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Notice for the PhD Viva-Voce Examination

Ms Christina Romeo (Registration Number: 1980511), PhD scholar at the School of Arts and Humanities, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore will defend her PhD thesis at the public viva-voce examination on Monday, 09 September 2024 at 11.00 am in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029.

Title of the Thesis : **A Study on the Emergence of Subaltern Counterpublics in Select Malayalam Dalit Christian Narratives**

Discipline : **English Studies**

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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: 05 September 2024


Registrar

ABSTRACT

The research “A Study on the Emergence of Subaltern Counterpublics through Select Malayalam Dalit Christian Narratives” attempts to put Kerala's vernacular Dalit Christian narratives into the scholarly canvas. As statistics do not provide solid data on the quotidian resistance, the narratives reveal the overt and covert struggles of the Dalit Christians. The study problematises the dominant narrative of the State and the Church and provides a way to articulate their voices and the transition from one religion to another. The primary texts for the study include Paul Chirakkarode's *Pulayathara, Nostalgia* and *Eli Eli, La'ma Sabach Tha'ni*, T.K.C. Vaduthala's *Achante Venthinga Inmal* and C Ayyapan's *Ghost Speech*. The current study uses the combined frameworks of narratology, Lacanian psychoanalysis and subaltern counterpublics through the method of narrative analysis. Narrative analysis involves analysing stories or narratives to understand their meanings, experiences and values.

The research argues that the Dalit Christian narratives become a testimony of subaltern counterpublics, narratology, and resistance tactics, suggesting a counter-narrative effect. They become treasure houses that carry group memory of community life and history. They are enclaved spaces where unfiltered articulations of marginalisation, abandonment, exploitation, rejection, resistance and empowerment occur. They function as proactive spaces that challenge dominant stereotypes and create an ideologically sound public sphere. Alternative discourse arenas become places of empowerment where subaltern counterpublics emerge, thus transforming the narratives into counter-narratives. The study acknowledges the agency of the Dalit Christian narratives to reform, rethink and reinterpret the form and content of Dalit Christian literature from a subaltern perspective. From an epistemological perspective, the Dalit Christian narratives produce knowledge garnered through analysing and interpreting the primary texts as representative of fusing personal and political resources to create a narrative of resistance and survival.

Keywords: Dalit Christians, Narratives, Subaltern, Counterpublics, Public Sphere

Publications:

1. **Christina Romeo, Dr Anupama Nayar** “What numbers never revealed: Tracing Dalit Christian Modernity through Malayalam Literature”. *Contemporary Voice of Dalit*, SAGE, 2022.
2. **Christina Romeo, Dr Anupama Nayar** “Microlevel Manifestations of Casteism in Select Malayalam Dalit Short Stories”. *Contemporary Voice of Dalit*, SAGE, 2023.
3. **Christina Romeo, Dr Anupama Nayar** “Towards Visibility: Subaltern Counterpublics in Paul Chirakkarode's *Pulayathara*”. *Contemporary Voice of Dalit*, SAGE, 2022.