



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

Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Mr S Jerome, Registration Number: 2070505, PhD Scholar at the Department of English and Cultural Studies, School of Humanities and Performing Arts, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore Central Campus will defend his PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Tuesday, 19 August 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** : ***Recontextualising Erich Auerbach's Mimesis and Scenes from the Drama of European Literature: Derrida and Beyond***
- Discipline** : **English Studies**
- External Examiner - I** : **Dr Amitendu Bhattacharya**
Associate Professor
Department of Humanities & Social Sciences
BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus
Zuarinagar, NH-17B
Goa - 403726
- External Examiner - II** : **Dr Sidney Shirley**
Associate Professor
Scott Christian college
Weavers Colony, Nagercoil
Tamil Nadu - 629001
- Supervisor** : **Dr Bidyut Bhusan Jena**
Assistant Professor
Department of English and Cultural Studies
School of Arts and Humanities
CHRIST (Deemed to be University)
Bengaluru – 560029

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: 12 August 2025


Registrar (Academics)

ABSTRACT

The thesis studies Erich Auerbach's emphasis on historicism in literary criticism, read alongside the deconstructive discourse on context. It studies Auerbach's "realism" as expressed in *Mimesis* and *Scenes from the Drama of European Literature*, collections of essays where Auerbach pursues his philological purpose of exploring literature's representative nature. In it, he surveys literature that has been predominantly written in Romance languages across centuries. The thesis also seeks to problematise the few categories used in Auerbach's essays, often interpreted as being of an *a priori* nature, using frameworks of law, exception and violence by Jacques Derrida and Giorgio Agamben. Such an analysis brings to light a "sovereign" voice in Auerbach, much like that of the Bible, which he contends inaugurated Western realism. Far from giving rise to ambiguity, the resulting theoretical richness of marrying a project of both representation and sovereignty can offer a unique way forward for the present literary and cultural scene.

Keywords: *historicism, representative optimism, sovereign voice, deconstruction, negative philology*

Publications:

1. **Vadackel, Jerome.** "The Self-made Victim in the Crosshairs of East-West Confrontation: Ravi's Odyssey in O V Vijayan's *The Legends of Khasak*." *Rupkatha Journal*, vol. 15, no. 5, 2023. doi.org/10.21659/rupkatha.v15n5.05
2. **Vadackel, Jerome** and Christina Romeo. "Situating Injustice in the Frame of Dalit Politics: A Case of Democracy in *Nayattu*." *Contemporary Voice of Dalit*, 2023. doi.org/10.1177/2455328X231200741