranges from an early book on D. H. Lawrence to a recent book on Rabindranath Tagore, and a large number of critical essays on Indian and English Literature.



Explorations in literary criticism



Since the days of Plato, the field of literary criticism has seen the pleasure of language, form, content and style being studied and analyzed to better understand literature and the times we live in. Literary criticism goes to the heart of the question of what makes a piece of writing beautiful and allows us to appreciate that beauty better.



An internationally acclaimed novelist and literary critic, Prof. Amit Chaudhuri has been able to provide a deeper understanding of Indian and English literature to global readers. His literary criticism has been able to tease out the nuances, cultural contexts and complex literary sensibilities in works of literature.



Prof. Chaudhuri takes particular interest in the pleasures of writing about the world we live in, whether he is writing a story, or writing about a story.



A widely-read essayist, Prof. Chaudhuri is persuasive in his writings, while using the creative medium to provide a scholarly understanding of what makes any form of literature engaging and effective. Prof. Chaudhuri began his endeavor as an original critic with a masterful exploration of the poetry of the English poet and writer D. H. Lawrence.



In his attempt to shed new light on Indian writing, Prof. Chaudhuri explored, among many other things, Rabindranath Tagore's poetry. Although Tagore's work had been studied and interpreted several times through the years, Prof. Chaudhuri helped us towards a new understanding of how the great poet remains imaginatively challenging today.