



CHRIST
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
BANGALORE · INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND CULTURAL STUDIES
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES
CHRIST (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
BANNERGHATTA ROAD CAMPUS, BANGALORE, INDIA

Presents

**WONDERLAND OF PICTURES
AND CONVERSATIONS:
REIMAGINING CHILDREN IN/AND
GRAPHIC NARRATIVES OF SOUTHEAST
ASIA**

27 - 29 October and November 2, 2022

Convenors

Dr. Nivea Thomas K | Ms. Anagha Biju

Contact: synthesize.english@conference.christuniversity.in

To register: Click [here](#)

For more information: [Website](#)

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

“What is the use of a book without pictures or conversations?” So wonders Alice in *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* rightfully mirroring the opinion of young readers across.

Children’s literature is every reader’s first step into reading. Whether it be through the magical world of Peter Pan or through the twisted towers of Rapunzel, the colourful illustrations of *Amar Chitra Katha* or through the muted drawing within the writings of Ruskin Bond, these stories nurture the young reader. Visuals and graphics are integral in capturing interests of young readers and many often familiarize them with the unknown- from words to contexts of the narrative. However, texts and illustrations can be detrimental in imparting ideologies and politics that can influence the way children visualize the world and themselves.

The conference on Children’s Literature and Graphic Narratives aims to explore critically the methods, the possibilities, and the influence of the graphic in Children’s Literature- understanding the graphic as relating to visual art- comics, illustrations, visual performances, craft and art, doodles, images and photographs etc. Can the presence of graphics influence the way a text is read? Do graphics communicate more than words? What are the politics of representation and illustration in children’s narratives? How can the political power of graphic narratives be employed to conjure ways to include discourses on the child and childhood which traditional Children literature shuns from? The conference aspires to engage in ressemblant and more critical conversations through eminent academicians, authors and illustrators, and paper presentations on the intersections of Children’s literature and Graphic Narratives. Pivoting itself around texts from the Southeast Asia region, the event will enable insights into the nuances of the art, narratives, discourses, and challenges unique to the region and the impact it has on the children and the larger society.

A fiesta will also be organized as part of the conference which will further enable engagement with the comic book culture and children’s graphic art in Southeast Asia and the popular and critical understanding of the same. The fiesta will enable fruitful interaction between fans and artists shaping the comic and graphic narrative scenes through stalls, book displays, talks, installation projects etc. The event will be truly meaningful if it succeeds in making visible marginalised and upcoming artists and groups, working in the fields relevant to the conference.

PRE-CONFERENCE SPEAKER



Lavanya Karthik

She is an award-winning author and illustrator of books for children.

She is also a creator of comics, and her work has featured in magazines and newspapers. Her speculative fiction has been featured in *Crossed Genres*, and in the *Speculative Ramayana* anthology. She is the creator of the popular *Ninja Nani* series of graphic novels for middle grade readers, as well as the acclaimed *Dreamers*, a series of short illustrated biographies of iconic Indians from diverse fields. She was the first winner of the Vani Foundation Fellowship for Children's Authors and Illustrators, established in 2014. She is currently the Illustrator Coordinator of the Indian chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

27 October 2022 Hybrid Mode 1:30PM to 3:30PM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Anita Nair

Anita Nair is a critically acclaimed author of several bestselling books, many of which are written for children. She is best known for her novels *A Better Man*, *Mistress*, and *Lessons in Forgetting*. She has also written poetry, essays, short stories, crime fiction, historical fiction, romance, and children's literature, including *Muezza and Baby Jaan: Stories from the Quran*. Miss Nair is a progressive writer with a feminist outlook on things, which reflects in significant parts of her works. She is also the founder of Anita's Attic, a creative writing mentorship program aiming to help aspiring writers discover their voice. She has been awarded by the Sahitya Akademi and won a Crossword Book Award for her children's book *Muezza and Baby Jaan*. She is also a high profile supporter of the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR.

28 October 2022 Hybrid Mode 9:00AM to 11:00AM

PANEL DISCUSSION



Reena Puri

Reena Puri is is the Editor-in-chief of *Amar Chitra Katha*, and has been writing and editing comics for the last three decades. While creating new books, she has always kept in mind Anant Pai's vision of bringing untold stories of India to the children of India, and acquainting them with their heritage.

PANELISTS



Aloysius Sebastian

He is a Comparatist, currently working as Assistant Professor in the Department of English and Modern European Languages of the Central University of Allahabad. He did his MA in Comparative Literature with first rank from the Central University of Hyderabad, followed by an MPhil in Comparative Literature and a PhD with a thesis titled *Select Indian Comics: Representations and Politics*. Areas of research interest are mainly Comparative Literature, Comics Studies, Graphic Narratives, Oral Narratives and more. He has significant publications, including a chapter in a book published by Routledge. He has been a peer reviewer for articles submitted to prominent journals, like the *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*. He is currently working on a few articles on *Chandamama* and *Tinkle* comics

28 October 2022 Online Mode 11:15AM to 1:00PM

Somesh Kumar

He is a graphic designer and illustrator based out of Bengaluru. He is currently working on his graphic novel, *Little by Little*. He works at Factor Daily, a non-profit organisation, as an Editorial Designer. He has taught visual storytelling and fundamentals of graphic design subjects at design colleges such as Srishti, DJ Academy of Design and NID (Kurukshetra). He also runs a small studio called By Two Design with his friend, Hazel Karkaria.

28 October 2022 Offline Mode 11:15AM to 1:00PM



SPEAKERS



Rohan Chakravarty

Rohan, Indian artist, cartoonist, illustrator, and naturalist, became the first Indian cartoonist to be chosen by a major international comics distributor in 2013 after GoComics took up his "Green Humour" series. In addition, Green Humour has been released as a book, a series in two national newspapers, on Tinkle, and by other Indian government agencies, including the Department of Environment and Forest of Arunachal Pradesh. For his efforts, he has received several honours.

02 November 2022 Online Mode

Indu Harikumar

Through user-generated art projects on social media, writer and artist Indu offers project spaces for discussion and experience-sharing on gender and sexuality. On Instagram, two of them are, for instance, #identitty and #notestomylovers.

Insightful and captivating postings with the hashtag #notestomylovers express profoundly felt but perhaps frequently spoken views on intimacy, personal space, and the body.

02 November 2022 Online Mode



CALL FOR PAPER PRESENTATIONS

The organisers would like to call for papers and projects/installations from researchers and artists who are interested in topics including but not limited to. (Abstracts to be of 400-500 words)

- Illustrating the child/for the child
- Parenthood in Children's Graphic Literature
- Queerness in Children's Graphic Literature
- Illustrations in Textbooks and study materials for children
- Graphic Children's literature as a tool for state propaganda
- Religion and religious figures in Graphic children's narratives
- Graphic narrative as a memoir
- Low vs High culture debate around comic books
- Comic books as tools of imperialism
- Regional Children's Graphic Narratives
- Visual Performances and Children
- Ghibli Movies: Blurring of the lines between an adult and child viewership
- Marginality in Graphic Children's Literature
- History of comic books
- Street Art and Graffiti and the Child
- Cartoons to Anime
- Drawing the Non-human in Children's Graphic texts
- Representing Science, the Magical, and Grotesque in Children's Graphic Narratives

REGISTRATION FEES: Presenter - ₹500; Attendee - ₹250

Important Dates :

20 October: Submission of Abstracts for paper presentations

Mail the abstracts to synthesize.english@conference.christuniversity.in

22 October: Abstract Acceptance Date

27 October: Pre-conference Event (Hybrid)

28 October: Talk by Keynote Speaker (Hybrid) followed by a Panel discussion (Hybrid)

29 October: Book Fair (Offline) followed by paper presentations (Hybrid)

02 November: Workshops(Online)

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

CHRIST (Deemed to be University) is a nurturing ground for an individual's holistic development to make an effective contribution to the society in a dynamic environment."CHRIST (Deemed to be University), a premier educational institution, is an academic fraternity of individuals dedicated to the motto of 'EXCELLENCE AND SERVICE.'

We strive to reach out to the star of perfection through an earnest academic pursuit for 'excellence,' and our efforts blossom into 'service' through our creative and empathetic involvement in the society to transform it. Education prepares one to face the challenges of life by bringing out the best in him/her. If this is well accepted, education should be relevant to the needs of the time and address the problems of the day. Being inspired by Blessed Kuriakose Elias Chavara, the founder of Carmelites of Mary Immaculate and the pioneer in innovative education, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) was proactive to define and redefine its mission and strategies by reading the signs of the time.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of English and Cultural Studies in consonance with its mission statement is committed to promoting an intellectual climate through artistic creation, critical mediation, and innovative ideation. The Department inculcates among its students a critical reading of the self, the society, and the imagined with the aim of molding them into responsible and socially sensitive citizens. The Department aspires to create a nuanced understanding of canonical and non-canonical literary and cultural texts, their social milieu for an engaged and enduring understanding of life. It has geared its academic engagements towards molding students into responsible and socially sensitive citizens through programs that are designed to facilitate holistic development. The academic programs offered by the department are aligned with the University's vision and mission. Offering programs at the undergraduate, postgraduate, and research levels, the core areas of inquiry range from domain in language and literature, to those in and around culture. Programs currently offered include BA English (Hons); BA (Liberal Arts); MA (English and Cultural Studies), and PhD (Cultural Studies). The Department of English and Cultural Studies (BGR Campus) has consistently worked towards evolving novel and pertinent learning environments that are highly learner-centric, firmly locating its academic exercises in our contemporary world. The courses are a vibrant confluence of valuable engagements with disciplines including history, sociology, philosophy, linguistics, ethics, comparative literature and culture, among others. With faculty members having developed their expertise in a variety of fields including Gender Studies, Studies in Children's narratives, Popular Culture, Postcolonial Studies, Screen Studies, Language Instruction, Digital Cultures and Sociolinguistics among others, its academic exercises provide for immense scope for students to learn, unlearn, and relearn, and work towards more informed and effective social citizenship.