



INDIAN FEMINISMS: CONCEPTS AND ISSUES

PROF. ANANDITA PAN

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
IISER Bhopal

INTENDED AUDIENCE : Students across various disciplines from Literature, Sociology, Women's studies and Gender studies doing either their Bachelor's or Master's, and even PhD, will benefit from this course.

COURSE OUTLINE :

This course aims to engage with the multiple constructions of 'women' through history especially with the intention to enhance the concepts pertaining to gender and sexualities in the Indian context. The questions that this course deals with are: How is the category, 'woman,' conceptualized in India? What are the specific impacts/consequences of gender and sexuality in India? What issues/frameworks become important in the articulations by Indian feminisms? The areas that this course explores are broadly: construction of the Indian womanhood; intersecting structures of gender, caste, class, religion, and sexuality; body and violence; evolution of 'gender' and 'sexuality' through history; contemporary ruminations. This course intends to identify Indian feminism not as a monolithic homogeneous narrative, but as one rooted in different epistemic practices. As such this course is premised on the notion of particularity rather than universalism. In the process, this course will analyse how the notions of patriarchy as constituted of gender binarism, has come to be challenged through the intersectional lenses of class, religion, sexuality and so on.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :

Prof. Anandita Pan is an Assistant Professor of English at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IISER Bhopal. researches and publishes in the areas of Feminist theory, Gender studies, Dalit feminism, Dalit studies, Bengal Partition. She has published in journals such as Economic and Political Weekly, South Asian Review, Indian Journal of Gender Studies, Contemporary South Asia, Contemporary Voice of Dalit. Her book, Mapping Dalit Feminism: Towards an Intersectional Standpoint (Sage-Stree, 2020) explores the ways in which different forms of discrimination combine and overlap, challenging the apparent homogeneity of the categories, 'woman' and 'Dalit' as seen by mainstream Indian Feminism and Dalit Politics. It discusses at length the contributions of an intersectional standpoint in re-orienting the existing epistemological frameworks of caste and gender.

COURSE PLAN :

Week 1: Indian Feminism: A Historical Overview

Week 2: Nation and its Women

Week 3: Violence and its After-Effects

Week 4: Labour and Identity