Revised Call for Papers

International Conference on
Edward Said: Life and Legacies



Date: January 22-23, 2027
Venue: University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh

Organised by
Institute of English and Other Languages (IEOL), University of Rajshahi

Abstract Submission Deadline: December 10, 2026

An erudite analyst of history, a gifted critic of music, and a keen observer and interpreter of life and literature, Edward Wadie Said (1935-2003) occupies a significant position in the fields of English Studies, Cultural Studies, Social Sciences and so on. A Professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Columbia, E. Said, with his sustained critique of hegemonic and coercive structures, and with his unflinching stance for the cause of the "unconsoled"— reflected in his seminal texts like *Orientalism, Culture and Imperialism, After the Last Sky* or *The Question of Palestine* — leaves an important academic-activist legacy, and an insaaf-based tradition of public intellectualism.

Even after almost two decades of his demise, Said's life and work continue to influence and inspire thinkers, intellectuals, and critics across diverse disciplines ranging from English Studies and Comparative Literature to Anthropology and Gender Studies. What functions as one of the predominant traits of Saidian oeuvre is its essential inter/trans-disciplinarity— the urge to travel beyond disciplinary cocoons, refuting conventional way of doing literary criticism or interpreting histories, while at the same time ardently engaging with issues that afflict the broader humanity.

The enduring idea that is reiterated throughout Said's works is his insistence on the fact that our criticisms and interpretations should be defined by a relentless pursuit of truth and justice, that an epistemology of resistance, a spirit of defiance— one that is able to effectively question and intervene into unjust and discriminatory structures, and unsettle the hegemony of fascist systems and regimes— should guide our intellectual and academic endeavours.

By engaging with Said's life and works, and his core concepts and arguments, we aim to explore the essence of Said's intellectual and political contribution, and his lasting relevance for the practitioners of diverse academic fields including English Studies, who take interest in politics of representation, narratives of power, Orientalism, Islamophobia, humanism, and of course, the question of Palestine. The upcoming conference also seeks to find out possible future directions in Saidian Studies.

We invite proposals for 15-minute individual papers, or fully-formed 45-minute panels addressing (but not limited to) the following themes:

a) Edward Said and International Relations/Spatial Studies/Media and Communication Studies/Comparative Literature/World Literature
b) Issues, Poetics/Politics of representation
c) Question of public intellectualism/Representations of the intellectual
d) Canon, Canonicity and the Politics of canon-formation
e) Literatures on Palestine; Narratives as sites of resistance
f) Politics of dispossession; Contemporary discourses on Palestine; Representations of Palestinians in film and media
g) Discourses on Islamophobia
h) Insights of E. Said and the issues around Pedagogy, Curriculum, and Education
i) Resistance Literature and E. Said
j) E. Said and Postcolonialism/Neocolonialism, Decolonisation

Submission Guidelines

The conference welcomes submission from:

a) Faculty members
b) Postgraduate students and MPhil/PhD/Post-Doc/Independent researchers

Paper proposals: Please submit an abstract of 200 words (maximum), along with a short biographical note (maximum 70 words including institutional affiliation and contact information), all in a single MS Word document.

Panel proposals: Include a 250-word rationale for the panel, along with bios for all 3-4 participants (all in a single Word document)

All proposals should be sent to: esaidieolru2026@gmail.com

Important Dates

Deadline for proposal submission: December 10, 2026
Notification of acceptance: December 20, 2026
Registration deadline: December 31, 2026

Registration Fees

Presenters: 2000 BDT
Presenters (Student): 1500 BDT
Participants: 1500 BDT
Participants (Student): 1000 BDT

Registration Link and QR Code

https://forms.gle/BSrjfaPNrsTRgthH9

Contact Information

For any queries regarding the conference, please contact the organising committee at esaidieolru2026@gmail.com

Publication Opportunity

Selected papers will be considered for publication in a peer-reviewed edited volume. Those who wish to submit their paper for such consideration must submit the completed paper within January 15, 2027.

Convenor

Dr. Maswood Akhter
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Institute of English and Other Languages
University of Rajshahi

Co-convenor

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