

Reflection on Participating in "World Making Words" Workshop 2

My name is Navin Sharma, and I am a UGC/NET Senior Research Fellow (PhD Scholar) at the Indian Institute of Technology Patna. I had the privilege of receiving the AHRC World Making Words Research Network Postgraduate Researcher Travel Bursary, which enabled me to participate in *Workshop 2: G/local Culture, Rights, Development, Activism, Technologies* held on Wednesday, 27 November 2024, in Trivandrum, Kerala.

Attending the workshop in Trivandrum was a deeply enriching experience that profoundly influenced my approach to exploring narratives of domestic violence at the intersection of local and global epistemic frameworks. The workshop's interdisciplinary focus on women's literary agency, activism, and technological innovations in South Asia provided a fertile ground for rethinking the intersections of gender, culture, and creativity within postcolonial narratives.

The discussion on *Priya's Shakti*, an augmented reality graphic novel, showcased the powerful fusion of traditional storytelling with advanced technology to address gender inequality. The interactive format, enriched by Ruchira Gupta's in-person participation, made the session more impactful and insightful. It highlighted the transformative potential of new media in amplifying voices and reimagining social advocacy. This experience offered me valuable perspectives to integrate into my analysis of visual storytelling in films.

Engaging with esteemed contributors from diverse fields—from publishing to activism—such as respected Ruchira Gupta, Dr Madeline Clements, Professor Meena T. Pillai, and professors and research scholars at the event, broadened my perspective on the collaborative possibilities between academia and cultural industries. The dialogues on glocality, particularly regarding the negotiation of local and global influences on women's rights and representation, resonated deeply with my thesis on "Feminist Jurisprudence vis-à-vis Domestic Violence in Select *Law Films* in India (1996-2022)". These discussions reaffirmed the need to frame domestic violence not just as a cultural or legal issue but as a glocal phenomenon that embodies ideological, socio-economic, and artistic dimensions.

Writing for the workshop's blog was an opportunity to consolidate these insights and reflect critically on how this event recalibrated my research trajectory. It also allowed me to connect my academic pursuits to the larger discourse on gender equality in South Asia. This experience underscored the transformative potential of interdisciplinary collaboration, reinforcing my commitment to integrating innovative methodologies into my work.

Attending this workshop was not just a scholarly endeavour but also a profound reminder of the power of storytelling—across mediums, disciplines, and borders—to inspire change.