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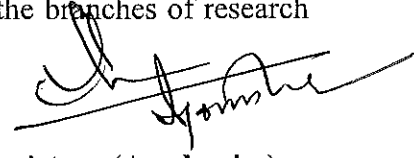
Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Mr Augustine Thomas Thuruthikara, Registration Number: 1880500, 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, 17 August 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	:	Locating and Interrogating Convergences of Select Elements of Fantasy Fiction and Ecopsychology in J. R. R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings and Terry Pratchett's 'Witches' Novels
Discipline	:	English Studies
External Examiner - I	:	Dr K Rizwana Sultana Associate Professor Postgraduate and Research Department of English Farook College (Autonomous) Kozhikode - 673632 Kerala
External Examiner - II	:	Dr Aishwarya Subramanian Associate Professor Department of English O.P. Jindal Global University Sonipat Narela Road, Near Jagdishpur Village Sonipat, Haryana - 131001
Supervisor	:	Dr Sreejith D Assistant 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
Date: 24 July 2026


Registrar (Academics)

ABSTRACT

This thesis is an attempt to recognise ideas and themes of the field of Ecopsychology within the genre of Fantasy fiction. Ecopsychology maintains that the human psychopathology observed in human beings emerges from the violation and loss of healthy human psychological relationships with the natural world and through which the failure of their own natural processes. Ecopsychology attributes the current ecological crisis to this psychological rift, and the goal of ecopsychologists is to revive and heal this lost psychological bond. Fantasy Fiction remains one of the few mediums that offer such a path in popular culture owing to its animistic perspective and representations that echo human consciousness in primal cultures from which ecopsychologists draw their principles and inspiration. J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* (LotR) and Terry Pratchett's *Witches* novels, two popular and immersive set of texts are chosen for this study

The following research questions are addressed

1. Are there parallels between the concepts of ecopsychology and the ecological values exhibited by the texts, and if so, what are they?
2. What elements of fiction are employed in the representations of these ecopsychological concepts?

The research would employ a textual analysis of the magic, narratives and other world-building elements, language and symbols studied against ecopsychological thought of ecofeminism, narcissism, ontogenetic crippling and shamanistic practices.

Chapter 2 discusses the gendered representation of masculine and feminine traits in the *Witches* novels, with the wizards exhibiting the masculine traits of exploitation and domination, abstraction while being unaware of their own psychological and bodily needs. Pratchett's witch can be observed to be a composite of humanist, ecopsychological, historical, feminine witch despite the threat of being categorized as Burning Times Myth. In the final section of the chapter, the thesis addresses the issues with the representation of female beauty, as instructed by the theory of body textual performance and Wolf's beauty myth, within the context of fantasy's problematic history with such representations. Pratchett's *Witches* novels carry the theme of unhealthy and healthy narcissism that is at the heart of the human-nature psychological rift and is discussed in Chapter 3, where Pratchett often makes the distinction between good and evil based on healthy and unhealthy narcissistic traits, which also allows him to make a distinction between human wants and needs as Ecopsychologists make through his characters. Tolkien's LotR, however, offers only predetermined fates.

Chapter 4 discusses how the narrative of the plot, characters, and magical elements of the story weave together an ecological vision retracing the journey of humans from pre-agrarian sensibilities to agrarian life (discussed in Paul Shepard's *Nature and Madness*), but this time reversed, so that the fantasy narrative, especially of the LotR is studied for its path that describes a return to sensibilities of primal cultures, towards the ecopsychological consciousness.

Keywords: Ecopsychology, Fantasy Fiction, Life Processes, Ecological Consciousness, Narcissism

Publications:

1. **Thomas, Augustine**, and Sreejith Kadiyakkol. "‘She’s Got a Face Like a Hatchet’: A Study of Terry Pratchett’s Representation of Female Beauty in His *Witches* Novels." *Extrapolation*, vol. 67, no. 1, Liverpool University Press