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Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Remya R, Registration Number: 2170161, 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 Monday, 20 July 2026 at 10.30 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R&D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka, India.

Title of the Thesis : **Film Geographies of Kochi: Sense of Place in Contested Cultural Landscapes**

Discipline : **English Studies**

External Examiner - I : **Dr M Vijayakumar**
Associate Professor
Department of English
School of Social Sciences and Languages
Vellore Institute of Technology
Vellore, Tamil Nadu - 632014

External Examiner - II : **Dr Prashant Subhash Mothe**
Professor
Department of English
SSPM Adarsh Mahavidyalaya Omerga
Affiliated Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada
University
Maharashtra - 413606

Supervisor : **Dr Arya Aiyappan**
Associate Professor
Department of English and Cultural Studies
School of Humanities and Performing Arts
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.


Registrar

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 07 July 2026

ABSTRACT

This research engages with the Kochi film genre and problematises the cartographic shift within it. Kochi films traditionally depict the city's urban landscape. However, recent Kochi films showcase a shift from this trend to depict the non-city spaces of Kochi. This research examines the film geographies of six Kochi films that show the cultural landscapes of Kochi's non-city spaces, like old Ernakulam, Mattancherry, Chellanam, Kumbalangi and Puthuvypin. They are: Kammattipadam (2016), Parava (2017), Ee Ma Yau (2018), Kumbalangi Nights (2019), Valiyaperunnal (2019) and Aavasavyuham (2022). These films depict the contested nature of the cultural landscapes in the lived spaces of marginalised characters. There is also a dearth of scholarship that addresses the importance of place in the formation of identity among the underprivileged residents of these places and the nature of the resident-place bond in such place-based narratives. This research serves to address that research gap using the multidisciplinary theoretical framework of spatiality, with a focus on the concept of sense of place. It examines the new modalities within the Kochi film genre, maps the cultural landscapes of the select film geographies, and explicates the nature of the sense of place that is formed amongst the marginalised characters in the select films. To this end, this research synthesised a conceptual framework or model for analysing the nature and formation of a sense of place amongst the marginalised residents of the select film geographies. This model, named the 'Nested Model of Analysing Sense of Place,' dissects the experience of place into embedded levels of spatiality - public, social and private – that correspond to functional, relational and emotional attachment to place. Each spatial sphere or level has contextual determinants of sense of place that influence the nature of attachment or detachment to the place of residence. The research claims that the cultural landscapes in the narratives of select Kochi films reveal a matrix of social-cultural markers embedded within multiple levels of the spatiality of the film geographies that influence the ways in which the marginalised form their sense of place.

Keywords: *Kochi film genre, film geographies, sense of place, contested cultural landscapes*

Publications:

1. **R, Remya.** "Decoding sense of place and contested cultural landscapes in select Manipuri poems." IAFOR Journal of Arts and Humanities, vol. 11, no. 1, 16, Aug. 2024, pp. 37-49. <https://doi.org/10.22492/ijah.11.1.03>
2. **R, Remya.** "Entering the Symbiocene era: Negotiating Solastalgia and Contested Cultural Landscape in Aavasavyuham." Literary Voice, vol. 22, no. 1, Mar. 2024, pp. 232-239.
3. Kumar, Sarath S, Sreejith Kadiyakkol, and Remya R. "Imagined Communities in Bollywood: A Contrapuntal Reading of The Kashmir Files and Mulk." Asiatic: IIUM Journal of English Language and Literature, vol. 19, no. 2, 10, Dec. 2025, pp. 176-192. <https://doi.org/10.31436/asiatic.v19i2.3954>
4. **R, Remya and Arya Aiyappan.** "A System and Model for Analysing Literary Sense of Place." Patent Application No. 202541080777, Official Journal of the Patent Office, India, 19 Dec. 2025. p. 128100.