



SCHOOL OF LETTERS
MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY
KOTTAYAM

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

GENDERED SPACES



DIGRESSIONS IN LITERARY DISCOURSES

A TWO-DAY BILINGUAL INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

22 & 23 AUGUST 2025

@SCHOOL OF LETTERS

ABOUT THE EVENT

The seminar envisions a platform for rigorous academic and experiential engagement, encouraging discourses on and around contemporary cultural and epistemological spaces.

From time immemorial, through languages, histories and lore, humankind has attempted to engender gendered spaces. Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*, celebrating its 76th year of publication, has posited significant ontological and epistemological questions regarding body and sex. Later, Kate Millet, Bell Hooks, Audre Lorde, Toril Moi, Sara Heinaama, Judith Butler, et al. developed deeper and broader perspectives on gender and sexuality. In Kerala's cultural and literary context, through literary media and activism, gender and sexuality have been expressed and asserted extensively from the early decades of the 20th century.

The seminar hopes to elicit critical dialogues, exploring the practices of empowerment and advocacy while critically examining the structures of power that shape our world, by closely analysing literatures and social movements on topics ranging from intersectionality, representations, gendered violence, present absences, and performative elements in literary narratives.



INAUGURAL
SESSION

ഉദ്ഘാടന
സമ്മേളനം

AUGUST 22, FRIDAY
10:00 AM

Introduction
Susmitha K. S
(Co-ordinator/Assistant Professor, School of Letters)

Chair
Prof. Saji Mathew
(Director, School of Letters)

Inauguration
Prof. Bismi Gopalakrishnan
(Registrar, Mahatma Gandhi University)

Keynote Address
Dr. Meena Kandasamy
(Writer, Activist)



11:30 AM

Plenary Talk 1

അബ്ദുൽ സലാം എ. പി

(അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് പ്രൊഫസർ, അൽ അമീൻ കോളേജ്, ആലുവ)

വിഷയം:

ഉടലിന്റെ രാഷ്ട്രീയഭാഷണം ക്വിയർ ആഖ്യാനങ്ങളിൽ

12:30 PM

Plenary Talk 2 (Online)

Dr. Sharada Devi V

(Assistant Professor, University College, Thiruvananthapuram)

Topic:

Revisiting the Canon :

Challenging the Literary, Patriarchal, and Ableist Epistemologies

 <http://meet.google.com/tdx-bopr-gbn>

2:15 PM

Plenary Talk 3

Dr. Tony Sebastian

(Assistant Professor, BITS Hyderabad)

Topic:

Reading Masculinity: Methods and Approaches

3:30 PM

Paper Presentations

Venue:

Main Stage

Theatre Room

6:00 PM



ലിംഗ വൈജാത്യങ്ങളുടെ ദൃശ്യാവിഷ്കരണങ്ങൾ:
മലയാള സിനിമയിലെ ഉടലാഖ്യാനങ്ങൾ

Panelists :

Jeo Baby, Sheethal Shyam, Jolly Chirayath, Dr. Anu Pappachan

Moderator : Dr. Sidhartha Siva

AUGUST 23
SATURDAY

9:00 AM
Plenary Talk 4 (Online)

Dr. Joseph Lawless

(Faculty, William and Mary College, USA)

Topic:

**Gender, Sexuality, Technology:
Revisiting the Questions of Desire and Pleasure in New Media**

 <http://meet.google.com/apz-bcbu-jno>

10:00 AM
Plenary Talk 5

ഡോ. ജിസ ജോസ്

(പ്രിൻസിപ്പൽ, കുന്നമംഗലം ഗവ. ആർട്സ് ആന്റ് സയൻസ് കോളേജ്, കോഴിക്കോട്)

വിഷയം:

ലിംഗപദവി:

**കേരളത്തിന്റെ കമാച്ചരിത്രവും സാംസ്കാരിക
സമീപനങ്ങളും**

11:30 AM
Plenary Talk 6

Anuraj M

(Queer Rights Activist)

Topic:

**The Role of Sexuality and Sexual Orientation in Creating
Gender Perspectives of Modern Kerala**

2:00~4:00 PM

Paper Presentations

Venue:

Main Stage

Theatre Room

5:00 PM

Plenary Talk 7

സി കെ ജാന

(പ്രസിഡന്റ്, ആദിവാസി ഗോത്ര മഹാസഭ)

വിഷയം:

ഭൂമി, അധികാരം, ലിംഗപദവി:

സമരചരിത്രാനുഭവങ്ങൾ

6:00 PM

PANEL
DISCUSSION

**ലിംഗപദവി, വിഭവധികാരം, ഭാഷയുടെ
സാമൂഹികനിർമ്മിതി:
ഇന്ത്യൻ ജാതി-ലുടനയിൽ**

Panelists:

C K Janu, Pushpamma, Aadhi,

Aleena Akashamittayi, Dr. Maya Pramod

Moderator : Dr. Lincy K Thankappan



PLENARY SESSION SPEAKERS

DAY 1



Dr. Sharada Devi V

Assistant Professor
University College,
Thiruvananthapuram



Abdul Salam A P

Assistant Professor
Al Ameen College, Aluva



Dr. Tony Sebastian

Assistant Professor
BITS, Hyderabad

DAY 2



CK Janu

President,
Adivasi Gothra Mahasabha



Dr. Joseph Lawless

Faculty
William and Mary College, USA



Anuraj M

Queer Rights Activist



Dr. Jisa Jose

Principal
Kunnamangalam Government Arts
& Science College, Kozhikode

PANELISTS

DAY 1



Sidhartha Siva
Director, Actor



Jeo Baby
Director, Screenwriter



Sheethal Shyam
Activist, Actress



Jolly Chirayath
Cultural Activist, Actress



Anu Pappachan
Writer, Film Critic

DAY 2



CK Janu
President,
Adivasi Gothra Mahasabha



Aleena Akashamittayi
Poet, Artist



Aadhi
Writer



Pushpamma
Writer



Maya Pramod
Dalit Activist