



CWS



ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमुक्तये
UGC

University Grants Commission

Two-Day UGC Sponsored National Seminar
on

Counter-Cultures of Indian Women:

*From Myth
to
Contemporary Representations*



March 18-19, 2019

Organized by
Southfield College, Darjeeling

in Collaboration with
The Centre for Women's Studies,
University of North Bengal

Venue: Damien Hall,
Southfield College, Darjeeling

Concept Note

In recent years with the emergence of a set of theoretical, cultural and political factors, the concepts of gender, womanhood and identity, based on territorial / terrestrial / textual imagination, have been critically examined. This is a world-wide phenomenon that impacts on our understanding of what has been regarded as Feminist Enquiry of knowledge and society.

The image of traditional 'mainstream' Indian woman is the consequence of the patriarchal domination, rendering 'ideal' Indian women as agents of patriarchy and creating constraints in their attempts to evolve as liberated women of agencies. The stereotyped image has been prescribed by only cherry picking from the 'Great Tradition' that is full of women who were glorified only to be beguiled and utilized. The traditions that are tagged as 'Little' or even the belittled women icons of the 'Great Tradition' need to be revisited to convey a holistic picture of the counter-cultures of Indian Women as ones who have made significant contributions and raised their voices in order to assert their rights. In times like ours when any deviation from the codified 'mainstream' feminine morality is perceived as Western or non-Indian, the plethora of janajati cultures of India as well as the diverse folk traditions of India need to be revisited in order to counter-narrate the dissident femininity as manifested through the alternative treatment of womanhood in these counter-cultures. Moreover, the resistance offered by the women of sexual minority, feminist media and gender activists has to be endorsed in order to fight against the schemas that have been targeted to turn women into mere docile bodies.

In this seminar we want to ask the following questions: How can the alternative models to counter the 'mainstream' morality associated with women be traced by revisiting Subcultures of Feminist Resistance in India? What are the contributions of women in the arena of indigenous knowledge? How do folk traditions offer models of dissidence against taboos and restrictions imposed on women? Is there a genealogy of Indian feminist theology based on the women mystics' contemplation on feminine desire, experience and transcendence? What are the ways by which one can affirm that India has always been inclusive in its attitude towards women of nonconformist sexuality and what are the provisions that one need to provide them in the post Supreme Court verdict related to article 377 of Indian Constitution? What portrayals of empowered women can one come across in contemporary and historical representation of women?

Papers are invited for presentation, related to any of the following suggested themes:

Indian Women and Indigeneity: Women and indigenous knowledge; Alternative images of Ethnic women; Indigenous Feminism in Indian Context

Women and Indian Folk traditions: Folk music, Folkdance, Folk celebrations in rural India as modes of women's empowerment; Feminist Folklores

Indian Feminist Theology: Reconsidering the perspectives of the women Indian mystics and tracing their deviances from the male counterpart

Indian Women and Nonconformist Desire and Sexuality: The narratives and representations of the non hetero-normative women; women stepping into the 'tabooed' zones and challenging the biased prohibitions of desires and conducts

Subcultures of Feminist Resistance in India: Re-visiting history, myth, political resistance, educational and socio-cultural reforms, economic enterprises; women and science; women dissenters in Indian intellectual traditions

Representing the Counter-cultures of Indian Women: Portrayal of the dissident women in literature, cinema, forms of art and architecture, advertisements, fashion, photography etc.; re-writing of myths and unrecorded history to voice resistance, personal narratives of protest; feminist activism, movements and social media.

Contested Geographies and Indian Women: Atypical Women and Public Space; women and their narrative histories related to old-age homes, camps, sanitariums, prisons, red light areas, bars etc.



Call for Paper

Scholars and faculties who are interested in presenting papers should send an abstract of the proposed paper [within 500 words] along with a short C.V. [around 200 words] to **wstudseminar2019@gmail.com** with a copy to **beethicws@yahoo.co.in**

The last date for submission of abstract is Feb 26, 2019. Only those whose abstracts are selected by an Expert Committee will be intimated for a traditional paper-reading session by Feb 28, 2019. The full paper should be mailed by March 15, 2019.

Important Dates:

Last Date for Submission of Abstract:

February 26, 2019

Communication of Acceptance:

February 28, 2019

Last Date for Submission of Full Paper:

March 15, 2018

Registration Fee for the Participants:

Faculty: 1500 INR

Research Scholars: 800 INR

The organizers will provide the seminar kit, lunch for both the days and refreshments to the participants. However, T.A. or accommodation cannot be provided.



Organizing Committee

Chief Patron: *Dr. Subires Bhattacharyya*,
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University of
North Bengal

Patron: *Dr. Anuradha Rai*,
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