

CURRICULUM VITAE

UDAYA KUMAR

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Education

- 1984-88 D.PHIL in English Literature. ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD.
Title of thesis: Repetition, Time and Structure in James Joyce's *Ulysses*.
- 1982-84 M.PHIL in English. JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY, New Delhi.
Coursework completed. Dissertation on 'Narrative Discourse in Joyce's Novels' interrupted.
- 1980-82 M.A. in English Language and Literature. UNIVERSITY OF KERALA, India.
- 1977-80 B.A. in English Language and Literature. UNIVERSITY OF KERALA, India.
- 1975-77 Pre-Degree from UNIVERSITY OF KERALA.
- 1972-75 High School education at GOVERNMENT MODEL HIGH SCHOOL, TRIVANDRUM. Secondary School Leaving Certificate Examination, 1975.

Teaching and Research Experience

PROFESSOR, CENTRE FOR ENGLISH STUDIES, JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY, New Delhi – 110067, India, October 2015- the present.

Courses taught for the MPhil level (**courses include film and literary texts**): 'The Idea of the Public: Issues and Debates'; 'Death and Contemporary Culture', 'Narrative, Emotions and Ethics'

Courses taught at the MA level: 'Life Writing: History and Forms'; 'The Work of Narrative'; 'James Joyce'; 'The Novel and Contemporary Forms of Power'; 'Romanticism: Ideas and Contexts'.

Supervision: PhD: 10 (in progress). MPhil: degree awarded: 8

PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, Delhi – 110 007, India, March 2005 – September 2015.

READER, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI, Delhi – 110 007, India, March 1997 – March 2005.

Courses taught at the M. Phil level: 'Foundations of Aesthetic Theory', 'Autobiography and Questions of the Self', 'Rethinking Culture and Power', 'Body, Gender, Space: Nineteenth Century Novel in England and India' (co-taught with Professor Sambudha Sen), 'The Idea of the Public: Issues and Debates'.

Courses taught at the M. A. level: Literary Criticism, Indian Literature, Modern Novel, Literature and Gender, New Literatures in English, Life Writing: History and Forms.

Supervision of doctoral work: degree awarded: 4.

Supervision of MPhil dissertations: degree awarded: 7

SENIOR FELLOW, NEHRU MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY, New Delhi – 110 011, India, December 2012-November 2014. Title of research project: "History, Identity, Spatiality: New Idioms of Vernacular Social Thought in Early Twentieth Century Kerala."

LEVERHULME VISITING PROFESSOR, University of Newcastle, Newcastle Upon Tyne, United Kingdom, February 2009 – June 2010. Delivered Leverhulme Lectures on 'Indian Modernity and Its Autobiographical Imaginaries', April-May 2009.

PROFESSOR OF CULTURAL STUDIES, CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES, CALCUTTA, January 2005 – January 2008. Courses taught: Research Training Programme – 'Contemporary Conceptions of the Body', 'Cultures of Postcoloniality', and 'Text, Textuality and Reading'.

FELLOW, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDY, SHIMLA, India, October 1995 - March 1997. Area of research: 'Autobiography and the Imaginings of the Self'.

READER IN ENGLISH LITERATURE, UNIVERSITY OF POONA, Pune, India, June 1991 - July 1992; October 1988 - April 1989.

Courses taught at the M. A. and M.Phil levels: 'Modern Literary Theory', 'Literary Criticism', and 'Modern Fiction'.

M. Phil theses supervised: 3. Degree awarded: 3.

MAÎTRE ASSISTANT SUPPLÉANT IN ENGLISH LITERATURE, UNIVERSITY OF LAUSANNE, Switzerland, November 1990 - April 1991. Course taught: 'Introduction to Literary Analysis'.

Tutor in 'Elements of Literary Theory', ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD, 1987-88; LADY MARGARET HALL, OXFORD, 1986-88. Lecturer in 'Elements of Literary Theory', ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, Hilary Term 1987.

Tutor in 'History and Theory of Criticism', PEMBROKE COLLEGE, OXFORD, 1988; LADY MARGARET HALL, OXFORD, 1988. Supervisor on Undergraduate Dissertation, LADY MARGARET HALL, 1987.

Current Research

Book Projects:

History, Identity and Spatiality: New Idioms of Vernacular Social Thought in Early Twentieth Century Kerala

This book project, a preliminary draft of which has been completed, is located at the point of convergence of two lines of enquiry in recent scholarship: research into the diversity of idioms and imaginaries of social belonging in Kerala in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; studies into the distinctiveness of 'vernacular,' non-academic forms of thought in India during the colonial period. In relation to the first, the project seeks to complicate the understanding of cultural and intellectual modernity in Kerala centred on colonial modernity and emergent nationalism. As for the second, it attempts to highlight the transactional nature of vernacular intellectual production by examining three principal components: (a) forms of imaginative historiography, (b) conceptions of collective and individual identity in politics and ethics, and (c) ideas of a shared space, as territory and language. The project will attempt a differentiated textual and historical account of the intellectual field of early twentieth century Kerala by focusing on three significant figures: (a) Dr. P. Palpu (1863-1950), physician and prominent campaigner for the rights of the lower castes, (b) K. Ramakrishna Pillai (1878-1916), the editor of *Swadeshabhimani*, *Keralan* and *Atmaposhini*, political analyst, literary critic and novelist, and (c) A. Balakrishna Pillai (1889-1960), the editor of *Kesari*, *Samadarsi*, and *Prabodhakan*, cultural critic and speculative

historian. The work of these three thinkers is deeply marked by the mobilization and transformation of indigenous intellectual resources, an encounter with larger geographies and temporalities, and innovation in conceptual moves and forms of address.

Spaces, Spectres, Objects: A Collection of Essays on Late Twentieth Century Malayalam Fiction

Over the past ten years, I have published a number of essays on late twentieth-century Malayalam fiction. I plan to compile and revise these papers in the form of a book that focuses on a set of interlinked themes related to voice, spatiality, memory and objects. The contents of the volume, in addition to new introductory and concluding chapters, are:

1. 'The Ethics of Witnessing: Vaikom Muhammad Basheer and the Subject of Historical Narration' (published).
2. 'Basheer's Humble Historian' (published).
3. 'Representation and Testimony: Anand's Novels and the Problem of Justice' (published)
4. 'Anand and the Poetics of Incompleteness', (published)
5. 'Paul Zachariah and the Miracles of a Modern World', (published)
6. 'Fiction, Public History and the Archive: New Spatial Imaginaries in the Malayalam Novel' (2012, unpublished).
7. "The Strange Homeliness of the Night: Spectral Speech and the Dalit Present in C. Ayyappan's Stories" (2013, published).
8. "Dalit Atmiyata: C. Ayyappan and Literature's Footnotes for Life and Remembrance" (2013, unpublished).
9. Attoor Ravivarma and the Geographies of Modernist Poetry in Malayalam (unpublished).
10. 'Choosing a Tongue, Choosing a Form: Kamala Das's Writing and the Parsing of Perception' (unpublished).

Publications

Books:

Writing the First Person: Literature, History and Autobiography in Modern Kerala. Ranikhet: Permanent Black, in association with Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, 2016. Paperback: 2017. <https://www.amazon.in/dp/8178245205>

This monograph on modern subjectivity and self-articulation in Kerala traces the emergence of a discourse on modern self-articulation in Malayalam language by examining a variety of forms of writing from the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, a period of major social transformation in Kerala. The book begins by arguing that new notions of individual interiority and community are articulated through an innovative use of elements from tradition in the discourse of anti-caste social reform in nineteenth-century Kerala. It moves on to trace the subsequent development of a 'language of the inner' in monologic poetry, linking it to the presentation of female subjects. The book argues that early novels in Malayalam combine schemas from indigenous traditions of representation and from a cultural translation of the English novel, creating an ambivalent field of visibility for presenting new forms of subjectivity in a modernizing world. After examining the new portrayal of Nair masculinity in C. V. Raman Pillai's historical romances in the context of new political articulations of Nair identity in Travancore, the book concludes by showing how the emergence of autobiography

in Malayalam, with its notion of an individuated temporal experience, drew on idioms of self-articulation developed in these discourses.

The Joycean Labyrinth: Repetition, Time and Tradition in 'Ulysses'. Oxford: Clarendon Press, October 1991, rpt. 2001. <http://www.amazon.in/dp/0198112211/>

Relying on insights from philosophy and literary theory, this study examines the relations between the textual organization of *Ulysses* and the notions of time, language and poetics implicit in the novel. The book begins with an examination of the pervasive use of repetition in *Ulysses* and shows that this results in a disruption of linear time and creates a 'textual memory'. This argument is further developed in relation to questions of time and the sign, where *Ulysses* is shown to display a differentiated and heterogeneous temporal experience. Examining Joyce's aesthetic theories, the book argues that *Ulysses* implies a radical notion of tradition as the site of difference and the work of art as the re-performance of elements from tradition. The concluding chapter clarifies this argument in relation to other strands in modernism and postmodernism.

Published Papers in Journals and Edited Volumes:

'Life, Resistance and Resignation: Testimonial Lessons of Dispossession,' in *Displacement and Citizenship: Histories and Memories of Exclusion*, eds. Vijaya Rao, Shambhavi Prakash, Mallarika Sinha Roy, and Papori Bora (New Delhi: Tulika Press, 2020), pp. 1-20.

'The Perfect Imperfect: Democracy and the Ethics of Self-ruination,' *Cultural Critique*, 105 (Fall 2019), pp. 223-39.

'Sovereignty, Allegory and Political Affect: K. Narayana Kurukkal's Novels,' in *Novel Formations: The Indian Beginnings of a European Genre*, eds. Baidik Bhattacharya and Sambudha Sen (Ranikhet: Permanent Black, 2018), pp. 167-210.

'The Legibility of Things: Objects and Public Histories in N. S. Madhavan's *Litanies of Dutch Battery*,' in *Narratology and Ideology: Encounters between Narrative Theory and Postcolonial Criticism*, eds. Divya Dwivedi, Henrik Skov Nielsen & Richard Walsh (Ohio: Ohio State University Press, 2018), pp. 74-90.

'Choosing a Tongue, Choosing a Form: Kamala Das's Bilingual Algorithms,' in Rosella Ciocca and Neelam Srivastava, eds., *Indian Literature and the World: Multilingualism, Translation and the Public Sphere* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017).

'Ambivalences of Publicity: Transparency and Exposure in K. Ramakrishna Pillai's Writings,' *The Public Sphere from Outside the West*, eds. V. Sanil and Divya Dwivedi (London: Bloomsbury, 2015), pp. 79-96.

'Dr. Palpu's Petition Writings and Kerala's Pasts,' *NMML Occasional Papers, History and Society*, n.s. No. 59 (New Delhi: Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, 2014), 39 pp.

'Sree Narayana Guru's Idioms of the Spiritual and the Worldly,' in *Devotion and Dissent*, ed. Vijaya Ramaswamy (Delhi: Foundation Books, 2014), pp. 370-79.

'Freedom's Work,' Foreword to Nikhil Govind, *Between Love and Freedom: The Revolutionary in the Hindi Novel* (New Delhi: Routledge, 2014), pp. vii-xvi.

'Consciousness, Agency and Humiliation: Reflections on Dalit Life Writing and Subalternity,' in *The Political Philosophies of Antonio Gramsci and B. R. Ambedkar*, ed. Cosimo Zene (London: Routledge, 2013), pp. 158-70.

'The Strange Homeliness of the Night: Spectral Speech and the Dalit Present in C. Ayyappan's Writings,' *Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences*, XVII: 1 and 2 (2010, pub. 2013) pp. 177-91.

'The Primacy of Criticism: Kuttikrishna Marar and the Normative Frames of Realism,' *The South Asian Review, special issue on South Asian Realisms and Post-realisms*, vol. 32, no. 1 (2012), pp. 153-72.

'Kant on the Sublime: The Subject and the Question of Difference', in *Grounding Morality: Freedom, Knowledge and the Plurality of Cultures*, eds. Jyotirmaya Sharma and Raghurama Raju (New Delhi: Routledge, 2010), pp. 88-109.

'Shaping a Literary Space: Early Literary Histories in Malayalam and Normative Uses of the Past', in *Literature and Nationalist Ideology: Writing Histories of Modern Indian Languages*, ed. Hans Harder (New Delhi: Social Science Press, 2010), pp. 19-50.

'Two Figures of Shame: Exposure, Ethics and Self-Narration', *Études Anglaises: Revue du monde Anglophone* 62: 3 (July-September 2009), pp. 345-57.

'Writing the Life of the Guru: Chattampi Swamikal, Narayana Guru, and Modes of Biographical Construction', in *Biography as History: Indian Perspectives*, ed. Vijaya Ramaswamy and Yogesh Sharma (Hyderabad: Orient Blackswann, 2009), pp. 53-87.

'Autobiography as a Way of Writing History: Personal Narratives from Kerala and the Inhabitation of Modernity', in *History in the Vernacular*, eds. Partha Chatterjee and Raziuddin Aquil (Delhi: Permanent Black, 2008), pp. 418-48.

'Subjects of New Lives: Reform, Self-making and the Discourse of Autobiography in Kerala', in *Different Types of History*, ed. Bharati Ray (New Delhi: Pearson, 2008), pp. 299-331.

'Representation and Testimony: Anand's Novels and the Problem of Justice', in *Justice: Political, Social, Juridical*, eds. Rajeev Bhargava, Michael Dusche, and Helmut Reifeld (New Delhi: Sage, 2008), pp. 169-200.

'The Public, the State and New Domains of Writing: On Ramakrishna Pillai's Conception of Literary and Political Expression', *Tapasam: A Quarterly Journal of Kerala Studies*, 2: 3 & 4 (January and April 2007), pp. 413-41.

'Paul Zachariah and the Miracles of a Modern World', in *Cross-Currents in the Modern Short Story*, eds. Sucheta Mukherji and Aditi Dasgupta (Calcutta: Loretto College, 2005), pp. 74-85.

'The Ethics of Witnessing: Vaikom Muhammad Basheer and the Subject of Historical Narration', in *Narrating India: The Novel in Search of a Nation*, ed. E. V. Ramakrishnan (New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2005), pp. 305-28.

'Literature and Intensity: Deleuze's Stuttering Machine', in *Trajectory of French Thought* (New Delhi: Rupa and FIRC, 2004), pp. 123-35.

'Seeing and Reading: Some Questions of Visibility in the Early Malayalam Novel', in *Early Novels in India*, ed. Meenakshi Mukherjee (New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2002), pp. 161-92.

'Two Figures of Desire: Discourses of the Body in Malayalam Literature', in *Translating Desire: The Politics of Gender and Culture in India*, ed. Brinda Bose (New Delhi: Katha, 2002),

pp. 132-44.

'The Temporality of Gesture: Understanding Benjamin's Writings on Brecht', in *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Modernity*, eds. Sudha P. Pandya and Prafulla C. Kar (Delhi: Pencraft International, 2001), pp. 139-54.

'Anand and the Poetics of Incompleteness', an Afterword to Anand, *Vyasa and Vighneswara*, tr. Saji Mathew (New Delhi: Katha, 2000), pp. 135-57.

'Basheer's Humble Historian', in *Many Indias, Many Literatures*, ed. Shormishtha Panja (Delhi: Worldview, 1999), pp. 158-70.

'Self, Body and Inner Sense: Some Observations on Sree Narayana Guru and Kumaran Asan', *Studies in History*, vol. 13, no. 2 (July-December 1997), pp. 247-70. Reprinted in *The Indian Postcolonial*, eds. Elleka Boehmer and Rosinka Chaudhuri (London: Routledge, 2011), pp. 214-37.

'Bakhtin and Questions of Autobiographical Consummation', in *Literary Theory: Indian and Western*, ed. Prafulla C. Kar (New Delhi: Pencraft International, 1996), pp. 148-65.

Forthcoming:

'Public Uses of Language and the Texture of Literature: Kerala in the Early Twentieth Century,' in *Language Movements, Federalism and the Democratic Imagination in India*, eds. Veena Naregal and Madhava Prasad (Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan, 2020).

Articles and Reviews:

'Destitute Thinking,' *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 54, no. 28 (2019), pp. 17-19.

'Acts of Selfhood,' *Cracow Indological Studies*, vol. 21, no. 1 (2019), pp. 291-5.

'The University and Its Outside,' *Economic and Political Weekly*, vo. 51, no. 11 (2016), pp. 29-31. Reprinted in Special Issue on 'Education at the Crossroads,' *India International Quarterly*, vol. 42, nos. 3 and 4 (2016), pp. 16-23.

'Mission Statement Responses,' in *Comparative Studies in South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, vol. 33, no. 2 (2013), pp. 151-2.

'A Slice of Lived History,' *The Book Review*, vol. 37, no. 4 (April 2013), pp. 22-3.

'Kamala Das', *Encyclopedia of Life Writing*, ed. Margaretta Jolly (London: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2002), pp. 261-63.

'Review of Leela Gandhi's *Affective Communities*', *Bookline*, January 2007.

'Review of Anand's *Desert Shadows*', *Indian Literature*, August 2002.

'Review of Rosemary Marangoly George's *The politics of home: Postcolonial relocations and twentieth-century fiction*', *Ariel*, vol. 29, no. 1 (January 1998), pp. 267-9.

'The Frames of the Translator', Review of C. V. Raman Pillai, *Marthanda Varma*, tr. B. K. Menon (New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 1998), *Summerhill Review*, vol. v, no. 1 (June 1999).

In Malayalam:

'Chintayude Charitram Pradeshikathayum' [The History of Thought and the Sense of the Region], in *Chinta Charitram: Adhunik Kerala Chintayude Baudhika Charitram* [A History of Thought: Intellectual Histories of Modern Kerala], ed. P. V. Sajeev (Kottayam: DC Books, forthcoming).

'Marxinte Juthar: Adhikaram, Avakasham, Vimochanam' [Marx's Jews: Power, Rights and Freedom], in *Marx Vayanakal* [Marx – Readings], ed. T. V. Madhu (Calicut: Raspberry Books, 2015), pp. 53-71.

"Sabdathinte Munnupadhikal" [Preconditions of the Voice-Word], in George, *Virahangalude Samaharam* [An Anthology of Separations] (Kochi: Niyogam Books, 2014), pp. 13-40.

'Abhiruchiyum Acchadakkavum: Anthappayiye Innu Vayikkumbol' [Taste and Discipline: Reading Anthappayi Today], Introduction to C. Anthappayi, Naluperilorutthan, athava Nadakadyam Kavitham (Trivandrum: Chintha Publishers, 2013), pp. 11-40.

'Asadharanamaya Oru Charitram' [An Unusual History], Preface to Sajitha Madathil, *Malayala Nataka Sthreecharitram* [A Women's History of Malayalam Theatre] (Calicut: Mathrubhumi, 2010), pp. 7-24.

'Sahityavimarsakanaya Ayyappa Paniker' [Ayyappa Paniker as Literary Critic], *Keralakavitha*, 41 (2009), pp. 76-84.

'Atmakathakal Caritramezhutumbol' [When Autobiographies Write History], in *Samskarika Padanam: Caritram, Siddhantam, Prayogam* [Cultural Studies: History, Theory, Practice], eds. Dilip Kumar et al. (Kalady: Malayala Padana Sangham, May 2007). rpt. In *Samskarika Vimarshavum Malayala Bhavanayum* [Cultural Criticism and the Malayalam Imagination], ed. Shaji Jacob (Thiruvananthapuram: The State Institute of Languages, Kerala, 2014), pp. 313-45.

'Kazhchayum Vayanayum: Indulekhyam Chinvayaparathinte Chila Prasnangalum' [Seeing and Reading: *Indulekha* and Some Problems in the Circulation of Signs], *Pachakuthira*, no. 2 (April 2002), pp. 18-28.

'Svathvam, Sariram, Anthakaranam: Sree Narayana Guruvineyum Kumaran Asaneyum Aspadamakki Chila Nireekshanangal' [Self, Body and Inner Sense: Some Observations on Sree Narayana Guru and Kumaran Asan], *Samvadham* (January 2001), pp. 5-26.

'Ravivarmayude Yatrakal' [The Journeys of Ravi Varma], *Kerala Kavitha* (1998).

'Smarana, Atmakathakhyanam, Sthree: "Varshangalku Munp"ine aspadamakki chila chindakal' [Memory, Autobiography, Woman: Some Thoughts Based on Kamala Das's *Years Ago*], *Samakaleena Kavitha*, vol.1, no. 3 (July-September 1993), pp. 265-71, reprinted in E.V. Ramakrishnan, ed., *Sthree, Swathvam, Samooham* [Woman, Self, Society] (Calicut: Poorna, 1994), pp. 33-60.

Translations from Malayalam into English

Savithri Rajeevan, "As you bathe your mother" (poem), *Malayalam Literary Survey*, 33:3-4 (2013), pp. 43-4. Several other poems by Savithri Rajeevan, in various collections.

K. Ayyappa Paniker, "The Poetics of Kumaran Asan" (essay), *Haritham: Journal of the School of Letters*, 21 (2013), pp. 64-70.

C. Ayyappan, "Ghost-Speech" and "Guardian Spirit," in K. Satyanarayana and Susie Tharu, eds., *No Alphabet in Sight: New Dalit Writing from South India, Dossier 1: Tamil and Malayalam* (New Delhi: Penguin, 2011), pp. 350-63.

Kuttikrishna Marar, "Valmiki's Rama," translated for a project on Literary Theory in India, co-ordinated by Simi Malhotra. Forthcoming.

Public Lectures, Seminars and Conferences (Select List, 2006-2019)

- November 2019 National conference on 'What is Thinking?' Centre for English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Title of paper: 'Narratives and the Practice of Thought.'
- November 2019 Symposium on 'Global Ghatak?' Columbia University, New York. Title of paper: 'Narrative, Emotion and Image in *Subarnarekha*.'
- October 2019 Invited talk organized jointly by the Departments of English and Comparative Literature, New York University. Title: 'The Resistant Life of Emotions: Death, Narration and Agency.'
- July 2019 Panel discussion on 'Politics of the Vernacular,' Nalsar University of Law, Hyderabad.
- April 2019 Invited talk at the Indian Institute of Technology, Guahati. Title: 'Death, Life Narration and Political Existence.'
- March 2019 Invited talk at the Institute of English, University of Kerala. Title: 'Death, Political Existence and the Limits of Narration.'
- February 2019 Symposium on 'Translating Modernity: A Study of Literary Cultures in India,' organized by Sahitya Akademi and Jamia Milia Islamia. Title of paper: 'The Vernacular and the Modern.'
- February 2019 Symposium on 'Rethinking English Studies in India: The Cultural Studies Turn and its Possibilities,' organized by Christ deemed to be University, Bangalore and Sahitya Akademi. Title of paper: 'Reading and the Turn.'
- November 2018 Second workshop on 'Global Criticality', on **Ritwik Ghatak**, organized by Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak and Moinak Biswas for Modern Language Association, Kolkata.
- October 2018 Workshop on 'Concepts from the Global South,' organized by Centre for African Studies, University of Cape Town and Centre for Indian Studies in Africa, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Title of paper: '*Pothujanam*: Public/Common in Malayalam.'
- October 2018 National seminar in Malayalam on the 'Intellectual History of Modern Kerala,' organized by Government Arts and Science College, Kozhikode. Keynote address: 'Region and the History of Thought.'
- April 2018 National seminar on 'Life Writing as Social History: Reading Across Cultures,' organized by Department of English, Kuvempu University. Keynote address: 'Death, Agency and Life Writing.'
- March 2018 National Workshop on 'Tamil Socio-cultural History Gleaned from Classical Literature.' Title of paper: "Classical Malayalam Literature: Past and Present."
- February 2018 International Symposium on 'Against Storytelling,' organized by the University of East Anglia and Ashoka University. Panel

- discussion on "Stories and Modern Indian Literatures."
- January 2018 International Conference on 'Politics and Letters: The Function of Criticism at the Present Time'. Plenary presentation: "On Vernacular Styles of Critical Practice."
- January 2018 Book discussion on Kalpana Ram's *Fertile Disorder* at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi. Panelist.
- January 2018 National workshop on 'Development Beyond the State,' Anweshi Research Centre, Hyderabad. Chair and respondent.
- December 2017 International Conference on 'Comparison and Relation: Multilingual Literary Regions and Comparative Colonialisms,' organized by the School of Oriental and African Studies, London and Raza Foundation, Delhi. Title of paper: "Literary Neighbourhoods: The Proximate and the Distant in Malayalam Poetry."
- December 2017 International Winter School on 'Doing Cosmopolitanisms: Dynamics of Theory and Practice,' organized by the University of Posdam and the University of Delhi. Panel discussion on "Contesting Dominant Epistemologies."
- December 2017 National Conference on 'Theorizing Space,' organized by the Indian Institute of Space Technology, Trivandrum. Title of paper: "Spatialities of Power."
- October 2017 Three lectures at the Ecole Normale Superieure de Lyon. Topics: "Caste and the Present: Modernity, Modernism and Dalit Writing in India"; "Spectrality and the Narrative Voice: Reading C. Ayyappan"; "Death and Contemporary Political Imaginaries."
- September 2017 M. Muralidharan Memorial Lecture, School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam. Title: "Sovereignty and Democracy in Early Political Novels in Travancore".
- September 2017 Special Lecture at the Inter University Centre, MG University, Kottayam. Title: "Death, Agency and Political Imagination."
- September 2017 National seminar on 'Writing Lives: Identity, Textuality and Representation.' TM Jacob Memorial Government College, Koothattukulam. Plenary lecture on "Life Writing and the Limits of Narration."
- July 2017 Kerala Diamond Jubilee lecture at the Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation, Calicut. Title: "Sree Narayana Guru: Making and Unmaking Selves."
- March 2017 Workshop on Melancholy, Identity and Literature, Centre for English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Title of paper: "Melancholy and Some Questions of Agency."
- February 2017 M. A. Paramu Pillai Memorial Lecture, University College, Trivandrum. Title: "Texts and Textures: On Inner Histories of Literatures"
- February 2017 Workshop on 'Traces of the Global: Displacement, Memory and Cultural Citizenship.' Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Title of paper: "Life, Resistance and Resignation: Seleena Prakkanam's Testimonial Lessons"
- January 2017 Workshop on "Approaching Biographies, Life Histories and Self-Narratives: Transdisciplinary Perspectives from India and Europe", Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Study, New

- Delhi. Title of Paper: "Nation, Culture, Money: Reading P. Kelu Nair's Diary Entries"
- November 2016* Conference on "Human Sciences and the Future of the University," Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Hyderabad. Title of paper: "Humanities, Indian Campuses and the Art of Criticism."
- November 2016* Conference on "Vernacular Nation." Manipal Centre for Philosophy and Humanities. Title of paper: "Vernacular Memorising: Notes on Literature."
- November 2016* Ezhuthacchhan Lecture on the Foundation Day of Thunchathu Ezhuthacchhan Malayalam University, Tirur. Title: "Sahityavum Svatvavicharavum" (Literature and Considerations of Identity).
- October 2016* Sukumar Azhikode Memorial Lecture, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady. Title: "The Political Life of Spirits: Death and the Contemporary."
- July 2016* Lecture at Ideas in Progress, Trivandrum. Title: 'Jantusastravum Jeevitakhyavanavum: V P Shivakumarinte Neetikathasahityam" (Zoology and Life Narration: V P Shivakumar's Literature of Parables).
- March 2016* Presented a paper at the symposium on "Kamala Das and the Tradition of Bilingual Creativity" organized by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration with the University of Kerala in Thiruvananthapuram. Title of paper: "Choosing a Tongue, Choosing a Form: Kamala Das's Writing and the Parsing of Perception."
- February 2016* Lecture in the series on "German Intellectual Tradition: From Kant to Habermas", Goethe Institute/Max Mueller Bhavan: "Adorno: Culture Industry, the Commodity and the Aesthetic."
- January 2016* Elamkulam Kunjan Pillai Memorial Lecture, Kerala History Congress: "Literature, Publicness and a History of Subjectivities in Modern Kerala." Thiruvananthapuram.
- December 2015* Keynote address at the international workshop on "Narratives of Transformation: Language, Conversion and Indian Traditions of Autobiography", IIT Delhi: "Narratives of Transformation: Interiority and Publicness."
- September 2015* Professor Jaidev Memorial Lecture 2015 delivered at Gandhi Peace Foundation Auditorium, New Delhi. Title of lecture: "Literature and Its Publics: Notes on Early Twentieth Century Kerala."
- June 2015* Presented a paper at the International Deleuze Asia Conference, held at the Manipal Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences, Manipal University. Title of paper: "On Literary Sensation: Deleuze, Language and Vernacular Writing."
- March 2015* Presented a paper at a conference on "Kamala Das and the Tradition of Bilingual Creativity" organized by Sahitya Akademi at the University Institute of English, Thiruvananthapuram. Title of paper: "Choosing a Tongue, Choosing a Form: Kamala Das's Writings and the Parsing of Perception."
- March 2015* Seminar at Manipal Centre for Philosophy and Humanities, Manipal University. Title: "Historical Fiction and Questions of Sovereignty: Aesthetic Form and Memory Making in C. V. Raman Pillai's Writings."

- March 2015* Talk at a workshop on “Contemporary Marginalities: History, Knowledge, Theory,” organized by Indian Council of Social Science Research and Centre for Studies in Developing Societies, Delhi. Topic: “Language, Literature and Identity.”
- February 2015* Panelist at a workshop on the “Theory of the Novel” organized by the Department of English, Shiv Nadar University, Dadri.
- December 2014* Presented a paper at a workshop on “Indian Literature as Comparative Literature: Regional Modernisms and the Idea of Indian Literature” jointly organized by Rutgers University and the French Institute of Pondicherry. Title of paper: “Attoor Ravivarman and the Geographies of Modernist Poetry in Malayalam.”
- November 2014* Seminar at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Title: “Historical Fiction and Questions of Sovereignty: Aesthetic Form and Memory Making in Early Twentieth Century Travancore.”
- October 2014* “Alternative Spatialities: Vernacular Thought and Territorial Imagination in Twentieth Century Kerala,” Sociology Seminar Series, South Asia University, New Delhi.
- February 2014* Presented a paper at a national conference on “Understanding Emancipation Today: Theory, Philosophy and Politics,” organized by English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad and Indian Council of Philosophical Research. Title of paper: “No Alphabet in Sight and a Contemporary History of Writing.”
- February 2014* Presented a paper at a conference on “The Conceptual Worlds of Modern Indian Languages,” organized by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi. Title of paper: “Life and the Literary Subject: Literary Criticism in Malayalam in the 1930s.”
- January 2014* Delivered the Elamkulam Kunjan Pillai Memorial Lecture at the Kerala Council for Historical Research, Trivandrum. Title: “Speculative Histories and Conceptions of Justice: Dr. Palpu and the Genres of Petition Writing.”
- January 2014* Presented a paper at a conference on “Chattampi Swamikal and the Emergence of the Modern Malayali Self” organized by Sree Narayana Mandira Samiti, Mumbai. Title: “Chattampi Swamikal and the Trajectories of Vernacular Thought in Kerala.”
- September 2013* Presented a paper at a conference on “The Body: Concepts and Practice” organized by Natyasastra Rangapeetham, Kadampazhippuram, Kerala. Title of Paper: “Literature, Figurations of the Body and a History of Thought.”
- July 2013* Presented a paper at the third workshop on Metaphysics and Politics organized by the Backwater Collective at Kochi. Title of paper: “‘Dalit Atmiyata’: C. Ayyappan and Literature’s Footnotes for Life and Remembrance.’
- June 2013* Presented a paper at the workshop on Caste/Anticaste Thought, organized by Dr. Anupama Rao of New York University at Mumbai. Title of paper: ‘Petition as Historiography: Dr. Palpu, the Question of Caste, and Kerala’s Pasts.’
- May 2013* Seminar at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi. Title: ‘Petition as Historiography: Dr. Palpu and Kerala’s Pasts.’
- March 2013* Presented a paper at a national symposium on ‘Everyday Life’, Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod. Title of paper: “Literature and Everyday Life.”

- November 2012* Presented a paper at an international conference on 'Unveiling a Secret Agreement: Revisiting the Contours of English Studies' organized by English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. Title of paper: "English Literary Studies and the Sense of Borders."
- July 2012* Presented a paper at a conference on 'Metaphysics and Politics' organized by the Sree Narayana Guru Samiti. Title of paper: "Differences in Conversation: Ethics, History and the Community in Sree Narayana Guru and Dr. Palpu."
- June-July 2012* Three seminars at the Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Hyderabad. Titles of talks: "The Strange Homeliness of the Night: Spectral Speech and the Dalit Present in C. Ayyappan's Stories"; "Objects, Documents, Citations: Public Histories and Spatial Imaginaries in the Malayalam Novel"; and "Contextualizing Comparative Literature: Some Preliminary Reflections."
- February 2012* Presented a paper at the 40th World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology in a panel on "The Archive and Its Afterlives." Title of paper: "Reading the Braille of Annual Rings: The Multiple Archives of N. S. Madhavan."
- January 2012* Presented a paper in the workshop on "Love and Revolution", Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi. Title of Paper: "Impossible Inhabitations: Love and the Subject in C. Ayyappan's Stories."
- December 2011* Delivered the R. Narendra Prasad Memorial Lecture at the School of Letters, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam. Title of Lecture: Visadeekaranakkurippukalkkoru Vyaakaranam: C. Ayyappante Raappakalukal." [A Grammar for Explanatory Notes: The Nights and Days of C. Ayyappan].
- October 2011* Conference on "Many Worlds of Rabindranath Tagore," Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago. Title of Paper: "Conditions of Reception: Rabindranath Tagore in Kerala."
- October 2011* Talk at the Institute of Public Knowledge, New York University. Title of Talk: "The Strange Homeliness of the Night: Spectral Speech and the Dalit Present in C. Ayyappan's Stories."
- October 2011* 40th Annual Conference on South Asia at Madison, Wisconsin. Title of Paper: "Personal and Public Histories: Nehru and His Vernacular Successors."
- October 2011* Delivered the Chattampi Swamikal Memorial Lecture at the School of Renaissance Studies, Sri Sankara Sanskrit University, Kalady. Title of Lecture: "Configuring the Past: Some Idioms of Cultural Memory in Early Twentieth Century Kerala"
- September 2011* Workshop on Conceptual History, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi. Title of presentation: "Conceptions of the Public in Early Twentieth Century Kerala: Some Preliminary Reflections."
- February 2011* International Conference on "Postfeminist Postmortems?: Gender, Sexualities and Multiple Modernities." Title of Paper: "Spectral Transactions: Memory and Masculinity in C. Ayyappan's World."
- February 2011* Delivered the Fifth P. K. Rajan Memorial Lecture at the University

- of Kerala. Title of Lecture: "Life Writing, Stylization and Questions of History."
- February 2011* Conference on "Translating Cultures" organized by the School of Translation Studies and Training, Indira Gandhi National Open University. Title of paper: "Translation and the Shaping of Literary Publicness in Kerala."
- November 2010* Delivered the Aparna Baruah Memorial Lecture at Gauhati University. Title of lecture: "Literature and Identity."
- November 2010* Twelfth Annual Conference of the Modern Studies Association on "Modernist Networks", held at Victoria, Canada. Participated in Plenary Roundtable on "How is modernism Global?"
- December 2010* International workshop on "Subalterns and Dalits in the work of Antonio Gramsci and B. R. Ambedkar", School of Oriental and African Studies, London. Title of Paper: "Consciousness, Agency and Humiliation: Reflections on Dalit Writing and Subalternity."
- June 2010* Seminar at the Department of English and Related Literatures, University of York, United Kingdom. Title of Paper: "Autobiography and the Postcolonial: An Indian Postscript."
- May 2010* Seminar at Lincoln School of Humanities and Performing Arts, University of Lincoln, United Kingdom. Title of paper: "Disciplining Taste: Drama and the Literary Field in Nineteenth-Century Kerala."
- March 2010* National Conference on "Power in Modern India: Discourses and Practices." Title of Paper: "Communities and Publics: Ramakrishna Pillai's Addressees and the Question of Genre."
- March 2010* National Conference on "History, Memory, Literature: Some Indian Contexts," Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat. Title of paper: "Autobiography and Historiography: Personal Narration and Public Memory."
- March 2010* National Conference on "Devotion and Dissent in Indian History", Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Title of paper: "Sree Narayna Guru and the Idioms of the Spiritual."
- February 2010* National Conference on "Constructions of the Self: Theories, Contexts, Practices", organized by Hansraj College, New Delhi. Title of paper: "The Address of the I: The Public Calling of Self-articulation."
- February 2010* Cultural Studies Workshop on "The Sacred in Contemporary Culture" organized by Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta at Santiniketan. Theme of presentation: "The Body, Ritual and the Religious."
- January 2010* National Conference on "Theorizing the Body: Problems and Perspectives", Department of Philosophy, University of Calicut. Title of Paper: "Norms, Styles and Subjects: Reflections on a Postcolonial History of the Body."
- April-May 2009* Leverhulme Lectures at the School of English, Newcastle University. Five lectures on "Indian Modernity and Its Autobiographical Imaginaries."
- March 2009* Seminar at the School of English, Newcastle University. Title of Paper: "Norms and Styles: Scenes from a Postcolonial History of

- the Body.”
- March 2009* Paper at the Annual Conference of the British Association of South Asian Studies, University of Edinburgh, 31 March to 1 April 2009, as part of the British Academy Peridocctoral Workshop on Literature. Title of Paper: “Indian Literature in the English Classroom: Reflections from India.”
- February 2009* G. C. Bannerjee Memorial Lecture at Mumbai University. Title: “Writing Lives, Writing the Past: Personal Narratives and Embodied Histories.”
- November 2008* Twentieth Annual Conference of the International Association of the Historians of Asia, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Presented a paper on “The Image Work of Life Writing: On P. Kunjiraman Nair’s Visible Signatures”, in the panel on “Gender Discourse in Asian History: Imaging Masculinity and Femininity.”
- May 2008* National Conference on “Doing History Beyond the Discipline”, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam. Title of paper: ‘Beyond Life Writing: Cultural History and the Study of Lives’.
- February 2008* National Conference on “Life Writing and Self-Fashioning in India:Forms of Revision and Recovery”, Tezpur University, Tezpur. Keynote address: ‘Reading Life: Biographies, Autobiographies and Lives as Objects of Study’.
- February 2008* Cultural Studies Workshop on “Culture and Economic Life” organized by Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta at Hyderabad. Theme of presentation: ‘Cultural Production and Consumption.’
- December 2007* National conference on “Literature as Knowledge System” organized by the Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. Title of paper: ‘Literary Texts and the Domain of Practices: Some Questions of Knowledge and Agency.’
- October 2007* UGC Visiting Fellow to the Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad. Titles of lectures and seminars: “Postmodernism, Post-structuralism and the Critique of the Enlightenment”, “Autobiography as a Way of Writing History: Personal Narratives from Kerala and the Inhabitation of Modernity”, “Cultural Studies and the Question of the Real”, “Sree Narayana Guru and Questions of the Body.”
- May 2007* International Conference on “Political and Cultural Institutions of Development: Reflections and New Research Directions in Africa and Asia” organized by ENRECA at Kampala, Uganda. Title of presentation: ‘Literature, Communities and the Domain of Everyday Life: Some Observations on Life Narratives and the Partition of the Sensible.’
- April 2007* National Conference on “Understanding Religious Practices: Beyond a Philosophy of Religion”, organized by the Department of Philosophy, Sree Sankara University of Sanskrit, Kalady. Title of paper: ‘Subject of Religion: Some Contemporary Issues in Theorizing Practices’.
- March 2007* Talk organized by the Centre of English Studies and the Centre of Linguistics, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Title: ‘Early Literary Histories in Kerala and the Normative Uses of the Past.’
- March 2007* International Conference on “Nationalism, Transnationalism and

- Literature", organized by the Department of English, Calcutta University. Title of Paper: 'Regional Novels in Malayalam and the Nation Space'.
- January 2007* Cultural Studies Workshop on "Political Cultures" organized by Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta at Hyderabad. Theme of presentation: 'Styles of Political Practice.'
- September 2006* International Conference on "Nationalist Ideology and the Historiography of Literature in South Asia", organized by the Institute of Indology and South Asian Studies, Halle University, Halle. Title of Paper: 'Literary Histories in Context: Communities, Identities and the Shaping of Literary Space in Kerala'.
- April 2006* National Conference on "Theory in the Indian Context: Generating New Dynamics," organized by the Department of English, Tezpur University. Presented a plenary address on 'New Concerns in Literary Studies in India and the Critical Uses of Theory'.
- March 2006* National Conference on "The Idea of the Public Sphere: The Fate of a Philosophical Concept in the Age of Globalization", Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. Presented a paper on 'Community, State and the Domain of Writing: On K. Ramakrishna Pillai's Ideas of Publicity'.
- February 2006* National Conference on "Theorizing the Region: Configurations, Alliances, Contestations," organized by the Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Hyderabad. Presented a paper on 'Shaping a Literary Region: Malayalam Literature and Questions of Identity'.
- January 2006* Cultural Studies Workshop on "Cultures of the Body," organized by Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta at Goa. Theme of presentation: 'Discourses on the Body: Judith Butler's "Gender Regulations".'

Positions held

- 2019-21 External Member, Board of Studies, English and Foreign Language University, Hyderabad.
- 2017-19 Chairperson, Centre for English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- 2017-19 External Member, Departmental Committee, Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Hyderabad.
- 2011-16 Member, Editorial Advisory Board, *Routledge Online Encyclopedia of Modernism*.
- 2015- External Member, Board of Studies, Manipal Center for Philosophy and Humanities, Manipal University.
- 2015-17 External Member, Board of Studies, Department of English, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.
- 2012-15 External Member, Board of Studies, School of Languages, Literature and Cultural Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- 2012-15 External Member, Board of Studies, School of Liberal Studies, Ambedkar University, Delhi.
- 2009-10 Leverhulme Visiting Professor, School of English, Newcastle University, United Kingdom.

- 2009-11 Member, Leverhulme Research Network on Postcolonial Translation.
- 2009-12 External Member, Board of Studies, Department of English, Jamia Millia University, New Delhi.
- 2006-09 External Member, Board of Studies, Diploma Programme, Attakkalari Centre for Performing Arts, Bangalore.
- 2007 UGC Visiting Fellow at the Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad.
- 1999, 2002-9 Faculty at the Culture Studies Workshop organized by The Centre for the Study of Social Sciences, Calcutta.
- 1999 Course-in-charge, UGC Refresher Course on 'Literary Theory and the Teaching of Literature', Centre for Professional Development in Higher Education, University of Delhi, 3-23 December 1999.
- 1998-99 Visiting Faculty at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad.
- 1997 UGC Visiting Fellow at the Department of English, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.
- 1996-99 Member, Editorial board of *Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences*, journal published by the Inter-University Centre in Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla.
- 1995-97 Editor, *Summerhill Review*, a biannual review published by Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla.

Awards

- 2017 Visiting Professor at the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France.
- 2009-10 Leverhulme Visiting Professor, University of Newcastle, United Kingdom.
- 2012-14 Senior Fellowship at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi.
- 2005 Social Sciences Research Council Fellowship (declined).
- 1995-7 Fellowship at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla.
- 1986-88 North Senior Scholarship awarded by St. John's College, Oxford.
- 1984-86 Inlaks Scholarship awarded annually to twelve Indian students for post-graduate study abroad by the Inlaks Foundation, London.

Entry in Directories

Entry in *Contemporary Authors*, vol. 142.