

**CHRIST**(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)  
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## Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Mr Aghil P Kombar, Registration Number: 1830083, PhD Scholar at the Department of English and Cultural Studies, School of Humanities and Performing Arts, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) will defend his PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Monday, 13 April 2026 at 10.00 am in Room No. 628, 6th Floor, R&D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka, India.

<b>Title of the Thesis</b>	:	<b>Narrativisation of Lived Experiences of Gulf Returned Malayalees: Exploring Politics of Identity</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	:	<b>English Studies</b>
<b>External Examiner - I</b>	:	<b>Dr Shoba K N</b> Associate Professor Department of Education National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR) Tharamani, Chennai - 600113 Tamil Nadu
<b>External Examiner - II</b>	:	<b>Dr Maya Vinai</b> Associate Professor Department of Humanities and Social Sciences Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani Hyderabad Campus Jawahar Nagar, Kapra Mandal Medchal - 500078 Telangana
<b>Supervisor</b>	:	<b>Dr Anupama Nayar C V</b> Associate Professor Department of English and Cultural Studies School of Humanities and Performing Arts 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

Registrar (Academics)

## ABSTRACT

This dissertation explores the complex and often overlooked lived experiences of Gulf-returned Malayalees, especially those of second-generation migrants. While much scholarship on migration has focused on the act of migration and the economic impact of remittances, this study shifts the gaze to Gulf returnees who have grown up in the GCC, which in turn has shaped their identities in profound ways, navigating a sense of in-betweenness and displacement upon coming "home."

The dissertation combines non-fiction narrativisation drawn from the oral history method of in-depth interviews with select Gulf returnees, and a critical analysis that interprets these stories through theoretical frameworks. Concepts such as Homi Bhabha's theory on Hybridity and the Third Space are employed to offer an interpretive lens through which to understand their ideas of identity, belonging, and the sociocultural tensions of return while unpacking the politics of everyday living in the homeland and the potential ambivalence that marks their sense of self.

By engaging directly with these narratives, the study provides insight into how the second generation of migrants, who grew up in the Gulf, re-negotiate their place in an Indian society that has changed during their absence, and how their prolonged exposure to a transnational life influences their cultural belonging. Ultimately, this research contributes to migration studies by re-centring return as a complex experience, and by demonstrating how identity is continually reworked in the space between migration and return migration.

**Keywords:** *Gulf Migration, Return Migration, Indian Diaspora, Home, Narrativisation, Oral History*

### **Publication:**

1. **Komban, A. P.**, and A. Nayar C. V. "The Complexities of Home and Belonging in the Gulf-Malayalee Experience: A Close Reading of Salim Ahamed's Pathemari (2015)." *Continuum*, vol. 38, no. 6, 2024, pp. 947–962.  
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