



SACRED
HEART
COLLEGE
Autonomous



The Postgraduate Department of English
Sacred Heart College, Kochi
In Collaboration with
Prajña Foundation, Kochi
Organizes

TWO-DAY DIGITAL FUTURES: INTERNATIONAL HUMANITIES, NEW MEDIA SEMINAR AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

2-3
DECEMBER
2026

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



CONCEPT NOTE

Disciplines of humanities have undergone a radical transformation in scholarship and pedagogy since the beginning of the new millennium. The computer has become a professional apparatus and most of the texts we come across have been "digital born": they are produced, stored, circulated, accessed, read and critiqued digitally. The texts can be accessed through any digital devices from anywhere at any time by any number of individuals, including interlocutors. In the digital space, texts are archived to data, clusters of data become databases, and institutionalised databases of archive constitute archives. Reading has increasingly become computational, often across online platforms monitored through algorithmic logic. Digital Humanities marks a paradigm shift in the teaching-learning process, raising serious questions and responses to changing notions of authorship, textuality and meaning by exploring the interconnectedness of code, data, and hyperlinks.

Digital Humanities has incorporated the possibilities of contemporary communication theories, especially the twin processes of encoding/decoding in cyclic communication, visual narrative/ story-telling, and

electronic intertextuality in pedagogy and research. It has developed computational approaches to Literary Studies, aesthetic of digital archive, algorithmic reproduction of the diction or styles of great authors, and critical engagements with generative artificial intelligence to redefine cyber subjectivity and technologies of the digital self. By selecting digital media as its discursive space, Digital Humanities has deconstructed the popular notions on narrative voice, structure of narrative, memory/ reliability of the narrator, and social control of disciplines and discourses. The digital transformation as well as the digital origin of literature, criticism and theory has initiated scholarly dialogues for institutional and curricular reforms in the academy.

The Seminar is designed with Digital Humanities as its organising principle where artificial intelligence is a significant, recent tool that generates new and innovative stylistic and narrative models. The emergence of computational linguistics and the innovative pedagogic tools developed from the intersection of language and technology have enhanced the diversity of this nascent discipline. The Seminar is expected to deliberate on the profundity, prolificity and versatil-

ity of Digital Humanities and to produce enlightening critical insights on the rapidly increasing relevance of this discipline.

While Digital Humanities and Generative AI have already been incorporated into academic programmes in the west, and Research Centres and Journals have been established to promote them, Indian universities, blinded by the mythical wisdom of a golden past, seem to have ignored the developments. However, in response to the state policy on AI and other emerging technologies, a few universities have attempted to incorporate the rudiments of this discipline but without adequate disciplinary grounding. The Seminar can bring together scholars across disciplines of humanities, media practitioners, and technocrats who can address the question of resolving this academic lag through a transdisciplinary dialogue which the moment demands.

Digital Humanities unsettles the fundamental assumptions of cognitive science: the notion that meaning-making is a distinctly human activity, overtly separable from its technical supports. But in the production of digital culture, the agency is distributed rather than located in a single human author or intention. Reading a text, curating an archive, or learning a language model are not exclusively human acts; each depends on connected devices, digital protocols, and material substrates that condition the act. This entanglement is pervasive in both professional and personal lives: in laboratories or media platforms, in homes and networks of care where identities are shaped and mediated. Posthumanist/ transhumanist scholarship, with its emphasis on distributed cognition and cognitive assemblage, offers a new set of vocabulary for taking this entanglement seriously. Therefore, Digital Humanities need to be anchored on humanistic perspectives so that we do not surrender critical judgement to the



CONCEPT NOTE

machine or retreat to a defensive humanism that treats technology as merely external to culture.

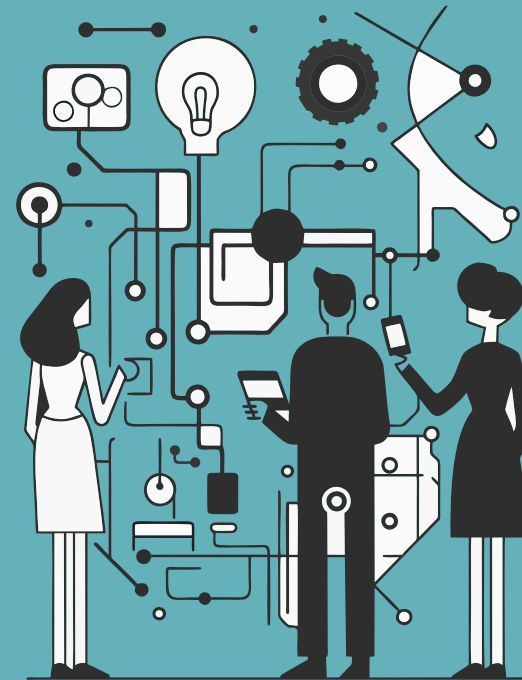
The Seminar will explore how digital technologies reshape scholarship, pedagogy and research on the one hand, and redefine production and dissemination of cultural/literary wares on the other. The academic event will provide a context to debate on the relevance of humanistic modes of critical inquiry and natural cognition of these transformations. It aims at to:

- Examine Digital Humanities as an evolving discipline with distinct methodological approaches and institutional praxis.
- Situate generative artificial intelligence within the broader frameworks of authorship, textuality and meaning making.
- Foster transdisciplinary dialogues to recognise the vital significance of digital transformations to transcend disciplinary boundaries.
- Extend posthumanist inquiry into the realm of artificial intelligence and the cyborg/ humanoid to unravel the extent to which distributed technology entangles with everyday life.
- Examine the limitations of digital transformations of Humanities in regional and multilingual contexts, including Indian and to identify solutions to overcome them.
- Consider how Indian universities respond to these transformations which can reshape higher education itself, and how institutional and pedagogical reforms without adequate disciplinary grounding fails the mission.
- Discuss the efficacy of digital platforms where virtual communities

of writers, theorists, critics, artists, media professionals, computer technologists, independent scholars and students can engage in critical deliberations

Possible themes include, but are not limited to:

- Digital Humanities: Histories, Methods, and Debates
- Artificial Intelligence and Humanistic Inquiry
- Computational and Quantitative Literary Studies
- Digital Archives, Memory, and Cultural Heritage
- Media Studies in the Digital Age
- Visual Culture and the Politics of the Image
- Film, Screen, and Streaming Cultures
- Digital Storytelling and Narrative Form
- Digital Pedagogy and the Future of Humanities Education
- Language, Linguistics, and Technology
- Algorithmic Culture and Platform Studies
- Social Media, Digital Publics, and Online Communities
- Ethics, Governance, and the Politics of AI
- Digital Creativity and Computational Art
- Data, Surveillance, and Power
- Gaming, Interactivity, and Virtual Worlds
- Posthumanism, Care, and the Politics of the Nonhuman
- Cognitive Assemblages: Distributed Mind, Machine, and Meaning
- Public Humanities and Digital Engagement
- Regional and Minority Languages in Digital Culture
- Translation, Multilingualism, and Digital Infrastructures
- Higher Education in the Digital Age: Pedagogy, Policy, and Institutional Futures



CALL FOR PAPERS

Abstracts of 250-300 words with up to five keywords should be mailed to digitalfutures.shc@gmail.com

Papers may be presented either offline or online. Selection status will be notified through mail.

Timeline

Abstract Submission Deadline: **October 20, 2026**

Last Date of Acceptance Notification: **November 10, 2026**

Full Paper Submission Deadline: **November 20, 2026**

Paper Requirements

3,000–6,000 words (MLA 9th Edition citation style)

Registration Fee

Faculty members: ₹2000

Research scholars and students (PG/UG): ₹1500

Online paper presentation: ₹700

Participation without paper presentation (offline): ₹700

Two notable papers presented at the Seminar will be recognised and commended as a mark of support to the conduct of original academic research and encouragement of scholarly dialogue.

Selected papers will be published in an edited volume with an ISBN. Authors will be requested to contribute an additional fee towards publication costs.

In case of queries, contact:

8129431431, 9654530345





Dr Dibyadyuti Roy

Associate Professor in Cultural Studies, Media Studies,
and Digital Humanities University of Leeds, UK

Session Title:

Digital Futures and Their (Dis)Contents:
Humanistic Inquiry in/for the Age of AI

Mr Aaron Reiss

Researcher, journalist, and cartographer featured in
The New Yorker, The New York Times, The Pulitzer Center,
and more New York City, US

Session Title:

Digital Storytelling and Narrative Form



Prof. Nirmala Menon

School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Discipline of
English, IIT Indore

Session Title:

From a Research Group to a Lab to a Centre:
The Multilingual Digital Humanities Journey

Prof. Maya Dodd

Department of Humanities and Languages
FLAME University, Pune

Session Title:

Digital Archives for All





ABOUT PRAJÑĀ FOUNDATION

The Prajñā Foundation is a non-profitable society registered under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies' Registration Act 1955 to propagate the need for personal integrity and professional commitment in the field of higher education, especially in the field of cultural and literary research as professed, practised and propagated by Prof. N. Prasantha Kumar, Professor of English (Rtd), Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady. The Foundation works for the betterment of higher education through the promotion of research, development of cultural and literary theories, encouragement of translation and editorial assignments and other academic and cultural activities in India in general and Kerala in particular. The Foundation also aims at mentoring a community of committed teachers, researchers and students interested in understanding and spreading the vital significance of cultural and literary theories to explain and resolve the problems of human life.

ABOUT EAST CAMPUS, SACRED HEART COLLEGE

The East Campus is the new, forward-looking wing of Sacred Heart College (Autonomous), Kochi. It is envisaged as the backbone of its foray into frontier academic disciplines. The East Campus is distinguished in the diversity of its academic programmes as well as in its approach to academics, with special emphasis on research and knowledge creation as befits higher education. Apart from conventional stress on knowledge, the campus endeavours to cultivate in its students habits such as self-discipline, critical thinking, inquisitiveness and social and emotional intelligence, which are the attributes of holistic education. It also seeks to promote a multicultural learning environment without compromising the great values enshrined in our constitution and the rich Indian heritage of interiority, and lasting and self-sacrificing relationships.



The Department of English is a distinguished centre for literary and interdisciplinary studies, fostering intellectual excellence and innovation. As one of the founding departments of East Campus, it has played a leading role in shaping its academic culture. Offering B.A. English (Hons.) with a specialization in New Media in line with the NEP-2020 and M.A. English Language & Literature, the department combines rigorous training in classical and contemporary literary traditions with cutting-edge approaches in digital media and critical theory. With a faculty of scholars with industry expertise, it hosts national seminars, expert lectures, and global academic collaborations. It also offers foundation courses in the English language for all departments, ensuring strong communication skills and critical thinking skills across disciplines.

ABOUT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, EAST CAMPUS

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