



Notice for the PhD Viva Voce Examination

Ms Rincy Daniel, Registration Number: 2190088, 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 Friday, 12 June 2026 at 11.00 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R&D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029, Karnataka, India.

Title of the Thesis	:	Queer Aesthetics: Deconstructing Gender Norms and Power Dynamics in Select Malayalam Films
Discipline	:	English Studies
External Examiner - I	:	Dr Lakshmi Sukumar Associate Professor Institute of English (Department of English) University of Kerala Thiruvananthapuram - 695034 Kerala
External Examiner - II	:	Dr R Vasanthan Associate Professor Department of English Nagaland University, Kohima Campus Nagaland - 797004
Supervisor	:	Dr Sreejith D Assistant 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 (Academics)

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 05 June 2026

ABSTRACT

“Malayalam cinema is often celebrated as India’s realist conscience, where social critique and aesthetic experimentation intersect.” Even when the new wave of Malayalam cinema has brought to light the problematised gender beliefs, it still remains under-theorised. Queer Aesthetics give a powerful expression to challenge, contest, reimagine and interrogate the ever-evolving Malayalam Cinema. This thesis examines what forms queer aesthetics and how it performs as an essential lens to examine gender norms and power structures within Malayalam cinema. The study explores how the selected films, spanning two decades, challenge traditional storytelling and weaken binary gender narratives. This research adopts a qualitative content analysis to examine cinema as a contested space that negotiates visibility, belonging, resistance and identity formation. The study conducts textual analysis, qualitative content analysis a close reading to assess familial, social, and spatial readings of the select films. The thesis has critically examined theories of camp, family acceptance and rejection shape queer identity formation, and spatial belonging to analyse queer aesthetics across three interconnected domains: aesthetic subversion, kinship power structures, and spatial negotiations of identity.

Keywords: Queer Aesthetics, Camp, PAR Theory, Space, Visibility

Publications:

1. **Daniel, Rincy**, and Sreejith Kadiyakkol. “Dead Names, Living Futures: Reflections from a Dera in Bhopal.” *Economic & Political Weekly*, vol. 61, no. 20, 16 May 2026, pp. 71–72.
2. **Daniel, Rincy**, and Anweshha Baruah. “Analysing the Effects of Virtual Identity Construction: A Critical Study of the 2021 Netflix Television Miniseries *Clickbait*.” *Literary Voice*, vol. 1, no. 16, 2024, pp. 174–181.