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Notice for the PhD Viva-Voce Examination

Ms Anu Mathai (Registration Number: 1830086), 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 Wednesday, 8 May 2024 at 3.00 pm in Room No. 044, Ground Floor, R & D Block, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru - 560029.

Title of the Thesis	:	Towards an 'Alternate' Mythical Reality: A Postmodern Reading of the Graphic Narratives of Appupen and Amruta Patil
Discipline	:	English Studies
External Examiner (Outside Karnataka)	:	Dr T T Sreekumar Professor School of Interdisciplinary Studies The English and Foreign Languages University Osmania University, Amberpet, Hyderabad Secunderabad, Telangana - 500007
External Examiner (Within Karnataka)	:	Dr Sunayan Bhattacharjee Associate Professor Department of Liberal Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Manipal Academy of Higher Education Bengaluru Campus Bengaluru, Karnataka
Supervisor	:	Dr Rolla Das Assistant Professor Department of English and Cultural Studies School of Arts and Humanities 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.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 03 May 2024



Registrar

ABSTRACT

The graphic novel landscape in India has witnessed a significant change with innovative and revolutionary ideas. The new age writers of the graphic novel express divergent attitudes towards social and cultural issues realising how images possess a shaping force over how identities are performed and understood. However, both the literary and academic realms sometimes fail to acknowledge the obvious agency in the graphic narratives that break conventions and engage in narratives and visual art that might raise the stature of this medium from 'low' art towards a renewed glocal identity. This research is an attempt to study narratives by two Indian graphic authors who integrate image and text to explore cultural complexities and societal constructs of the millennial age by subverting the conventional approach of narratology in the graphic medium by adopting postmodern literary conventions.

Appupen and Amruta Patil through their narratological techniques aim at a critically enhanced reading of graphic narratives by adopting a complex visual-verbal rhetoric. The research aims at a critical discourse analysis of the works of the two graphic artists mentioned, through the lens of semiotic theory as proposed by Roland Barthes to unravel the alternate mythical realities that the narratives propose, gender representations in retellings through the gender theories of Judith Butler and masculinity studies of Raewyn Connell. The research also will aim at an inquiry into innovative narratological techniques in the visual verbal medium as propounded Scott McCloud. The study of these narratives under the postmodern lens critically examines the specific conventions, intertextual elements and so forth that subvert linearity of graphic aesthetic experience and thereby establish these texts as 'glocal' in nature and representative of artificial or alternate myth builders of the millennial age.

Keywords: Graphic narratives, Alternate, Retelling, Postmodern, Semiotic, Mythology, Gender, Narratology

Publications:

1. **Mathai, Anu.** Equal? Not Yet: The Politics of Gender And Sexuality In India. *SSRG International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*. Volume 8 Issue 5, 29-35, Sep-Oct, 2021. ISSN: 2394 – 2703 /doi:10.14445/23942703/IJHSS-V8I5P105
2. **Mathai, Anu.** Fractured Identities – Representation of hyphenated voices in graphic narratives. *Journal of the Oriental Institute*. Volume 72, Issue 03, July –September 2023. ISSN:0030-324.
3. **Mathai, Anu and Rolla Das.** Born Twice: A redemptive revisioning uncovering the metaphors of representation. *Rupkatha Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities*, vol. 15, no. 3, Aug. 2023. DOI.org (Crossref), <https://doi.org/10.21659/rupkatha.v15n3.19>.