



## Notice for the PhD Viva-Voce Examination

Mr K C Sankar Varma (Registration Number: 1980301), PhD Scholar at the School of Social Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore will defend his PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Monday 10 March 2025 at 11.00 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru-560029, Karnataka, India.

<b>Title of the Thesis</b>	:	<b>Creation of the ‘Other’ in Urban Spaces in India: With Special Reference to Kochi, Kerala</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	:	<b>Economics</b>
<b>External Examiner - I</b>	:	<b>Dr Deepak Kumar Mishra</b> Professor Centre for the Study of Regional Development Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi-110067
<b>External Examiner - II</b>	:	<b>Dr Debosree Banerjee</b> Associate Professor National Institute of Advanced Studies Indian Institute of Science Campus Bengaluru-560012, Karnataka
<b>Supervisor</b>	:	<b>Dr Rajib Sutradhar B</b> Assistant Professor (Former) Department of Economics School of Social Sciences CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Bengaluru-560029 Karnataka

The members of the Research Advisory Committee of the Scholar, the faculty members of the Department and the School, interested experts and research scholars of all the branches of research are cordially invited to attend this open viva-voce examination.

**Place:** Bengaluru  
**Date:** 04 March 2025

  
**Registrar (Academics)**

## ABSTRACT

Over the past three decades of post-reform period, India has witnessed the emergence of cities as engines of growth, drawing in people from rural areas into urban centres in pursuit of livelihood. Resultantly, urban space has emerged as unequal space, with many in urban spaces getting othered based on economic, social, political and cultural dimensions.

Against this backdrop, we document the mapping of urban deprivation, relying on the India Human Development Survey 2011-12. We try to conceptualize urban deprivation as a form as well as an outcome of othering through this study. The various independent factors that we consider such as state benefits, education level, membership with organizations (to list a few) shows how important all of them are for urban spaces to be less deprived. To further conceptualize othering better, the study takes the case of Kochi city the largest urban agglomeration in Kerala. The study looks at the case study through the concept of place making, which framed the conceptual lens to document the case studies and narratives from the primary survey.

Through using both primary as well as secondary data the study aims to establish othering as an eclectic and belligerent urban conundrum that continues to soar high in urban spaces which if neglected translates urban spaces for worse. This study aims to contribute to the larger domain of urban studies and interestingly finds that while the 'others' in urban spaces keep changing across time and space, othering as an urban conundrum continues to manifest across urban spaces in different ways. In such a backdrop the study concludes with certain policy suggestions to translate urban spaces from a space of othering to a space of equitable and just outcomes with less othering.

**Keywords:** *Urban Space, Othering, Deprivation, Capitalism, Entitlements, Place-making*

### Select Publications:

1. **Varma, Sankar & Sutradhar, Rajib** (2023). Food and Communities in Post-COVID-19 Cities: Case of India. Urban Governance. Available from: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2664328623000335>
2. **Varma, Sankar.** (2023). A New-age Urban Imaginary – Economic and Political Weekly Vol 58, Issue No.1, 07 Jan, 2023 Available from: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2023/1/letters/new-age-urban-imaginary.html>
3. **Varma, Sankar.** (2022). A New Economics Awaits Us – Vol 57, Issue No.34, 20 Aug 2022. Available from: <https://www.epw.in/journal/2022/34/discussion/new-economics-awaits-us.html>
4. **Varma, Sankar.** (2020). A Space for the Space Theorist: Remembering Henri Lefebvre – Economic and Political Weekly (EPW), Vol 55, Issue No.51, 26 Dec 2020. Available from- <https://www.epw.in/journal/2020/51/postscript/%E2%80%8Bspace- space-theorist.html>
5. **Varma, Sankar.** (2023). Internal Other: Re-imagined class in Urban Spaces. Urban Studies. Sage. Available from: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/00420980231186523?journalCode=usja>