

Dr. Boopathi Palanisamy

## **Uncovering Posthuman Interdependence: Accessible Computing and Transformative Potential of Artificial Intelligence**

### **Abstract**

This lecture will situate the idea of accessible computing and transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in the digital and technology driven world of posthumanism for people with disabilities in particular and people with able-bodied condition in general. It will start by engaging with the life condition of posthumanism and its intricate entanglement with technology and non-human objects in our daily lives. The inexorable space of posthumanism that we inhabit in our everyday activities by getting our tasks done through AI, digital devices and technology, arguably, makes us ponder about the interdependent nature of human beings. With the arrival of assistive technology and screen-readers in the late 1990s onwards, people with disabilities began relying on computer technologies for their everyday life, education, employment, etc. This lecture will delineate how the rapid development in assistive technology has led to the idea of accessible computing, a phrase became very popular globally since the last decade in the context of disability inclusion. Further, it will also discuss the role of AI and its transformative potential in the contemporary times, exemplifying its indispensable place in all walks of lives. While highlighting several transformative potentials of AI, it will shed light on the counter effect it is bound to have in lifestyle, education, employment, research, etc. in the future. The lecture will end by throwing light on how accessible computing and AI contribute to posthuman condition of interdependence in the lives of both disabled and able-bodied people.

### **Short-bio**

Dr. Boopathi Palanisamy is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English Studies at the Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvavur, India. He teaches and researches Refugee Literature, Life Writing Studies, Literary and Cultural Disability Studies, and Cultural Studies. He taught at Aligarh Muslim University, India for three years prior to his appointment at CUTN. He holds doctoral degree from The English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad, India in the discipline of English Literature. His articles have appeared in journals such as Life Writing, Biography, Comedy Studies, Peace Review, IAFOR Journal of Cultural Studies and Literature and Aesthetics, and he has contributed chapters to edited volumes published by Routledge and Peter Lang, among others. Dr. Boopathi has been funded by the New Literary Observer, Moscow, the European University in St. Petersburg, and the German Historical Institute, Warsaw, Poland, to present his research papers at their conferences. He is the coordinator of Enabling Unit for Persons with Disabilities at his university and has established well-equipped Assistive Technology Center in the university library. He has widely lectured upon invitation in various universities and colleges in India and abroad in the areas of Disability Studies and Refugee Literature.