

National Seminar on Feminist Autobiography: Gendered Subalternity
Discovering 'Her' Self

Title:	National Seminar on Feminist Autobiography: Gendered Subalternity Discovering 'Her' Self
Date:	28-29. 10.2014
Venue:	Melesius Hall
Focus of the Event:	Research Methodology
Organizing Body:	Department of English
Resource Person:	Meena Kandaswamy, Writer and Activist
Total Number of Attendees:	70



Event Report

The Department of English, Sacred Heart College organized a two day UGC sponsored National Seminar titled “Dalit Feminist Autobiography: Gendered Subalternity Discovering Her- Self ”on 28th and 29th October, 2014. The seminar to explored how female Dalit narratives of self-seek alternative ways to construct a historiography parallel to the elite as well as the subaltern male historiographies. The seminar centred its focus on Dalit female articulations like autobiographies, diaries and other textual forms that attempt to construct the identity of Dalit female by personalizing and fictionalizing history.

The event was inaugurated by renowned poet and activist Meena Kandasamy. The seminar featured speakers including Sunny Kapikkaad, Dalit activist; Dr.Jayarajan, social anthropologist and Roopesh Kumar, film maker. 70 Participants requested for the seminar.. Dr. C. S. Francis, Head of the Department of English and Prf. Rajesh James were the coordinators of the seminar. Many participants presented papers on various topics related to the Seminar. A performance of Chamundi Theyyam – a traditional performative art form of Malabar was organized on the eve of the second day of the seminar.



Additional Pictures





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Event Brochure

The Department of English (est. 1941) of Sacred Heart College (Autonomous) is one of the oldest PG departments under the MG University, Kottayam. One among the prestigious postgraduate centres in the state, we attract a wide cross-section of students from all over Kerala. The department takes pride in the fact that since 1996 it has been initiating research and exploration in frontier areas of literary and cultural studies through the annual Dan Memorial National Seminar. In addition, the department organizes at least two national/international seminars/workshops each year.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE
 Sr. C.J. Reilly, D. K.M. Johnson, Ms. Subhi Thesa Sebastian, Dr. Tom, C. Thomas, Mr. Anand K. Nair, Fr. Sibi Thomas, Mr. Shaj Varghese, Dr. Dilhi Mary Rose, Fr. Joseph Kunnimalayam, Ms. Sheela M.

SH SACRED HEART COLLEGE
 Tel: 944 66 92 236, 97 49 89 236
 Email: english@shcollege.ac.in, www.shcollege.ac.in

UGC SPONSORED NATIONAL SEMINAR

28-29 OCTOBER 2014

Organized by:
 Dept. of English, Sacred Heart College,
 Thiruvalla, Kochi
 Email: english@shcollege.ac.in

Autobiography as a literary genre emerged in the post-colonial Europe as a product of colonial modernity. It exemplifies the individual's attempt to construct a unified self by shaping the past, imposing a pattern on life and constructing a coherent self out of the fragments of experience.

Autobiographical narratives of mainstream India influenced by European models explored the personal and private realms of the individual experience in an attempt to realize one's true self. Dalit writers subvert this notion of autobiography as a narrative of exclusive private domains of the individual. Dalit autobiography problematizes the relation between the society and the individual, the private and the public, by co-constructing of the self not merely in private or personal terms. Expression of Dalit self demands new modes of narration and signification as it deals not with a unified and coherent self but with a divided, fragmented self/one-self. Significantly, as Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak says, elite subaltern male historiographers have inadequately represented the voice of the subaltern female.

The objective of the seminar, therefore, is to explore how female dalit narratives of self-wrote alternative ways to construct a historiography parallel to the elite as well as the subaltern male historiographers.

The seminar centers its focus on Dalit female articulations like autobiographies, diaries and other textual forms that attempt to construct the identity of Dalit female by personalizing and fictionalizing history.

28/10/14

9:30 am: Registration
 10:11 am: Inauguration and Concept Note
 Tea Break
 11:15-12:00 pm: 1st Session –
Dalit Feminist Autobiography: A Critique
 Meena Kandaswamy, Poet, Activist, Author
 Lunch Break
 2 – 3 pm: Session II
Don't be Our Fathers: Filming Dalit Self
 Rupesh Kumar, Dalit Film Maker
 3 – 4 pm: Paper presentations
 6 – 9 pm: **Thesany Performance:**
 Chandy and Kandanar Kolan
 By Gokulaboomini

29/10/14

10 – 11 am: Session: **Elevation of Dalits: A Study of Dalit Performance Traditions of Kerala**
 Dr. Jayarajan, Academician
 Tea break
 11:30 – 1 pm:
 4th Session: **Dalit Woman Questions and Dalit Discourses in Kerala**
 Sunny Kapilada, Dalit Intellectual
 Lunch break
 2 – 3 pm:
 Paper presentations
 3 – 4 pm: Valedictory Function

Hd. English: Dr. C. S. Prasad
 Organizing Sec: M. K. Nivedya
 Coordinator: M. K. V. Smit
 Ms. Bipin Mathew

Registration fee: ₹100

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Event Attendance Sheet

Sl.No.	Name	Contact Address	Email	Phone Number	Registration Fees
1.	PARVATHY P.	Research Scholar, SSUS, Kalady.	reflections.pavathy @gmail.com	9037430040.	100/-
2	Snehalatha C.A.	Faculty of BMC, Thrikkkkan	snehamaria009@ gmail.com	9633193633	100
3	Varsha V Varma	Bharata Mata College.	vvv1993@ yahoo.com	8901969345.	100-
4	Geethu Ann Mathew	"	geethu.ann.2013@ gmail.com	9447830702.	
5.	Raniya	"	raniyapeter@ gmail.com	8129926829	
6.	Anju Sebastian	"	sebastian.anju.001 @gmail.com	9656753753	

REGISTRATION FORM

Sl.No	Name	Contact Address	Email	Phone No:
7	REGITHA BAJU	Dept. of Computer Science S.H. College, Thevans	regitha.baju@ gmail.com	9846150145
8.	S.R. XAVIER C.S	Dept. of malayalam	Cheeranshika @gmail.com	9447804569
9.	Ann Mary Joy	Dpt of English SSUS Kalady	annmaryjoy @yahoo.com	9497322372
10.	Sneha R. Pillai	Dpt of English SSUS Kalady	Snehapillai340@ gmail.com	8891040340
11.	Prinisha.K.R.	Dpt of English SSUS Kalady	prinikr@gmail.com	9496234390
12.	SANIYA THANSIM.K	Dept of English SSUS, Kalady	saniyathansimk@gmail.com	8549520901

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REGISTRATION FORM

Sl No	Name	Contact Address	Email	Phone No:
13	AAN MARY JAMES	KRPS- 2, AMBHAZHAKADAN HOUSE, MARADU P-O CHAMBAKKARA, ERNAKULAM.	aan.vythila545@gmail.com	9496287138
14	SNEHA S.	Kanjirathingal House Katsrikadavu, Kaloor-17 Kochi 682017.	march234@gmail.com	9645318396
15	Tilvis Angustamé	S.M. College Cherthala -688539.	tytoo72@gmail.com	9633029300
16	Dr. Priya K. Nair	St. Teresa's College, Park Avenue Road, Cochin - 682011	priyamknbr@gmail.com	9495027525
17	Ranjita Dilraj	Edakkatt (H) Old Railway Station Road, Cochin - 682018	dranjita@gmail.com	8891102934
18	Lissy Jose	Pinakkatt (H) Erattakulangara (R), Cochin - 682012	lissyjose3@gmail.com	8129785765

REGISTRATION FORM

Sl.No	Name	Contact Address	Email	Phone No:	Registration Fees
19	SAJANA SHAMSUDDIN	PADAYATTIL PALISSERY ANNAMALY	SajanaSham@gmail.com	9847614725	100/-
20	Achamma Cherian	Kurisinkal House Kochukadevanthra, Kochi - 20	achucherry1998@gmail.com	9745491451	100/-
21	Shaharban. u.H.	Lecturer SH college Thevara.	Shaharban1988@gmail.com	9746602172.	
22	Lincy Joseph.	Associate Prof. St. Xavier's College For Women, Aluva.	lincyberadict@gmail.com	9495059960	100/-
23	TRESSA SHYBE	Dept. of Computer Science S.H. College, Thevara	shybetelsson@gmail.com	9995168821	
24	JISHA SOMAN	11	jishachithira@gmail.com	9495481570	

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REGISTRATION FORM

Sl.No	Name	Contact Address	Email	Phone No:	Registration Fees
25	Deepak O. Nair	'DJAS', TC-36/613 YMA Road, Perunthanni Vallakodavu P.O. Thiruvananthapuram-695085	deepakonair@gmail.com	9072514015	100/-
26	Teepthi V.G	ASLALAYAM, Peoples Road Thykoodem Vythila. P.O	deez209@gmail.com	9961571901	100/-
27	NEETHU.S	THE NEST, NO:117, SNRA, MARADU. P.O KOCHI - 682304	s.neethu.4.1990@gmail.com	9995881324	100/-
28	Gangathri P.J	Sr. 'GEETHAM', 7 th Cross Maveli Nagar, C.P. Nagar P.O. Keeli 33	gangathrijiyothri@gmail.com	9497788931	100/-
29	MERIN JOSE	BHARATA MATA COLLEGE THRIKKAKARA KOCHI	merinjose@gmail.com	9995226860	100/-
30	Preethi Moidhula Mathew	Mar Thoma College, Kuttapuzha. Thiruvalla	mrcidhula87@gmail.com	9946899831	100/-

Sl.No	Name	Contact Address	Email Id	Phone No.
31	Chelsey Raju	kannamkuzhijil (H) Mulanthuruthy P.O Police Quarters Ekm - 682314 (BMC)	chelseyraju@gmail.com	8129626288
32	Simi Thankachan	BHARATA MATA COLLEGE	Simithankachan555@gmail.com	7736678978
33	RESHMA P.N	"	reshmanandakumar2015@gmail.com	9605483494
34	Raveena Seesh	"	MsveenaDada@gmail.com	9895109816
35	Joshila Katherin C.S	"	joshilakatherin@gmail.com	9746437252
36	Sinec Joseph	"	Sinecjoseph09@gmail.com	9446828817

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Sl.No	Name	Contact Address	Email	Phone No	Registration Fees
37	Gayathri Salim	M.Phil. student Dept. of English SSUS, Kalady	salim.gayathri@gmail.com	8281446481	100/-
38	Sreya.o.c	M.Phil Dept. of English SSUS, Kalady	sheyaoc@gmail.com	9539952309	100/-
39	Anja Paschunae	M.Phil Department of English SSUS, Kalady	anjahanikumari2@gmail.com	9497688876	100/-
40	Abin Sajan	Student Mar Augustinian College Ramanuram.	abisaja@gmail.com	9496335375	100/-
41	Lakshmi Priya R	Dept. of Computer Science & H. college Thevara	lxyaraj77@shcollege.ac.in	9841659326	
42	Rincy	"			

Sl.No	Name	Contact Address	Email	Phone No:	Registration Fees
43	Delsy Joseph	Kareakikkal, Nivarth Road, Maradu, Erum	delsy.joseph89@gmail.com	9847271502	100/-
44	Rosemary Tom	Kuruvmakunnel, 2 Subash nagar, Edappally, COCHIN-24	rosetta.tom@gmail.com	9895156150	100/-
45	Jijo VARUGHESE	Puliyilattam Kozhanchery P.O Pattanamthitta	jijo212@gmail.com	9946329127	100/-
46	Dr. Hasey Joseph M.	Professor Tharuv FIAT Near Govt H.S. Koolakannoor 683577	myuawestly@gmail.com	9495915563	100/-
47	Jojoy K.V	SRAY-079 Pazhayaakadavil Vennimala P.O PIN: 682029	jojoykv70@gmail.com	9446311001	100/-
48	Shoba Riza John	(S.H. college) 261-384 - Lizmann Konkuruthy, Thevara	shobajohn99@yahoo.com	9848234256	100/-

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Sl. No	Name	Contact Address	Email	Phone No:	Registration Fees
45	Dr. Anjana Sankar	Department of English Sree sankara College Kalady	anjana.sajiv@gmail.com	9947686910	Rs 100/-
46	Anju M.S	Manjila (P), Palluvithy, Cochin - 682006	anjusenny8@gmail.com	9495990475	100/-
50	Minu Balakrishnan	Department of English SSUS Kalady	minukulathunka@gmail.com	9544388412	100/-
51	Soukhi V.S.	Dept. of English SSUS Kalady	southivis2007@gmail.com	9495213135	100/-
52	Hima K R	Dept. of English SSUS Kalady	himareghuvaran@gmail.com	9567272683	100/-
53	Sabitha Zacharias	Dept. of English BMC, Thekkalasa	sabithazacharias@gmail.com	9895869991	100/-

Sl. No	NAME	CONTACT ADDRESS	EMAIL	PHONE NO:	REGISTRATION FEES
54	Dr. Joseph George	Dept of Commerce S. H. college, Thevazha, Cochin	josephgeorge@shcollege.ac.in	9895566221	Joseph
55	Sapna Miranda	Dept. of English St. Albert's College Emmaluram	Sapnalenin@gmail.com	7034786125	Sapna
56	Dr. Binu K.D	Asst. Professor Dept. of English Govt. College Tripunithura	binakdevasy2011@gmail.com	8281261339	Binu
57	John Francis A	freelancer	emma.iftft@gmail.com	9765969233	John 100
58	Jose Abraham	Dept. of Eng.	joseabram@gmail.com	9447195815	Jose
59	Jinu Mathew	Bharata Mata College	jinjessymatthewgnarika	9567746767	Jinu

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No.	Name	Designation	Contact Info	Phone	Other
		DEPT. OF ENGLISH ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE KARAMASSERY	imagokyanand @gmail.com	9847168268	100
60	Dr. Tom C. Thomas	Asst. Professor Dept. of Eng SH College	totet355@ gmail.com	9995178568	
61	Sunil K.V	"	Sunilkv@shcollege. ac.in	9496342645	
62	Araya K.G.	Research Scholar Dept. of English SSVS, Kality	araya.k.gopi@ gmail.com	9895816554	100
63	Linda Luiz	Dept. of Sociology Univ. of Calicut			
64	Rajesh James	SH College, Thuvann			
65	K. Bijo & Mathan	SH College Thuvann			
66	Dilva Mary Rox	"			

67	SHANU VARGHESE	Sacred Heart College Thuvann			
68	Saba Thomas	"			
69	Arvind R. Nair	"			
70	Lina Sunny	St. Paul's College Karamassery			