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Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

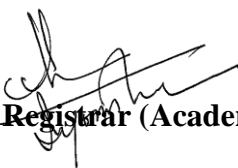
Mr Siddharth Dubey, Registration Number: 2070507, PhD Scholar at the Department of English and Cultural Studies, School of Humanities and Performing Arts, CHRIST (Deemed to be University) will defend his PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Tuesday, 23 June 2026 at 10.00 am in Conference Room, 1st Floor, B Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi NCR Off-Campus,

- Title of the Thesis** : **Mourning Becomes Queer: Navigating Home, Self, and Kinship in 21st Century Select South Asian Novels**
- Discipline** : **English Studies**
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Ghaziabad - 201003, Uttar Pradesh, India.

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: 16 June 2026


Registrar (Academics)

ABSTRACT

This thesis examines how queer lives in 21st-century South Asian fiction are shaped by mourning, melancholia, and disenfranchised grief. While queer affect has been theorised extensively in Western scholarship, South Asian contexts remain underexplored in relation to the affective consequences of heteronormativity. This study argues that queer subjectivities in South Asia are persistently structured by the loss of inhabitable spaces, belonging, kinship, and foreclosed futures before they can be lived. The study focuses on five novels: *The Hungry Ghosts* (2012) by Shyam Selvadurai, *Don't Let Him Know* (2015) by Sandip Roy, *The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali* (2017) by Sabina Khan, *Marriage of a Thousand Lies* (2019) by SJ Sindu, and *The Other Man* (2021) by Farhad J. Dadyburjor. These texts span India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and the diaspora, offering varied but interconnected portrayals of queer affect.

Each text registers queer grief differently, whether through spatial displacement, diasporic alienation, coercive marriages, or the rupture of coming out. What emerges is a pattern in which melancholia, the unacknowledged grief of the 'before', transforms into mourning. This performative practice reorients identity and creates an affective archive of queer life. By drawing on affect theory (Sedgwick 1990; Ahmed 2006; Cvetkovich 2003; Butler 1995) and Kenneth Doka's 1989 concept of disenfranchised grief, the thesis situates South Asian queer literature as a crucial site for understanding how affect circulates in contexts of erasure and survival. Mourning, in these narratives, emerges as an ongoing practice that shapes subjectivity, kinship, and memory, revealing that grief itself becomes a quintessential part of queer existence in South Asia.

Keywords: Queer Studies; Affect Theory; Mourning and Melancholia; Disenfranchised Grief; South Asian Literature; Chrononormativity

Publications:

1. **Dubey, Siddharth**, and Tanupriya. (2025). "Deconstructing the Homonormative Spaces: Mapping the Politics of Queering of Geographical Space in South Asian Narratives." *Journal of Homosexuality* 73 (8): 1821–37. doi:10.1080/00918369.2025.2529368
2. **Dubey, Siddharth**, and Tanupriya. (2026) "Queer Movements and Politicisation in India: Navigating through Digital and Socio-cultural Histories." *Queer Intersectionality: Voices, Struggles, and Identities in South Asia*, edited by Nizara Hazarika and Namrata Pathak, Routledge.
3. **Dubey, Siddharth**. (2020) "Journeying through the Indian Railways in *Around India in 80 Trains* (2012) by Monisha Rajesh and *Chai, Chai: Travels in Places Where You Stop But Get Never Off* (2009) by Bishwanath Ghosh." *Rupkatha Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities*, vol. 12, no. 3, 2020, doi:10.21659/rupkatha.v12n3.38