

### FROM THE HOD'S DESK

The Department of English Studies was established in the year 2009. Ever since its inception, it has carved a niche for itself in the area of English studies by striking an inimitable balance between the traditional and contemporary components. The Department firmly believes in a strong commitment to communicate optimism, passion and understanding of English language and literature to students in a most meaningful, enthusiastic and result oriented manner. The Department of English studies is equipped with state of the art infrastructure and is committed to maintain consistently high academic standards. The Department lays a huge emphasis on sharpening the critical, analytical and creative faculties of the students so as to build their self confidence and prepare them to meet the challenges ahead. To strengthen teaching and research in English Studies, the Department revises the curriculum and initiates necessary changes in teaching, learning processes and evaluation practices at regular intervals.

Innovation has always been the hallmark of the Department and hosts Postgraduate and PhD programmes in an ideal matrix for young scholars. Besides this, the Department offers French Courses, to make sure that students get exposure to this language of Enlightenment which can open a wider career opportunities for them as French is the official language of 31 countries where there is a huge demand for English teachers and even opens up possibilities for higher education at some of Francophone countries best-known universities (the Sorbonne, EPFL, Pierre Marie Curie University, etc.) or elite grandes écoles (HEC, Polytechnique, ESSEC). With a team of dedicated faculty members, the Department continues to explore new avenues in its pursuit of excellence.

The vision of the Department, in tune with the University, is not only achieving excellence and leadership in the educational process, but also providing knowledge that can benefit our community and serve the nation and significantly contributes to its development. Of course, a university education is about more than what happens in the classroom. The

Department enriches teaching and research by conducting weekly department seminar series in addition to hosting lectures, seminars and conferences that bring scholars, writers, and teachers from around the world to university. The Department encourages students to pursue research opportunities, to perform and publish their creative work, and to seek internships to build on what they are learning and to prepare for their future careers.

The Department of English Studies aims to considerably expand teaching as well as research activities in new directions in the coming years in order to address the issues that are of local, national, and global character via cutting edge research in the areas of English Studies. As the university grows in stature and quality, the Department aspires to considerably expand its research and teaching activities in new directions, and welcome all initiatives and support which would help the department to work towards that goal.

With best wishes,

Jai Hind



## FACULTY ACTIVITIES | PAPERS PUBLISHED

### DR. BOOPATHI P.

"Intersecting Terrains of Personal and Politics: An Arab Feminist Reading of Fadwa Tuqan's *A Mountainous Journey*." **Writing Gender Writing Self: Memory, Memoir and Autobiography**, edited by Aparna Lanjewar Bose, Forthcoming by Routledge.

"Identity and Organized Blind Movement: Contouring History of Disability Rights Movement in India." Published in the form of **Proceedings of the National Conference titled Blind in India: Arts, Culture and Activism Held** on 15th March 2020, Chennai: AKS Books World, ISBN: 978-81-931407-3-4.

Co-authored "Creating an Accessible and Resilient Environment inside the Indian University." **Disability and University: A Disabled Students Manifesto**, edited by Christopher McMaster and Benjamin Whitburn, New York, Oxford: Peter Lang, 2019. ISBN: 978-1433167805

"Review of *Notes on the Flesh*." **Life Writing**, Sept. 2019, pp. 1-4. Taylor and Francis+NEJM, doi:10.1080/14484528.2019.1658264.

### DR. SUSHANT KUMAR DUBEY

"La vie d'exilée des prostituées immigrées dans *La vie devant soi* de Romain Gary." Vol. II, Issue 2. **Caraivéti**. Department of French Studies. Banaras Hindu University. 2019. ISSN: 2456-9690.

### DR. PUNNYA RAJENDRAN

"The Aesthetics of Transgression in Siri Hustvedt's 'The Summer Without Men.'" **The Explicator**, Taylor and Francis Online. 2019, pp. 1- 6, doi: 10.1080/00144940.2019.1583163.

### DR. AMBILI ANNA MARKOSE

"The green pastures and still waters' in Malayalam cinema: Reflections on environmental legacies, Christianity, and minority politics." **South Asian Popular Culture**. Vol. 17. Issue 3. pp. 247-267. Routledge Journals.



## CURRENT FACULTY



DR. A. SELVAM,  
PROFESSOR AND HEAD.



DR. T. J. ABRAHAM,  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR.



DR. B. J. GEETHA,  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR.



DR. INDRA J. E.,  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR.



DR. BOOPATHI P,  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR.



DR. PUNNYA RAJENDRAN  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR.



DR. J. MUTHULEKHA,  
GUEST FACULTY.



DR. AMBILI ANNA  
MARKOSE,  
GUEST FACULTY.

## FAREWELL

We bid farewell to **Dr. Saradindu Bhattacharya** who was Assistant Professor with the department for the past four years. We wish him the very best for his new stint at the **University of Hyderabad**.

## STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS | UGC NET AND JRF QUALIFICATIONS

The Department congratulates the following students who cleared the **National Eligibility Test for Assistant Professorship** conducted by the University Grants Commission.

REG. NO.	NAME OF THE STUDENT
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P180101	ABHIRAMI PRASANTH
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P180106	GANGOTHRI T S
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R160101	AMRITHA P. KRISHNA
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R170102	JITHIN JOSEPH
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R160102	HASEENA NAJI
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In addition, the following students have also become eligible for the **Junior Research Fellowship** offered by the UGC.

REG. NO.	NAME OF THE STUDENT
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R170101	BHAGYA LAKSHMI VIJAYAN
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## FACULTY ACTIVITIES | BOOKS PUBLISHED

### DR. SUSHANT KUMAR DUBEY

*Les poèmes français pour les apprenants indiens de la langue française: Les poèmes dans le contexte français - indien* (French Edition) (French). Éditions Croix du Salut. 2019.

### DR. PUNNYA RAJENDRAN

Co-editor. *Aesthetics and Method: A Reader*. Publisher: Orient Blackswan. Forthcoming.

## FACULTY ACTIVITIES | INVITED TALKS

### DR. BOOPATHI P.

Invited to deliver a talk on "Revisiting the Canon of Indian Literature: Language, Nationalism and Identity" in the one day national level conference on Representation of New Directions in Indian Literature organized by **Bharathidasan University Model College, Vedaranyam, TN** on 19.12.2019

Invited to deliver an online lecture on "Stuart Hall and Cultural Studies" organized by the **Dept of English, V S K University, PG Centre, Koppal, Karnataka** on 25.04.2020.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES | PAPERS PUBLISHED

### JYOTI BISWAS

"In Search of an Abode in Nature: The Theme of Matriarchal Nourishment and the Interference of Patriarchy in Mahua The Gypsy Girl." *Woman Nature Interface: An Ecofeminist Study*, edited by Dipak Giri, Abbe Books, Kolkata, 2019, pp. 39-43.

"Portrait of the Massacre: Two Dalit Poems on Marichjhampi" (in collaboration with Madhabi Karmakar) *Perspectives on Indian Dalit*

*Literature: Critical Responses*, edited by Dipak Giri, Bilaspur, Bookclinic Publishing, 2020, pp. 142-156.

### MUHAMMED RAFEEL K. P.

Published a paper titled "Martyrs and Memories: A Study on Collective Memory and Embodied Martyrdom in Light of Abhimanyu's Murder." in the UGC care listed journal *Studies in Indian Place Names* Vol-40-issue-50-March 2020.

### ABHIRAMI PRASANTH

"Manifestation of 'The Death of the Author' in Chandramathi's

The Postmodern story of Jyoti Viswanath" in the Peer Reviewed and Referred Biannual International Journal *Caraiveti* Vol II Issue 2 (January - June 2019) published by the Department of French Studies, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

### KRISHNAPRIYA M.

Krishnapriya M., & Vishnu Achutha Menon. "Exploring the Temple Town of Tiruvarur: An abode of Carnatic music and Shaivism." *Economic and Political weekly*, sec. Engage. 55.14, 04 April 2020.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES | PAPERS PRESENTED

### JYOTI BISWAS

"Reflection of Refugee Identity of Namasudra Community in Bangla Dalit Autobiography." presented at International Conference on "**Diaspora Governance in International Relations: Opportunities and Challenges for India.**" held at Central University of Gujarat on 10th and 11th February, 2020.

"English Translation and Wider Readership: First English Anthology Bangla Dalit Poetry." presented at **64th All India English**

**Teachers' Conference** held at Magadh University from 6th to 8th February, 2020.

### ARUNDEV V. R.

"Deracinating Urbanization: A study of the representation of Urban landscape in the Malayalam film *Kammattipadam*" at a conference titled **Space, place and Textuality: Reading Spatial Codes** held at Newman College, Thodupuzha, Kerala.

### MUHAMMED RAFAEK K. P.

"Martyrs and Memories: A Study on Collective Memory and Embodied Martyrdom in Light of Abhimanyu's Murder." at the **Three Day**

**International Conference on Cultural Studies** held in K.V.M. College, Cherthala on 26, 27 and 28 February 2020.

### ABHIRAMI PRASANTH

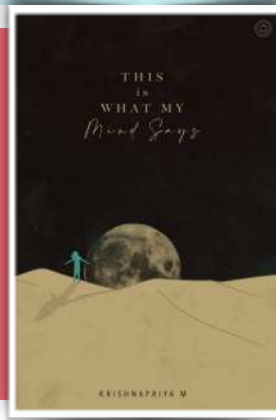
"The Provision of Electives: An Analysis on the Curriculum Construction" at the **Students Conclave on Curriculum and Evaluation** organised by the Department of Education on 27 November 2019 at CUTN.

"Gender Identities and Perceptions: A Recapitulation of Partition" in the **International Conference on Histories of Gender: Transdisciplinary Approaches**, 22-23 Mar. 2019 at



## STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS | LITERARY PUBLICATION

Our research scholar **KRISHNAPRIYA M.** brought out a collection of short stories titled **THIS IS WHAT MY MIND SAYS** (April 2020) published by TOS Media. The book is available on Amazon. Many congrats to her!



## INVITED TALKS | DR. J. KENNEDY

On 23rd January, in a lively and interactive session, Dr. J. Kennedy (Dean, Faculty of Arts, Eastern University, Sri Lanka) delivered a talk in the department titled "Trans-literaturing– Meeting the East and the West."

## INVITED TALKS | PROF. N. NATARAJAN

On 27th January, Prof. N. Natarajan (Former Professor and Head, Department of English, Pondicherry University) delivered a talk in the department titled "Politics of Theory."



## DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES | FORUM FOR CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT (FCT)

The Forum for Contemporary Thought conducts academic talks in the department on Friday mornings. Designed to be a democratic space for the free exchange of ideas across disciplines, FCT often features guest speakers from other departments as well as paper presentations of ongoing work by the research scholars of the department. In this year, FCT took its own possibilities further

ahead and hosted two paper presentations by the final M.A. students of the department who used the opportunity to test-run the ideas fuelling their M.A. dissertations.

This year's FCT lecture series saw a wide range of talks followed by vibrant discussion between the students and the faculty members.



## STUDENT PRESENTATIONS AT FCT

"Representing the Ambiguous Psychological Nature of Child Personas in Selected Works" by **Swathi Satheesh**.

"Martyrs and Memories: A study of collective memory and embodied martyrdom in the light of Abhimanyu's murder" by **Rafeeq M.**

"Cultural heritage of the Namasudra: Symbolism and Resistance in Rituals

and Songs" by **Jyothi Biswas**.

**Brindha M.** delivered a presentation on "Weight loss and Fat shaming: An analysis of Filmic Representations of Fat Bodies in Select American Movies."

"Evolution and Appropriation of Detective Genre in India: An analysis of select detective novels" by **Athulya Mariam Sam**.

"Reracinating Urbanisation: A study of the representation of the symbolic relationship between the inhabitants of the city and the development of the city in the Malayalam Film Kammattipadam" by **Arundev V.R.**

## FCT TALKS BY DEPARTMENT FACULTY MEMBERS

"Revisiting the Reader in Sanskrit Poetics: Beyond the Borders of Canonical Readings" by **Dr. Sreenath V.S.**

"Dead Quotations: Alterity, Parody, and the Poetics of Immigrancy" by **Dr. Punnya Rajendran**

"The Emergence of the Female Bildungsroman in Contemporary Bollywood" by **Dr. Saradindu Bhattacharya**

"Constructing Fear through Ableism and Normativity: Exploring Power Relations in Disabled Selfhood" by **Dr. Boopathi P.**

## GUEST SPEAKERS AT FCT

**DR. MAMMAN JOSEPH C.**

(Assistant Professor,  
Dept of Applied  
Psychology) lectured on

"Enhancing Personal Effectiveness."

**DR. CHITHRA K.P.**

(Assistant Professor,  
Dept of Social Work)  
spoke on "Malayalam Poetry in Translation:

Democratisation of Social Spaces."

**DR. P. UDHAYAKUMAR**

(Assistant Professor,  
Dept of Social Work)  
spoke about "Mental Well-being."



## FILM CLUB

The department Film Club holds weekly film screenings on Friday afternoons between 2 pm and 5 pm followed by a discussion. This year the screenings of the Film Club ranged from Tom Tykwer's **Lola Rennt** and Laurent Cantet's **Entre Les Murs** to pop Hollywood titles like **Invictus**, the Marathi award-winner **Court** as well as the Tamil blockbuster hit **Asuran**. The Film Club facilitates debate about the cultural, aesthetic, and experimental facets of

the film as a cultural object. This year, the Film Club also stepped outside the box to screen an episode of the critically acclaimed television show **Hannibal**.



## THE DEPARTMENT CONGRATULATES TWO OF ITS DOCTORAL CANDIDATES WHO SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED THEIR THESES.



## DOCTORAL AWARDS | RITU SHARMA

Ritu Sharma defended her thesis titled *In The Beginning Was Postmodernism: An Analysis of The Inclusionary Vision in the Ancient Rajasthani Narratives* on 11th May, 2020 through video conferencing. Prof. G. Bhaskaran (Faculty of English and Foreign Languages, Gandhigram Rural Institute) was the external examiner.



## DOCTORAL AWARDS | SAYANTAN CHAKRABORTY

Sayantana Chakraborty defended his PhD thesis titled *Reconnecting Khasi Culture with the Khasi Hills: A Post-Pastoral Reading of Contemporary English Poems Written by Select Khasi Poets* on 29th August, 2019. Prof. Clement Lourdes (Professor, Department of English, Pondicherry University) was the external examiner.



## SPECIAL EVENTS | EK BHARAT SHRESHT BHARAT

As a part of the government's Ek Bharat Shresht Bharat initiative, the Department of English Studies hosted an interactive session with students from the **Central University of Kashmir.**



## SPECIAL EVENTS | ESSAY COMPETITION

The Department of English Studies organised an inter-departmental essay writing competition on behalf of and along with the **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CELL**. It was co-ordinated by Dr. T. J. Abraham and doctoral student Arundev V.R. A large number of students participated in the competition from across the university. The broad theme of the competition was 'equal opportunity in India'. The participants were given the freedom to explore various subtopics like gender equality, women empowerment, domestic violence, positive discrimination, casteless society, disability equality etc. More than 60 students from various departments of the university participated in the competition.

**DR. RAMATHIRTHAM GOPALASAMY**, retired professor of the Department of Sociology, Pondicherry University and **DR. HEMALATHA BHAT**, Assistant Professor in Department of Sociology, Tamil Nadu National Law University, Tiruchirapalli were the invited judges of the competition. The prize distribution ceremony was attended by **PROF. S. NAGARAJAN**, Dean of Student Affairs at CUTN, and by **PROF. A.P.**

**DASH**, honourable VC and chairman of Equal Opportunity Cell, CUTN.

The honourable Vice chancellor addressed the gathering, followed by which Dr. Ramathirtham Gopalasamy and Dr. Hemalatha Bhat shared their valuable insights into the relevance and necessity of equal opportunity in Indian society. Prizes for the competition were announced by Dr. Ramathirtham. Cash prizes, trophies and certificates were distributed by the honourable Vice Chancellor to the following winners of the competition:

**I PRIZE - JOONA THOMMI, DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY SCIENCE**

**II PRIZE - RAFIYA KV, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**III PRIZE - SOUMIYA, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**



## IN OTHER NEWS | COVID-19 AND ONLINE TEACHING

In the year 2019-20, in light of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Department shifted all its courses from the classroom to online mode mid-semester. Both faculty members as well as students used this opportunity to embrace virtual classroom experiences such as offered by applications like Zoom and Google Classroom. It was a momentous change for the department and not without its own challenges and difficulties. While classes were conducted both on Zoom and Google Classrooms, live lectures delivered on Zoom were also recorded and circulated in the class for the benefit of those students who were unable to attend the online lectures due to technical and other inconveniences.

Our PhD scholar, Ritu Sharma, defended her thesis through video conference on Microsoft Teams. As part of the M.A. course "Indian Writing in English", Dr. Boopathi P. conducted an open webinar on "Towards an inclusive theatre: an analysis of post-independence Indian drama" delivered by Dr. V. Sivaraman, Associate Professor of English, Presidency College, Chennai. As part of the same course, an Invited Lecture was also conducted on Zoom titled "Final Solutions by Mahesh Dattani," delivered by K. Muruganandan, Assistant Professor of English, Thiruvalluvar University Constituent College of Arts and Science, Kallakurichi.

## ONLINE COURSES | ANXIETIES, NOSTALGIA AND HOPE | A STUDENT'S TAKE BY ABHIRAMI PRASANTH, II MA

Lockdown, quarantine, social distancing are some of the words which recently found currency in our daily life. But a rather important term and event that gained prominence in the life and routine of a student would be that of the online class. The transformation from truly interactive, easy-going classroom learning to the enclosed digital learning platform was not easy at all and was fraught with several missteps. The pandemic also nipped the last few days of our campus life and locked us down in a completely strange frame. As a student of the outgoing batch, I would say that coping up with the uneasiness of virtual learning and accepting the fact that our class would never catch up for another lecture with engaging discussions was the most challenging. It goes without saying that our batch had to put a full stop to the student life in a most unexpected way and has gone through the toughest phases of student life. The year 2020 which was meant to be the most hopeful year for each one of us has turned out to be a big challenge to all our hopes and aspirations as the ongoing batch of 2019-20. Yet I believe there is hope even in hopelessness and wish that students enjoy gaining knowledge and creating memories in classrooms and campuses and not in an isolated virtual world.

## SPECIAL EVENTS | SWACHH BHARAT ABHIYAN

The English Department organised a Cleaning Activity in and around the MP Hall and Canteen under the aegis of **Swachhata Hi Seva** on 22 October, 2019, Tuesday from 12.10 PM to 1 PM, with the active participation of students. The event was co-ordinated by **Dr. J.**



## SPECIAL EVENTS | INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

The occasion of International Mother Language Day was celebrated on 21st February in an event which was jointly organised by the departments of English, Tamil, and Hindi. Various inter-departmental activities were organised. Students of our department were active participants and won several prizes.

### EDITORIAL TEAM

FACULTY EDITOR:  
PUNNYA RAJENDRAN

PHOTOS COURTESY:  
MR. B. UDAYAKUMAR