

Unwritten Selves

Theme: Belonging and Becoming



Concept Note

Belonging is one of the most fundamental human experiences. It shapes how we understand ourselves, connect with others, and find our place in the world. Yet, belonging is rarely simple or permanent. It is shaped by home, family, culture, language, memory, relationships, migration, displacement, and the changing circumstances of our lives.

This collection of short stories seeks to explore the many meanings of **belonging and becoming**. Through storytelling, we invite writers to reflect on the places, people, memories, and experiences that make us feel at home, as well as those that make us question where we belong. The stories may explore the tensions between rootedness and displacement, familiarity and alienation, identity and transformation.

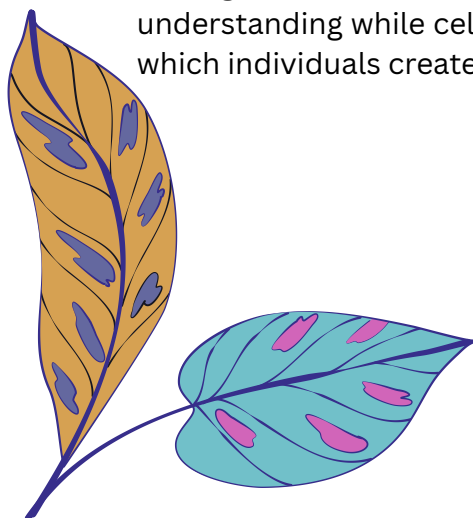
The collection aims to bring together diverse voices and perspectives that illuminate the ways individuals negotiate their identities and relationships with the world around them. We welcome stories that examine both the search for belonging and the continuous process of becoming who we are.

Objective

The collection explores the complex relationship between **identity, belonging, home, and transformation**. It seeks stories that challenge conventional ideas of home and community while offering nuanced perspectives on what it means to belong.

The collection welcomes narratives about migration, displacement, family, memory, cultural identity, relationships, loneliness, community, and the search for self. Stories may explore belonging in physical, cultural, emotional, psychological, or digital spaces.

Through diverse literary voices, the collection hopes to foster empathy and understanding while celebrating the fluidity of identity and the many journeys through which individuals create, lose, discover, or redefine a sense of home.



Submission Guidelines

The collection invites stories in English that address, explore, and challenge various dimensions of belonging and becoming, including but not limited to:

- Home, Memory, and Roots
- Identity and Selfhood
- Belonging and Alienation
- Migration, Exile, and Displacement
- Family, Relationships, and Community
- Cultural Identity and Hybridity
- Generational Conflicts and Changing Values
- Borders—Physical, Cultural, Emotional, and Psychological
- Loneliness, Isolation, and the Search for Connection
- Reinventing the Self
- Digital Spaces and Virtual Belonging
- Hope, Resilience, and Transformation

Submission Deadline: 10th December 2026

Short stories should be between 2,000 and 5,000 words. All submissions will undergo a rigorous peer-review process and plagiarism check. The submissions must be original and previously unpublished.

Stories can range from realistic to speculative, literary to experimental, but should be accessible and engaging for readers of all backgrounds. We encourage submissions that reflect a broad spectrum of gender identities, experiences, and cultural perspectives. Stories should be written with sensitivity and respect for the diversity of gender experiences.

Submissions should be sent in Microsoft Word or PDF format. The title of the chapter should be in bold, Times New Roman, with a font size of 16. The heading and subheading should be in bold, Times New Roman, with a font size of 14. The body of the chapter should be in Times New Roman, with a font size of 12. Please include a brief author biography (max 150 words), your contact details, and any relevant publishing history. The book will be published by Pinnacle Publishers with an ISBN under the aegis of Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi.

For inquiries, please contact Dr. Komal Yadav (8700724830). You can mail your submissions at komal.yadav@knc.du.ac.in.

