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Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Aneetta Alexander, Registration Number: 2290032, PhD Scholar at the Department of English and Cultural Studies, School of Humanities and Performing Arts, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Tuesday, 10 March 2026 at 10.00 am in Room No. 628, 6th Floor, R&D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka, India.

- Title of the Thesis** : **Human and Virus: A Cultural Discourse on Indian HIV/AIDS Narratives**
- Discipline** : **English Studies**
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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.

Registrar (Academics)

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 03 March 2026

ABSTRACT

Culture and health, often perceived as contrasting fields of study, are interconnected in this research to explore the nuances of both domains of knowledge. The study problematises the intersection of culture and health through a textual analysis of Indian HIV and AIDS narratives. The study positions HIV and AIDS narratives as a field of inquiry to examine the role of infectious disease in redefining the cultural and social structure of society. The selected texts for the study can be categorised as creative nonfiction narratives, as they record the observations of authors who have visited people living with HIV and present them in the form of literary narratives. The primary texts include *Positive Lives: The Story of Ashok and Others with HIV* (2002), a non-fiction work by Kalpana Jain, *AIDS Sutra: Untold Stories from India* (2008), an anthology of sixteen essays by various authors, collectively edited by Negar Akhavi and published by the Bill Gates Foundation, and *I Am HIV Positive, So What? A World Champion's Fight Against Drugs, Disease, and Discrimination* (2017), a biography of Khundrakpam Pradipkumar Singh written by Jayanta Kalita. The study is a critical assessment of these primary texts through the methodological approach of cultural studies, employing a combined framework that draws primarily from Chris Barker, Kathy Charmaz, Deborah Lupton, and Clifford Geertz. Through this theoretical approach, the study analyses three aspects related to HIV and AIDS: the self, the body, and society. The analysis of the study theorises that the presence of an infectious disease disrupts the sociocultural structure of a person living with the virus, leading to the construction of a new cultural structure shaped by the virus.

Keywords: *HIV and AIDS, Culture, Health, Virus, Creative Non-Fiction*

Publications:

1. **Alexander, A.,** and J.Sharon.“Frames of Isolation: A Reading through HIV/AIDS Documentaries.” *Cultural Intertexts*, no. 15, 2025, pp. 20–33, doi:10.35219/cultural-intertexts.2025.0
2. **Alexander, A.,** and J. Sharon. “A Conceptual Framework Model to Assess Viral Identity In Narratives.” Patent Application Filed No. 202541090835.