




## Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Melba Sabu, Registration Number: 2170171, PhD Scholar at the Department of English and Cultural Studies, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Monday, 06 October 2025 at 11.00 am in the Seminar Hall, 1 Floor, Academic Block, Bannerghatta Road Campus, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560076, Karnataka, India.

<b>Title of the Thesis</b>	:	<b>Situating Waste in the Works of Janice Pariat, Kamila Shamsie and Shubhangi Swarup: An Ecocritical Study</b>
<b>Discipline</b>	:	<b>English Studies</b>
<b>External Examiner - I</b>	:	<b>Dr Sangeeta Menon</b> Professor and Head National Institute of Advanced Studies Indian Institute of Science Campus Bengaluru - 560012 Karnataka
<b>External Examiner - II</b>	:	<b>Dr Julia Boll</b> Zukunftskolleg Fellow Department of Literature University of Konstanz Universitätsstraße 10 78464 Konstanz, Germany
<b>Supervisor</b>	:	<b>Dr Ajay Kumar</b> Associate Professor Department of Media studies School of Social Sciences Bannerghatta Road campus CHRIST (Deemed to be University) Bangalore - 560076 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:** 23 September 2025

  
**Registrar (Academics)**

## ABSTRACT

This study explores the depiction of waste in literature that mirrors South Asia's socio-economic and political climate. The study aims to understand the possible reasons for treating waste as a mere prop or part of the background in literature, especially fiction, produced in South Asian countries. The study builds on the idea of dwelling spaces materialising out of marginalisation and quantification of living. Through the lenses of urbanity, consumerism, and displacement—all characteristic of living places and practices—the study probes into the pejorative view of waste and the discussions surrounding it. The tangibility of waste as the inevitably concrete dividend of human existence and survival on the planet is also explored through the study's analysis of material and metaphysical waste. The aspect of unwanted human lives is explored by analysing the diasporic texts and those that mention migration and the resulting displacement, all in search of better living conditions. Attempting to decolonise the readings of waste and its manifestations, the study reiterates the need to foreground more eco-cosmopolitan narratives that would bridge the gap between the Global North and the Global South. This also facilitates the existence of plural waste ecologies wherein the biological environment ceases to be the sole known ecology. Categorisations of waste have been probed to extract the perceptions surrounding the stigma of an object or entity being unwanted or in excess. The juxtaposition of intersectionality with marginalisation aims to highlight the offhanded depiction of waste and its connotations in the chosen South Asian narratives. Given the current academic discussions on the different ecologies existing within every sphere of representation, the study reads waste as portrayed by women writers representing the intersectional ideology of fiction. The primary texts for the study are Janice Pariat's *Boats on Land* (2012), *The Nine Chambered Heart* (2017), *Everything the Light Touches* (2022), Kamila Shamsie's *Salt and Saffron* (2000), *Burnt Shadows* (2009), *Kartography* (2014), *Home Fire* (2017), and Shubhangi Swarup's *Latitudes of Longing* (2018). Through a study of these texts, the study also reviews how waste could be employed as a vehicle of sensitivity, evoking mindfulness and compassion towards objects and entities. Through the idea of value- ascription to both, the study also analyses the reasons for dwelling spaces being envisioned as waste thickets existing in the era of 'trashocalypse', with waste not only remaining physical but also internalized by living entities.

**Keywords:** *Waste ecologies, Urbanity, Consumerism, Displacement, Object Culture, Plural Ecologies, Eco-cosmopolitanism, Metaphorical Waste, Trashocalypse, Diasporic Eco-cosmopolitanism*

### Publications:

- 1) **Melba Sabu** and Dr Meghna Mudaliar. "Ecocritical Representation of Karen Identity in the Andaman Islands in Shubhangi Swarup's *Latitudes of Longing*." *Agathos: An International Review of the Humanities and Social Sciences* (Web of Science indexed), Vol. – 14, issue 1 (26), 2023, pp 181-190.
- 2) **Melba Sabu** and Dr Meghna Mudaliar. "Slow Violence in Vikram Chandra's *Sacred Games*: An Ecocritical Reading." *SIC Journal of Literature, Culture and Literary Translation* (Scopus and Web of Science indexed), Vol. – 27, issue 2, 2023.
- 3) **Melba Sabu** and Lucy Keneikhrienuo Yhome. "The Word of the Water: Addressing the Agency of a More-than-human Khasi World in 'A Waterfall of Horses' from Janice Pariat's *Boats on Land*." *Literary Voice* (Web of Science indexed), Vol. – 1, no. 23, 2024, pp. 334-342.