

KRISHNA KHARWAR

UGC-NET | JRF (UGC) | PhD Researcher in New Media | Journalism, Film & Media Studies

Central University of Himachal Pradesh

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ResearchGate: [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Krishna-Kharwar?ev=prf_overview]\

ACADEMIC PROFILE

A doctoral researcher and UGC Senior Research Fellow in Journalism and Media Studies, my research focuses on queer representation in Indian cinema, examining identity, authorship, and visual culture in films by Indian queer filmmakers. I also work in climate change communication, exploring film and media as tools for environmental education and public engagement, particularly in the Himalayan context. Experienced in qualitative research, systematic reviews, and interdisciplinary film and media analysis. Seeking to contribute to scholarly publishing through high-quality peer review and editorial service in film and screen studies.

HONOURS & AWARDS

- Senior Research Fellowship (SRF), University Grants Commission (UGC), Government of India — National merit-based doctoral fellowship (Ongoing)
 - Best Scholar Award, Central University of Himachal Pradesh (January 2026)
 - Gold Medal (Department Topper), M.A. in New Media, Central University of Himachal Pradesh
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EDUCATION

PhD in New Media (Pre-submission Completed)

Central University of Himachal Pradesh

M.A. in New Media (2018–2020)

Central University of Himachal Pradesh

B.A. (Hons.) Journalism (2015–2018)

University of Delhi

CURRENT POSITION

Senior Research Fellow (SRF)

HSHEC-Sponsored Research Project, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication,
Central University of Haryana, Mahendergarh, Haryana (September 2026–Present)

RESEARCH AREAS

- South Asian Cinema and Film Studies
 - Queer Cinema and Gender Representation
 - Media, Culture and Identity
 - Environmental and Climate Change Communication
 - Cultural and Intersectional Analysis
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PUBLICATIONS

Published (Peer-Reviewed Journals)

- Kharwar, K. (2024). *Participatory Communication for Environmental Conservation: A Case Study of 'Dhauladhar Cleaners' in Himachal Pradesh*. **International Journal of Environment and Climate Change**.
- Kharwar, K. (2024). *Unveiling Queer Cinema Realities: Challenges Faced by Queer Filmmakers in Production and Distribution*. **IIMC Communicator**.
- Kharwar, K. (2025). *Desire Without Confession: Queer Silence and Rural Intimacy in U for Usha*. **Journal of Homosexuality**.
- *Films as a Tool for Climate Education: A Quasi-Experimental Intervention Study among Middle School Children in the Indian Himalayan Region*. **Australian Journal of Environmental Education**.
- *Out-of-pocket Expenditure on Medicine for Chronic Patients and its Economic Impact on Indian Households: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis* in **Frontiers in Medicine**

- **RESEARCH LEADERSHIP & ACADEMIC SERVICE**

Head, Climate Change Communication Lab, BCC Policy Lab

- Leading research initiatives on media-based climate education and behavioural communication
 - Integrating film pedagogy with environmental awareness and community engagement
- **Editorial Board Member, CINEJ Cinema Journal**
 - **Peer Reviewer, CINEJ Cinema Journal**
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ACADEMIC & INSTITUTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- Certificate of Appreciation, Central University of Himachal Pradesh (2026) — Recognized for voluntary academic and institutional support to the Public Relations Department, including communication support, media coordination, documentation, content assistance, and outreach activities.
- Certificate of Appreciation, Central University of Himachal Pradesh (2024) — Recognized for voluntary academic and creative support for Yuva Sangam Phase IV (CUHP–Odisha), including public relations support, media coordination, documentary preparation, photography, videography, content development, and report compilation.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Instructor (Course Instructor), *Introduction to Film Studies***
M.A. Programme, Department of New Media, Central University of Himachal Pradesh

Taught core concepts in film form and theory, cinematic history, genre, narrative analysis, and visual culture; designed lectures, guided discussions, and evaluated student assignments.
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FUNDED PROJECTS & INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Design Contributor – *Voices of the Marginalized in the Climate Change Crises – Towards Equitable Climate Futures?***
COST Action SHiFT (CA21166), European Cooperation in Science and Technology

(COST)

Publisher: FCSH, Nova University Lisbon, Portugal (2025)

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

- Presented paper titled “*Queer Desire, Family, and Futurity in Cobalt Blue (2022)*” at the 6th International E-Conference *Imagining Futures: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Humanity, Crisis, and Change*, organized by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University in collaboration with University of Rome Tor Vergata (2025).
 - Queer Sensation and Intersectional Queer Reading: A Case Study of Thiagarajan Kumararaja’s *Super Deluxe* (2019), presented at the 5th International E-Conference: Bridging Realms – Exploring Intersections in Humanities and Social Sciences, organized by *New Literaria* in collaboration with the Department of History, Humanities and Society, University of Rome Tor Vergata and the Department of English, Central University of Karnataka.
 - Unveiling Queer Realities: Navigating Sociocultural Barriers in Queer Cinema, presented at the Two-Day International Conference on Gender Studies (ICGS), organized by the School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Management, National Institute of Technology Karnataka.
 - Participatory Communication for Environment Conservation, presented at the International Conference on Tourism, Business Management, Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities (ICTBSSH), organized by Government Degree College Dharamshala.
 - From Tradition to Transformation: A Journey of Empowerment through the Lens of Film *Laapataa Ladies*, presented at the National Seminar on Indian Cinema, Society and Women’s Crime Consciousness (Cinema in the OTT Era).
 - The Role of Himachali Queer Foundation in Combating Gender-Based Violence, presented at the National Seminar on Gender-Based Crime and Women Police Station, organized by the Department of Social Work, Central University of Himachal Pradesh.
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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Open Online Course on Gender and Environment (2026) – Certification by UNITAR and UN CC:Learn (with UNDP/GEF); training in gender-sensitive approaches to climate change, environmental policy, and sustainable development frameworks.

MOOD for Climate Action Programme (2026) – Fully funded international programme by Learning Planet Institute; training in climate communication, interdisciplinary collaboration, and project-based climate action.

ICSSR Research Methodology Programme – Advanced training in social science research methods, research design, and academic writing.

Elsevier Researcher Academy – Certification in academic writing, journal publication strategies, and research dissemination.

Wiley Researcher Academy – Certification in peer review processes, publication ethics, and manuscript evaluation.

Climate Change Media Masterclass – DCU Institute for Climate & Society; training in climate communication and media engagement strategies.

Fundamentals of Film Direction (2023) – Certification by Film and Television Institute of India; training in visual storytelling, mise-en-scène, and cinematic techniques.

Youth Leaders for Peace Fellowship- by White Dot Solidarity Network, funded by European Union

EXPERIENCE

Designation:

Journalist (Stringer)

Organization:

Himachal Reporter & HR Media Group

Nature of Work:

Reporting, Content Creation, Field Coverage, Interviews and Investigative Journalism

Period:

September 2020 – May 2025

MEDIA & CONTENT CREATION EXPERIENCE

- Documentary Production: Produced a documentary for Ashray Foundation in collaboration with SBI and HDFC.
 - Yuva Sangam Phase IV, CUHP (2024): Contributed to documentary preparation, photography, videography, media coordination, content development, and report compilation.
 - Social Media Content Production – Harshil Thakur (Food Vlogger): Produced and edited food-related digital content, including photography, videography, cinematography, and short-form social-media videos.
 - Podcast Production – University Outreach: Produced podcasts for the University Outreach programme, telecast on Doordarshan Shimla, including content preparation, recording, and editing.
 - Website Development: Developed and managed the BCC Policy Lab website, affiliated with Central University of Himachal Pradesh.
 - Digital Media Production: Experience in animation, video editing, visual storytelling, and digital communication.
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RESEARCH METHODS & EXPERTISE

- Qualitative research and thematic analysis
 - Intersectional and cultural analysis
 - PRISMA-informed systematic reviews
 - Environmental and climate communication research
 - Media, film, and representation studies
 - Quantitative research
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ACADEMIC AFFILIATION

Doctoral Researcher

Department of New Media

Central University of Himachal Pradesh