



## Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Gunjan Gupta, Registration Number: 2170012, 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 Thursday, 14 August, 2025 at 10.00 am in the Seminar Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Academic Block, Bannerghatta Road Campus, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560076, Karnataka, India.

- Title of the Thesis** : **Narrativising the City: Culinary Place-Making of Delhi through Selected Cookbooks**
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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:** 07 August 2025

**Registrar (Academics)**

## ABSTRACT

The research focuses on the intricate relationship between culinary practices and place-making in Delhi. Culinary Place-making is conceptualised by extending the idea of place-making of a city from the public physical structures to everyday culinary activities both outside and inside the home. The research examines the perceptions of the authors who narrativise Delhi cuisine through a selection of six primary texts—Charmaine O'Brien's *Flavours of Delhi: A Food Lover's Guide* (2010), Pamela Timm's *Korma, Kheer & Kismet: Five Seasons in Old Delhi* (2014), Amanda Clegg and Victoria Byrne's *Hope & Spice: Authentic recipes and stories of transformation from the slums of Delhi* (2018), Sadia Dehlvi's *Jasmine and Jinns: Memories and Recipes of My Delhi* (2017), Madhur Jaffrey's *Climbing the Mango Trees* (2005), and Madhushree Ghosh's *Khabaar: An Immigrant Journey of Food, Memory, and Family* (2022). Each text highlights how people negotiate with the city in unique, innovative, and compelling ways to narrativise a strong sense of place identity. The study adds to the existing literature on critical food studies and the conventional concepts of place-making to establish a relationship between food and place by conducting a qualitative textual analysis of these cookbooks. The research builds on the concepts of 'outsideness' and 'insideness' to investigate how the varied positionality of the authors informed by the Orientalist gaze on the city and the deep-rooted intimate association with the city, further leads to its culinary place-making. This research establishes cookbooks as cultural scripts which depict the existence of multiple ideas of 'Delhis' within Delhi. The study moves beyond treating recipes as mere instructions; rather, it strives to look at other symbolic meanings and readings in recipes, the act of recipe sharing and food writing (in context to cookbooks). The inclusion of recipes, ingredients, famous food streets, and restaurants-old and new-along with an intricate understanding of historical relevance and the contemporary global presence of Delhi reflects the unique culinary identity of the city. Cookbooks, thus, are reiterated as vital knowledge tool to gain a cogent understanding of the diverse perspectives that lead to the spatial organisation of Delhi's culinary culture.

**Keywords:** *Cookbooks, Delhi, Culinary Place-making, Place-making, Critical Food Studies, Cultural Script*

### **Publications:**

1. **Gunjan Gupta** and Dr Dishari Chattaraj. "Taste of your Hometown": Evoking Nostalgia through the Diner Space in Midnight Diner' in *SARE*, Vol. 60, Issue 2 | 2023. [Q2, Scopus Indexed]
2. **Gunjan Gupta** and Arya Parakkate Vijayaraghavan. "Nothing in this Kitchen is Unplanned": Food as Performance in Mark Mylod's *The Menu* in *Agathos: An International Review of the Humanities and Social Sciences*, 15, 2(29). 2024. [WoS Indexed]
3. **Gunjan Gupta**. 'What about them? The (Un)Realized American Dream of the Family in Prashant Nair's *Umrika*' in *Agathos: An International Review of the Humanities and Social Sciences*, Volume 14, Issue 2/2023 [WoS]
4. **Gunjan Gupta** and Tanushri Banerjee. 'Decoding Impermanent Narratives: A Study of Transient Migrants as Digital Influencers on YouTube' in *Transitions: Journal of Transient Migration*, 13 February 2025. Online First. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1386/tjtm\\_00069\\_1](https://doi.org/10.1386/tjtm_00069_1) [ Q1 Journal, Scopus Indexed]
5. Tanushri Banerjee and **Gunjan Gupta**. 'Khaki Stories: The Study of the Populist Image of Law Enforcement in Indian Cinema' in the *Springer Encyclopedia of New Populism and Responses in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. 2024. DOI: [10.1007/978-981-16-9859-0\\_452-1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-9859-0_452-1)
6. Tanushri Banerjee and **Gunjan Gupta**. 'The Dispensable Migrants: A Study of Representation of Illegal Migration in Indian Cinema' in *Literature and Aesthetics*. 2024. [WoS Indexed]