



Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Priyanka Bisht, Registration Number: 19247002, PhD scholar at the Department of English and Cultural Studies, School of Humanities and Performing Arts, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi NCR Off-Campus, will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Saturday, 28th March 2026, at 11:00 am in the Discussion Room, Second floor, A Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi NCR Off-Campus, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201003, India.

Title of the Thesis	:	Spaces of Suffering: A Study of Refugee Camps, Trauma, and Postmemory in Select Short Stories of the 1947 Partition
Discipline	:	English Studies
External Examiner - I	:	Dr Brati Biswas Professor Dyal Singh Evening College University of Delhi Lodhi Road, Pragati Vihar New Delhi - 110003 Delhi
External Examiner - II	:	Dr Urvashi Kaushal Associate Professor Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology Svnit Campus, Ichhanath Road Surat - 395007 Gujarat
Supervisor	:	Dr Jyoti Prakash Pujari Assistant Professor Department of English and Cultural Studies School of Humanities and Performing Arts CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Delhi NCR Off-Campus Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201003

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: 17 March 2026

Registrar (Academics)

ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the 1947 Partition refugee camps in Delhi and Punjab, and the representation of the traumatic refugee experiences within these spaces. It does so through the selected short stories that were published between 2017 to 2023 by the third-generation Partition writers such as, Shobha Rao, Anirudh Kalra, Shivani Salil, Tarun K. Saint, and N.K. Sondhi. The thesis employs critical discourse analysis as its methodology for the examination of the short stories. This methodological approach is suitable to examine how the short stories create, sustain, and question power relations and cultural norms. Through its findings, the thesis aims to redefine the camp spaces as rehabilitative environments, placing this definition alongside other macro and micro narratives. It then shifts the focus from the physical space of the refugee camps to their inhabitants: the refugees. The research work studies the psychological and emotional suffering of the refugees within the camps, particularly the trauma, as depicted in the short stories. Delving further into the concept of refugee trauma, the research work then moves beyond the spatial configuration of the refugee camps and examines the transmission of this historical trauma onto the next generation as the refugee *virasat*. This work is significant as it not only expands the understanding of the psychological impact of the Partition on the refugees but also sheds light on its continual nature and existing remnants through intergenerational transmission.

Keywords: 1947 Partition, Short Stories, Refugees, Refugee Camps, Trauma, Postmemory.

Publications:

1. **Bisht, Priyanka.** "Hiraeth: Partition Stories from 1947 by Dr. Shivani Salil." *LITERARY VOICE*, vol. 2, no. 13, 2021, pp. 339–342. (Web of Science Indexed).
2. **Bisht, Priyanka, and Merlyn Sharma.** "The 1947 Partition Archive: A Contemporary Pedagogical Resource to Teach the Rival History of the Partition of India." *The Routledge Companion to Literature and Social Justice*, edited by Masood Ashraf Raja and Nick T. C. Lu, Routledge, 2024, pp. 499–512. (SCOPUS Indexed).
3. **Bisht, Priyanka, and Jyoti Prakash Pujari.** "Past Meets the Future- ChatGPT Integrated Pedagogy to Teach the 1947 Partition in Secondary Classes." *General Aspects of Applying Generative AI in Higher Education*, 2024, pp. 55–68, doi:10.1007/978-3-031-65691-0_4. (SCOPUS Indexed).
4. **Bisht, Priyanka, and Jyoti Prakash Pujari.** "The Limits of AI in Teaching Partition Literature." *Advances in computational intelligence and robotics book series*, 2025, pp. 49–72, doi:10.4018/979-8-3373-0122-8.ch003. (SCOPUS indexed)
5. **Bisht, Priyanka, and Jyoti Prakash Pujari.** "Translating Subh-e-Azadi." *Advances in computational intelligence and robotics book series*, 2025, pp. 267–92, doi:10.4018/979-8-3373-0060-3.ch010. (SCOPUS indexed).
6. **Bisht, Priyanka.** "Framing and Unframing the Divide: Analyzing the Representation and Softening of the India-Pakistan Mental Border in Popular Narratives." *The IUP Journal of English Studies*, vol. 20, no. 1, Mar. 2025, pp. 143–55, doi:10.71329/IUPJES/2025.20.1.143-155 (SCOPUS Indexed).