

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

Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Gopika L Ramesh, Registration Number: 2090066, PhD Scholar at the Department of English and Cultural Studies, School of Humanities and Performing Arts, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Monday, 29 September 2025 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 : **Negotiating Personhood in Postcolonial Trinidad:
Reading Public Spaces in Select Novels of Earl
Lovelace**

Discipline : **English 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: 19 September 2025

Registrar (Academics)

ABSTRACT

Earl Lovelace is a Trinidadian novelist, playwright, short story writer, and essayist whose works capture the struggles of individuals and communities as they navigate issues of displacement, marginalisation, and cultural self-reclamation in postcolonial Trinidad. This research focuses specifically on Lovelace's novels and explores how the quest for identity or personhood (as he prefers to call it) is not an isolated process, but takes place between the self and the society in the realm of space where it gets incessantly modified. This research particularly focuses on public spaces or spaces of public nature – that are accessible to the public and allows for social interaction. The novels selected for the study include *The Schoolmaster* (1965), *While Gods are Falling* (1968), *The Dragon Can't Dance* (1979), *Salt* (1996) and *Is Just a Movie* (2011). Lovelace has structured these novels in such a way that they navigate across time (1930s to 1970s Trinidad) and space (rural to suburban to urban), representative of the spatio-historical transition in postcolonial Trinidad. Through textual analysis, the research traces this transition and explores the implicated lives of the place, its people, and their struggles for self-recovery.

The study examines the socio-economic, cultural, and political practices shaping the land and the public of postcolonial Trinidad and how people negotiate their identity through spatial practices or the way they use, organize, and move through these spaces. The research falls within the field of postcolonial spatiality and recognises the need to explore the mutually implicated temporal and spatial frames in the reading of postcolonial experiences and offers scope for further research on how postcolonial spaces within and beyond the region are continually contested and redefined alongside people's identity negotiations.

Keywords: *Earl Lovelace, Trinidad, Postcolonial, Spatio-temporality, Identity*

Publications:

1. **Ramesh, Gopika L** and Sharon J. "Narrativity and the Problematics of Authenticity in *Hungry Ghosts* by Kevin Jared Hosein," *Current Writing: Text and Reception in Southern Africa*, vol. 36, no. 1, June 2024, pp. 82-93. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1013929X.2024.2325776>.
2. **Ramesh, Gopika L**. "Populism and the Trinidadian Carnival." *Encyclopedia of New Populism and Responses in the 21st Century*, 2024, pp. 708–10. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-9859-0_318-1