

**CHRIST**(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)  
BANGALORE | DELHI NCR | PUNE

## Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Anu M Varghese, Registration Number: 2090062, 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 Tuesday, 23 September 2025 at 9.30 am in the Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, B Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi NCR Off-Campus, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, 201003, India.

**Title of the Thesis** : **Sexuality, Intersectional Abjection and Queer Heterotopias: A Study of 21<sup>st</sup> -Century Lesbian Narratives in the Indian Context**

**Discipline** : **English Studies**

**External Examiner - I** : **Dr Dhishna Pannikot**  
Associate Professor  
School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Management  
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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:** 12 September 2025

  
**Registrar (Academics)**

## ABSTRACT

The discourse around lesbian identities has been evolving in various directions over the past few years. Though lesbian identities have a long history in India, the lesbian movement is quite nascent. The study explores the lived experiences of lesbian identities within the context of India as represented in 21st-century lesbian narratives. It examines the ways in which lesbian identities construct and express their gender, focusing on both non-feminine and feminine performances that either challenge or conform to societal gender norms. The thesis investigates the expression of desire and intimacy within lesbian relationships, emphasizing that sexuality is not limited to genital sexual activities. Furthermore, the thesis addresses the intersectional experiences of violence and abjection faced by lesbian identities, examining how family, society, and self-inflicted violence contribute to their marginalisation. The research also explores the spatial dimensions of lesbian existence, analysing the invisibility of these identities in rural spaces and their search for safety and visibility in urban environments. By focusing on queer heterotopias, the study uncovers the relationship between sexuality and geographical spaces, particularly how lesbian identities navigate and inhabit both rural and urban geographical spaces. Through a critical examination of selected lesbian narratives, the study contributes to the broader discourse of lesbian identities in India.

**Keywords:** *heteronormativity, lesbian, heterotopias, abjection, intersectionality, violence*

### Publications:

1. Varghese, A. M. & Tanupriya. "Abjection and Intersecting Trans Women Identities: Examining 'Doing Gender' through Malayalam Movies *Ardhanaari* and *Njan Marykutty*". *Comunicación y Sociedad*, e8484, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.32870/cys.v2023.8484>
2. Varghese, A. M. & Tanupriya. "The Making of LGBTQ+ Magazines and Zines to Contemporary Forms of Representation on New Media in the Indian Context". *QED: A Journal in GLBTQ Worldmaking*.