

Notice for the PhD Viva-Voce Examination

Ms Grace Maria Jochan, Registration Number: 1981014, PhD scholar at the School of Psychological Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Monday, 30 June 2025 at 9.30 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka, India.

Title of the Thesis	:	Experience of Living through Digital Vigilantism: Power-Politics, Shame, and Role-Fluctuation
Discipline	:	Psychology
External Examiner - I	:	Dr Deepshikha Ray Professor Department of Psychology Rajabazar Science College Building University of Calcutta Kolkata - 700073 West Bengal
External Examiner - II	:	Dr Romate John Professor Department of Psychology School of Social and Behavioural Sciences Central University of Karnataka Gulbarga - 585311 Karnataka
Supervisor	:	Dr Rituparna Chakraborty Assistant Professor School of Psychological Sciences 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: 19 June 2025



Registrar (Academics)

ABSTRACT

The popularity of social media and its affordances have revolutionised our notions of reality and allowed us to explore aspects of human psychology and connectivity. Digital vigilantism is the act of crowdsourced surveillance by a group of people against those with different viewpoints. Literature on digital vigilantism is derived chiefly from communications and anthropological disciplines and is seldom explored using a social psychological lens. This study focused on addressing this gap and uses Goffman's self-presentation, Bourdieu's social space and Foucauldian power to theoretically examine the phenomenon of digital vigilantism among young adults in India (n=18). The study is set in the social constructivist-interpretive tradition. It uses interpretative phenomenological analysis of semi-structured interviews and Barthesian semiotic analysis of digital content shared by participants to understand the experiences related to vigilantism in digital space.

The phenomenological and semiotic analysis suggest that the multiplicity of the phenomenal self in digital space contributes to the cognitive behavioural dissonance one experiences and vice versa. This symbiotic interaction further creates a need for unique mediums of navigation in digital space, such as curation through masking, humour, or sarcasm, which further amplifies the possibilities of the phenomenal self's multiplicity. The presence of digital capital and the constant surveillance characteristics of the medium creates a decentralised inspection principle where every individual engages in censoring oneself and others in accordance with the expectations of the digital audience. The digital self, therefore, navigates and negotiates through the varied role fluctuations and dissonances impacting the coherence of their self-schema. These findings contribute to the knowledge of experiences individuals go through in digital space, particularly in connection to vigilantism and contribute to improving our digital experiences.

Keywords: Digital Vigilantism, Power-politics, Young adults, Interpretative phenomenological analysis, Semiotic analysis

Publications:

1. **Jochan, G. M.**, Chakraborty, R., & Arur, A. (2022). Xenophobic attitudes and representations in social media during Covid-19 pandemic in India. *Revista Conhecimento Online*, 2, 180–195. <https://doi.org/10.25112/rco.v2.2869>
2. **Jochan, G. M.**, & Banerjee, T. (2021). Shaming in the Internet Era: Evaluating the Reintegrative Function of Shame in Digital Spaces. In C.-H. Mayer, E. Vanderheiden, & P. T. P. Wong (Eds.), *Shame 4.0* (pp. 431–454). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-59527-2_20
3. **Jochan, G. M.**, & Banerjee, T. (2023). Indian Women and Empowerment: A Kleinian Approach. In C.-H. Mayer, E. Vanderheiden, O. Braun-Lewensohn, G. Chen, K. Sueda, B. Mangolothi, S. Safdar, & S. Kim (Eds.), *Women's Empowerment for a Sustainable Future* (pp. 139–151). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-25924-1_10
4. Prakasha, Chakraborty, R., Thirumalesha, S., Gururaja, C. S., Sangtam, Y., Rhatsu, K., & **Jochan, G. M.** (2023). Expectations of University Lecturers and Students on Smart Learning Environments. *Problems of Education in the 21st Century*, 81(4), Continuous. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.33225/pec/23.81.501>
5. **Jochan, G.M** & Chakraborty, R. Genesis of Digital Panopticon: Lived Experiences through Digital Vigilantism in press in *Journal of Applied Communication Research*.