



LITTCRIT CIRCLE

In association with

Department of English

University College, Thiruvananthapuram



Organizes a lecture by

Dr. Jibu George

EFL University, Hyderabad

On **21 July 2015, 3.00 pm**

At **Seminar Hall**

University College

Thiruvananthapuram

Topic **FACTS BEYOND
FRAMES:
*Knowledge in an
'Atheoretical' Cosmos***

Effective learning, teaching, and research in a discipline are premised on understanding the nature of knowledge generated in the discipline and the modes of reasoning available in it. Literary studies are no exception. The point of departure here is the deductive reasoning implied in the programmed application of theoretical assumptions to more and more texts, authors, and epochs. Also in the background is the emergence of theory as a self-perpetuating rhetorical system. We examine the philosophical implications of using theory, the precise nature of the relation between a theoretical framework and the phenomenon under study ('facts and frames'), and, quite uncannily, in a thought experiment, the possibility of literary research sans theory. If application of theory to literary texts is extrinsic criticism, is there an intrinsic criticism, which is antithetical to the former? When it comes to argumentation, do different theoretical positions stand in the same relation to textual phenomena? What does theory do to 'actual research' in literary studies? To use a provisional metaphor, can a text come out of the theoretical cloud? The answers need to be sought in the nature of the humanities in general – their ontology, methods, and purposes.

All are welcome.