

## PREFACE TO THE EDITION

It is with great pleasure that we present the inaugural issue of the *Peer-Reviewed Journal of Arts and Literature (PRJAL)*. Conceived as a multidisciplinary platform, PRJAL is committed to fostering rigorous scholarship that bridges literature, history, philosophy, cultural studies, and the social sciences. This first issue reflects our vision of engaging critically with both classical traditions and contemporary transformations shaping human thought, creativity, and society.

The articles in this volume collectively explore the dynamic interplay between tradition and modernity, material history and digital futures, individual experience and global structures. A central theme emerging from this issue is the transformative impact of technology—both as a medium of artistic expression and as a force reshaping cultural production. The study on **digital storytelling in Indian literature** examines how online platforms have expanded narrative possibilities while reconfiguring author–reader relationships. By situating digital literary practices within postcolonial and global frameworks, the article highlights how Indian writers negotiate technological innovation alongside indigenous aesthetic traditions.

Questions of authenticity and originality in the technological era are further examined in the philosophical inquiry into **authenticity in the digital age**. Engaging with classical aesthetic theory and contemporary debates on AI-generated art, the article reconceptualizes authenticity as a relational and contextual construct. This contribution offers timely reflections on authorship, creativity, and the evolving ontology of art in digitally mediated environments.

Balancing these contemporary concerns, the issue also revisits historical processes that shaped global cultural and economic exchanges. The article on **Mughal trade policies and global economic impact** provides a compelling reassessment of early modern globalization, demonstrating the active role of the Mughal Empire in structuring transcontinental commerce. By foregrounding non-European agency, the study contributes meaningfully to global historiography and postcolonial scholarship.

Expanding the journal’s interdisciplinary scope, the analysis of **disaster risk reduction in flood-prone urban areas** addresses urgent environmental challenges through integrated approaches that combine governance reform, community engagement, and sustainable infrastructure. This work underscores the role of humanities and social sciences scholarship in informing policy and public discourse on climate resilience.

Finally, the theoretical review on **childhood trauma and adult relationship patterns** brings psychological and relational perspectives into conversation with broader cultural inquiry. By examining the long-term effects of early adversity on attachment and interpersonal dynamics, the article offers valuable insights for both theoretical scholarship and applied practice.

Taken together, the contributions in this inaugural issue exemplify PRJAL’s commitment to intellectual diversity, methodological rigor, and critical engagement. They traverse digital humanities, historiography, environmental studies, aesthetics, and psychological theory, demonstrating the expansive scope of arts and literature scholarship in addressing complex contemporary realities.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the authors, reviewers, and editorial team whose dedication has made this first issue possible. It is our hope that PRJAL will serve as a vibrant forum for scholarly dialogue and creative inquiry, advancing research that deepens our understanding of culture, history, and human experience.

Dr. Sinitha Xavier

Chief Editor

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