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## Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Anagha Sivasankaran, Registration Number: 2270039, 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, 12 May 2026 at 10.00 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R&D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka, India.

- Title of the Thesis** : **Spaces and Narratives: An Analytical Study of Spatiality in the Select Novels of M T Vasudevan Nair**
- Discipline** : **English Studies**
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Associate Professor  
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- Co-Supervisor** : **Dr Biju Itukkaparakkal**  
Assistant Professor (Former)  
Department of English and Cultural 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.

Place: Bengaluru  
Date: 25 April 2026

Registrar (Academics)

## ABSTRACT

The genre of novels often holds a mirror of society while in turn getting shaped by it. Several elements of the novel have been subjected to critical scrutiny to open up newer avenues of meaning making. However, spatiality of a narrative has been largely relegated as static and inconsequential. This thesis ventures to analyse the representation of spaces in two Malayalam novels written by M T Vasudevan Nair - *The House Around the Courtyard* and *The Demonseed*. Both the texts are replete with spatial representations that capture the essence of the Valluvanadan life in Kerala in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Using a three pronged approach, the thesis studies how the construction of spatiality from an experiential perspective bridges the gap between real and imagined spaces. Through a nuanced method that constructs spaces experientially, the study attempts to understand the ways in which spatiality in the selected texts address the concerns of power, caste and gender. The study explores the intricacies of the changing social, political and historical times of the represented places to explore how spatiality in the novels of M T Vasudevan Nair are used as an informant of history and culture. The study uses Yifu Tuan's theories on Experiential places and Topophilia along with Robert Tally's notions on Topophobia in order to navigate through the dimensions of spatiality. Through an extensive analysis of the selected texts, the thesis investigates the ways in which experiential places of a narrative can engage in a meaning making process with the reader to disseminate knowledge of the world it seeks to represent. It questions the general trend of relegating space as a canvas where events unfurl by looking into the possibilities enshrouded around the discourse of literary spatiality. The thesis contextualises space as a layered, affective and contributing element of a narrative.

**Keywords:** *Spatiality, Experiential, Topophilia, Geography, Affect, History.*

### Publication:

1. **Sivasankaran, Anagha,** and Biju Itukkapparakkal. "M T Vasudevan Nair and the Narrativisation of Valluvanadu." *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 59, no. 39, 2024, pp. 199–200. Scopus, <https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-85205474551&partnerID=40&md5=df3080564370f5d068c7740b23cedf3>
2. **Sivasankaran, Anagha,** and Sayant Vijay. "Death-worlds, Necropolitics and Decoloniality: Colonial Negotiations in Mahé." *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 59, no. 52, 2024, pp. 52–57. Scopus, <https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-85213699096&partnerID=40&md5=eed29099a759357f1d1cdc4b5e1608a4>