


Dr. Chitra V. R.

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Educational background: B.A. Degree in English Language and Literature (First class, University of Kerala), M.A. Degree in English Language and Literature (First class, University of Kerala), Ph.D. in English (University of Kerala), B.Ed. in English (First class, University of Kerala), UGC-NET, Third rank holder in the State examination for the recruitment of Assistant Professors of English in the Collegiate Education Services, Government of Kerala conducted by the Public Service Commission.

Additional qualifications: M.A. Degree in Sociology (University of Kerala), State Eligibility Test (SET) in English.

Teaching Experience: 18 years of teaching experience since 2005, handling academic programmes for UG, PG and MPhil courses in the Collegiate Education Services, Government of Kerala in various Government Arts and Science Colleges and 5 years at the Higher Secondary level. Possesses a keen interest in English Language Teaching, Indian Writing in English, Urban Studies, Digital Humanities, Environmental Humanities and Human Rights Literature.

Research Experience: Research supervisor at the University of Kerala since 2016, Guided seven students to the completion of M.Phil degrees and two to the completion of Ph.D. Currently mentoring two Ph.D scholars.

Membership in various bodies: served as a member of the Expert Committee for Scrutiny of Complaints (Examination), Public Service Commission, Government of Kerala. Member of English Language Teachers' Association of India (ELTAI) and the academic committee of Sree Narayana Open University, Government of Kerala.

Contributions as Resource person: contributed to the curriculum development and textbook preparation as a Resource Person for the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Kerala State Literacy Mission (KSLMA), Government of Kerala, for the SET curriculum revision of Higher Education Department, Government of Kerala, M.Phil syllabus revision 2019, and PG syllabus revision 2022 of the University of Kerala. Also served as a resource person for the development of a bilingual online dictionary (2023) for Kerala Bhasha Institute, Government of Kerala.

- Acted as External Expert for selecting FDP substitutes and guest lecturers in various Government Arts and Science colleges, and also for the ASAP programme under the Department of Higher Education, Government of Kerala.
- Undertook a minor research project as part of the grant received from the University Grants Commission that focused on the study of bestial imagery in Salman Rushdie's selected works titled “ Stepping Across the Line: Bestial Imagery in Salman Rushdie’s Novels.”
- Presented papers in various regional, national and international seminars and workshops, organised numerous talks, workshops and international conferences and chaired numerous sessions in national, and international seminars and conferences.
- Held additional duties as, Staff Editor of College magazine, MPhil Co-ordinator, member of IQAC and NAAC Committees, and member of the Research Committee in various colleges. Currently holding responsibilities as UGC Nodal Officer and member of IQAC and Research Committees at the institution.

Publications

Books

- Co edited *Humour: Texts, Contexts* (2015) published by Creative Books, New Delhi.
- Co editor of the special number on Australian Bushfires of *Littcrit: An Indian Response to Literature*, December 2022 issue.
- Co editor of the upcoming book *Australian Bushfires: Australian Culture, Economy and Polity in the Post-Truth Era* published by Emerald Publishers, Chennai.
- Created content for UG and PG courses for the School of Distance Education, University of Kerala, Sree Narayana Open University, Government of Kerala and the State Institute of Encyclopaedic Publications, Government of Kerala.
- Authored and edited textbooks of various classes for the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), and Kerala State Literacy Mission (KSLMA), Government of Kerala.

Journals

- “Macondo Magic in *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.” *Littcrit*, vol 35 numbers 1&2, 2009, pp 124-31. ISSN 0970-8049

- “The Dialectics of Memory in Gabriel Garcia Marquez’s *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.” *The New Frontier*, no. 3, 2007. pp. 75-89.
- “The Political Novel as a Mirror of the Bizarre” *TES Literary Supplement*. vol 01, no.1. Dec 2012.p 25. ISSN 2454-8227
- Review of *Goal Butterfingers*. *Littcrit*, vol 39, no 1, 2013. pp. 234-35. ISSN 0970-8049.
- “Demystifying Myth and Power: Political Novels of Garcia Marquez and Salman Rushdie” *Littcrit* vol.39, no.2, Dec 2013.pp 30-35. ISSN 0970-8049.
- “Mapping Cultural Spaces: Media and Consumerism” *UCJPS*. Vol 9 1.2 August 2013&March 2014. ISSN 2347-8411.pp 48-52.
- ‘Stepping Across the Line to Speak: Salman Rushdie.” *Journal of Literature and Aesthetics*. Jan-Dec 2014.pp 141-152. ISSN 2278-523X. (UGC Care 178)
- Review of *Figurations in Indian Film*. *Littcrit*, vol. 41, no.1 2015. ISSN 0970-8049. pp. 185-89.
- “Voicing the Voiceless: Trauma and Resistance in *All that I am*.” *The Daffodils:An International Journal of Literary Studies and Research*, vol.1, no.1, 2015. ISSN 2394-305X.65-73. pp. 65-73.
- “Seeing the Things Unseen: Memory and Identity in Gabriel García Márquez’s *Living to Tell the Tale*.” *English Activities Update*. Jan 2015 . ISSN 0976-3643.pp. 66-75.
- “Retelling Scheherazade:Salman Rushdie’s *Two Years Eight Months and Twenty Eight Nights*.” *Littcrit*, vol.42, no.2 2016. ISSN 0970-8049.pp.84-90.
- “Democracy at Crossroads:Fareed Zakariya’s *The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad*.” *Littcrit*, vol.43, no.1, 2017. ISSN 0970-8049. pp.191-94. (UGC Care 161)
- “Visual Aesthetics of Tarot Cards in Italo Calvino’s *The Castle of Crossed Destinies*.” *Littcrit*, vol.45, no. 1, 2019. ISSN 0970-8049.pp.124-30. (UGC Care 161)
- “The Ontology of Desert Landscape in Benyamin’s *Goat Days*.” *Littcrit*, vol.46, Number 1,June 2020. pp. 166-71. (UGC Care 161)
- Co authored “From Roots to Routes:Mobilities and Immobilities in Olga Tokarczuk’s *Flights*.” *Littcrit*, vol. 47, no.1, 2021. pp. 110-119. (UGC Care 161)
- “Re(discovering)the Self:Memory and Narrative in Gabriel Garcia Marquez’ *Living to Tell the Tale*.” *Samyukta: A Journal of Gender and Culture*, vol.6, no.1,Jan 2021, doi:10.53007/SJGC2021.V6.11.16.

- “Debunking Australian Bushfire Myths: Catastrophic Fire Regimes in the Post Truth Era.” *Littcrit* special issue, vol.48, no.2, Dec 2022.pp.40-46. (UGC Care Humanities no.227)
 - Co authored “Preface.” *Littcrit*, vol. 48, no. 2, Dec.2022. pp. 5-10. (UGC Care Humanities no.227)

Articles/chapters in Books

- “Collision of Cultures: Gabriel Garcia Marquez’s *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children*”. *Changing Worlds: Reviewing and Reinventing Literature and Culture*. Ed Dr. Lata Marina Varghese. Post graduate Dept of English. Catholicate College, Pathanamthitta ISBN 978-81-920711-0-7. 2012, pp.234-9.
- “Bogged Down by History: *Midnight’s Children* and *Shame*.” *Indian Literary Historiography and Countercurrents in Postcoloniality*. Ed Asha Susan Jacob and Tom Thomas. Post Graduate Dept of English, St Thomas College, Kozhencherry. ISBN 978-81-7821-436-8. 2012, pp 84-92
- “Thralldom of Sunderbans: Ecological Consciousness in Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children*.” *Awareness of Environment in Sanskrit Literature from Vedic to Modern Period*. Ed P.Syamala Devi. Sree Sankararcharya University of Sanskrit Regional Centre Tirur, 2014. ISBN: 978-81-925995-2-6.pp. 3-8.
- “Translating Immigrant Dreams: Chitra Divakaruni’s *Queen of Dreams*”. *Imagin(in)g the Diaspora: Critical Responses to Asian Diasporic Art and Literature*. Ed. B.S Jamuna. Emerald publishers, 2014. pp.19-32. ISBN-978-81-7966-390-5.
- “Writing against the Grain: Humour as Subversion in Jane Austen’s Novels.” *Humour: Texts, Contexts*. Ed. AjayaKumar et al. Creative Books, 2015. ISBN 978-81-8043-117-3. pp. 449-58.
- ‘Politics of Difference and Survival: Representation of identity politics in Cyrus Mistry’s *Chronicle of a Corpse Bearer*.’ *Divergences*. Horizon books, 2017. pp. 34-38, ISBN 978-93-86369-86-4.
- “Heimat at Crossroads: Memory and Space in Jenny Erpenbeck’s *Visitation*.” *Twentieth Century German Fiction: An Interdisciplinary Evaluation*. pp. 145-53, 2021. Bodhi Tree Books and Publications, ISBN 978-81-942668-7-7.

International/National Seminars, Workshops and invited lectures – papers presented

- 1.UGC Sponsored National seminar on History and Politics in Contemporary Indian Literature. Sree Narayana College, Kollam. 23 and 24 Sep, 2010. ‘Handcuffed to History and Politics: Rushdie’s Art in *Midnight’s Children*.’
- 2.UGC Sponsored National seminar on Indian Literary Historiography and Countercurrents in Postcoloniality. Post Graduate Dept of English, St Thomas College, Kozhencherry. 27 and 28 Sep, 2011. “Bogged Down by History: *Midnight’s Children* and *Shame*.”
- 3.National seminar on Communication via Culture. Govt of Kerala. KNM Govt. Arts and Science College, Kanjiramkulam.29 and 30 Nov, 2011. “Texts of Culture: Marquez’s *The Autumn of the Patriarch* and *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.”
4. International Seminar on ‘Awareness of Environment in Sanskrit Literature from Vedic to Modern Period.’ Dept of Sanskrit. University of Kerala. 27 - 28 Sep, 2011.“Thralldom of Sunderbans : Ecological Consciousness in Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children*.”
- 5.International Seminar on ‘Sanskrit Tradition and New Trends in Linguistics.’ Dept of Sanskrit. University of Kerala. 17 - 18 Jan, 2012. “ Etymology of English Words: Its Sanskrit Geneology.”
- 6.International Seminar on ‘Changing Worlds: Reviewing and Reinventing Literature and Culture.’ Post graduate Dept of English. Catholicate College, Pathanamthitta. 23 - 24 Jan, 2012. “Collision of Cultures: Gabriel Garcia Marquez’s *One Hundred Years of Solitude* and Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children*”
- 7.National Seminar on Media, Civil Society and Democracy. Dept of Collegiate Education. Govt. College, Nedumangad. Social Forum. 16 and 17 Feb, 2012. “The Role of Media and Civil Society.”
- 8.National Seminar on Emerging Perspectives on Media and Common Culture. Govt College for Women. Thiruvananthapuram. 23 and 24 Feb, 2012. “Conflicting Worldviews: Media and Common Culture.”
- 9.UGC National Workshop on ELT: Developing Multimedia Package for General English Courses. 26-28 July, 2012. Centre for English Language Teaching. University of Kerala. “Teaching Writing Business Letters”
- 10.National Seminar on Emerging Perspectives in Women’s Writing. Collegiate Education. 28 and 29 June, 2013. “Dissent and Betrayal: Anna Funder’s *All That I am*”

11. South Indian History Congress 33rd Annual Session. Dept of History, University of Kerala. 15 and 17 Feb, 2013. "Challenging the Regional Stereotypes: Maritime Historiography."
12. Seminar on English Grammar: From the Perspectives of the Learner. Centre for Adult Continuing Education and Extension. University of Kerala. 17 March, 2013. "To Teach or not to teach: Problems faced in Teaching and Learning Grammar."
13. UGC National seminar on Interpreting Literary Narratives: A Phenomenological Perspective. Post Graduate Dept and Research. CMS College, Kottayam. 29 and 30 Aug, 2013. "Towards a Landscape Experience: Ecophenomenological Reading of Benjamin's *Goat Days*."
14. International Seminar on 'Ending Gendered Violence: From Theory to Practice.' Centre for Women's Studies, University of Kerala and All Saint's College. 18 - 19 Nov, 2013. "Breaking Silence: Gender and Tradition in Jane Austen's Courtship Novels"
15. National Seminar on Hundred Years of Indian Cinema: Perspectives from Diverse Angles. Govt College, Nedumangad. Dec 1- 3 Dec, 2013. 'Reading *Midnight's Children*: Story Told and Story Presented.'
16. UGC-SAP National Workshop on Diaspora Studies. Institute of English. University of Kerala. 23-24 Nov, 2013. "Indo-American Diaspora."
- International Conference on Humour. Littcrit and IIST, Govt of India. 7 - 9 Dec, 2013. "Writing against the Grain: Humour as Subversion in Jane Austen's Novels."
17. Two Day National Seminar on Readings and Re-readings in Culture, Literature, and Film. Govt of Kerala. Dept of Communicative English. KNM Govt. Arts and Science College, Kanjiramkulam. 25 & 26 February 2014. "Visual Culture in Italo Calvino's *The Castle of Crossed Destinies*."
18. UGC sponsored National Seminar on Technologies of Self: Writing Lives, Making History. All Saints' College, Trivandrum. 9-10 Oct 2014. "Re(discovering) the self: Memory and Narrative in Marquez' *Living to Tell the Tale*".
19. UGC Sponsored National Conference on Receding Boundaries: Transnational Spaces, Nation and Representation in South Asian Diaspora. Mar Ivanios College. Autonomous. 10-11. Dec 2015. "(Re)constructing Territorial Spaces: An Examination of the Question of Transnational Identity in Benyamin's *Aadu Jeevitham*".
20. UGC sponsored National Seminar on Re-thinking Postcolonialism-Texts and Contexts. Govt College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram. 17-18 Dec 2015. "Shaping

Cultural Identity: Memory and History in Orhan Pamuk's *The Museum of Innocence*.”

21. International Seminar on “Digital Humanities: Current Trends and Challenges.”
Maharaja's College, Ernakulam. Govt. Autonomous College. 18-19 Nov 2015.

“Decoding the Text: Aesthetics of Hyperfiction in Italo Calvino's *The Castle of Crossed Destinies*.”

22. National Seminar on Culture After Theory: A Retrospective on Cultural Studies.
Directorate of Collegiate Education and PG Dept of English. Govt Arts College,
Trivandrum. 29 and 01 March 2016. “Commingleing High Brow and Low: Cultural
Narration in Salman Rushdie's *Two Years Eight Months and Twenty Eight Nights*.”

23. Two day National Seminar on the Politics of Cultural (Re)presentation in
Literature, Dept of English. Govt Sanskrit College. Trivandrum. 16 & 17 Nov, 2017.
“Representation of Identity Politics in Cyrus Mistry's *The Chronicle of a Corpse
Bearer*.”

24. Invited lecture at the national seminar on ‘Literature and Life’ at St. Jerome's
College, Nagercoil titled “ Beyond the Page: The Connection between Literature and
Real Life” on 12 April 2023.

25. Invited lecture titled “Bridging the Gap: Higher Secondary and Higher Education ”
at the Higher Secondary Teacher's Transformation Programme organised jointly by
Higher Secondary Directorate and Dept. of English, University College on 25 January
2023.

26. Invited lecture titled “ Embarking on the Literary Journey: An Introduction to the
World of English Literature” as part of the series “ Broadening Horizons: Exploring
Divergent Avenues to Literature and Communicative English” hosted by the Dept. of
English, Mar Ivanious College (self financing), Thiruvananthapuram, on 29 July
2023.