



**PG & RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
PROVIDENCE WOMEN'S COLLEGE
(AUTONOMOUS)
KOZHIKODE**

 **13** FEB
2026

CON-TEXTS 2026 NATIONAL SEMINAR

CONTOURS OF MEMORY:
EMERGING TRAJECTORIES
IN MEMORY STUDIES

Keynote Address



VENUE

CARMEL HALL
(HYBRID)
STARTS AT 10.00 AM

DR. AVISHEK PARUI
Associate Professor (English)
Dept. of Humanities & Social Sciences
IIT Madras

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Postgraduate and Research Department of English, Providence Women's College (autonomous), has been actively engaging in curricular, co-curricular and extension activities, expressing its commitment to the goal of empowerment. The department has also been involved in organising fruitful academic discussions by bringing together eminent literary personalities, scholars and researchers belonging to various disciplines. The seminars, workshops and other discussions hosted by the department, endeavour to instill a keen critical insight and to engender new perspectives about literature and its different ramifications.

CONCEPT NOTE

Memory Studies has developed into a vibrant and interdisciplinary area within the humanities and social sciences. It provides strong frameworks for understanding how individuals and communities remember, forget, reconstruct, and narrate the past. In a world marked by rapid technological change, political instability, cultural shifts, and emerging ways of information dissemination, memory has become a contested space. It is where identities are negotiated, histories are rewritten, and futures are imagined.

At its core, Memory Studies examines the complex interplay between lived experiences and their representation in different cultural forms. Early theorists like Maurice Halbwachs established the idea of collective memory, while Pierre Nora introduced the concept of *lieux de mémoire*, highlighting the symbolic anchors of cultural remembrance. Later scholars such as Jan and Aleida Assmann, Marianne Hirsch, Paul Connerton, and Michael Rothberg broadened the field by expanding concepts like cultural memory, postmemory, embodied memory, and multidirectional memory, thereby revealing memory's fluid, constructed, and often political nature.

In recent decades, the field has experienced significant shifts, including the affective, digital, material, and transnational turns. These changes have altered its methods and concepts. Digital archives, algorithmic platforms, virtual reconstructions, and social media narratives are transforming how memory is stored, shared, and debated. At the same time, the rise of trauma studies, migration studies, indigenous knowledge, ecocritical memory, and decolonial approaches shows how new pathways continue redefining what memory is and whose memories matter. These new directions emphasize memory as a key area for discussing power, justice, belonging, and cultural continuity.

The National Seminar, “Contours of Memory: Emerging Trajectories in Memory Studies,” aims to foster an interdisciplinary dialogue among scholars, researchers, artists, archivists, and students. It explores memory’s creation, transmission, experience, and transformation across cultural, social, and technological contexts, bridging literature, film, performance, oral histories, digital cultures, visual arts, and public spaces to illuminate continuities and ruptures in contemporary practices.

By encouraging innovative methodologies and critical perspectives, this seminar aims to broaden the landscape of Memory Studies within Indian and international academia. It invites participants to reflect on how remembering and forgetting serve as cultural acts that shape collective identities, maintain historical awareness, and allow communities to envision alternative futures.

THRUST AREAS

- Collective Memory & Cultural Identity
- Memory, Trauma & Healing
- Memory in Film & Visual Culture
- Digital Memory & Social Media
- Memory, History & the Archive
- Memory, Space & Place
- Memory & Narrative Techniques
- Memory, Gender & the Body
- Memory, Politics & Power
- Ecological Memory & Environmental Humanities
- Memory in Popular Culture
- Memory, Technology & AI
- Memory & Performance



ABOUT THE RESOURCE PERSON

Dr. Avishek Parui is an accomplished scholar of English Studies and a leading voice in the field of Memory Studies. He received his PhD from Durham University, UK, under the supervision of Professors Patricia Waugh and John Nash, and later served as a postdoctoral tutor there. He began his academic career as an Assistant Professor at IIT Guwahati before joining IIT Madras, where he is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. In addition to his teaching and research, he is an Associate Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy and serves as the Faculty Coordinator of the Centre for Memory Studies at IIT Madras. He is also the Founding Chairperson of the Indian Network for Memory Studies (INMS) and a member of the Advisory Board of the Memory Studies Association (MSA).

SUBMISSION EMAIL ID

contextsseminar@gmail.com

REGISTRATION LINK

<https://forms.gle/cBGhwtmRo7HTmigR6>



ACCOUNT DETAILS

NAME: DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
PROVIDENCE WOMENS COLLEGE
ACC NO: 22900200004252
IFSC: FDRL0002290
Federal Bank, Malaparamba

REGISTRATION FEES

Participation

Students	Rs. 300
Research Scholars	Rs. 350
Faculty	Rs. 550
International	\$25

Presentation

Students	Rs. 350
Research Scholars	Rs. 550
Faculty	Rs. 800
International	\$30

*Outstation participants are eligible for online presentation mode.

*Lunch will be provided for all registered attendees.

IMPORTANT DATES

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25 DEC, 2025	30 DEC, 2025	30 JAN, 2026	05 FEB, 2026
Abstract submission deadline	Acceptance notification	Full paper submission	Registration deadline

Select papers will be published after peer review in the department journal, *Diotima's: A Journal of New Readings*, (ISSN: 2319-4189) 2026 issue.

STAFF COORDINATOR

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