

Nation and Culture



KID: 20240206

I have been working on two important areas called gender and community in the Indian context. I teach courses and do research on how the questions related to women and community were historically debated and circulated from colonial times onwards, the development that took place over time and their relevance to the current times. I have been researching/teaching on areas like social reform, modern law, colonial policies, native orthodoxy and the ideological battles between them.

One of the main questions I am interested in and encourage my students to think about is: why is it difficult to bring a pro-women/human change in society, and why is there a taboo on female sexuality? For instance, even today, our civil society easily accepts a lot of obscenity in films, but laws that protect women in the cinema field from dark practices like the casting couch are scant. Our new-age films like Kapoor and His Sons (Hindi) and Krishna and His Leela (Telugu) have debated Indian patriarchy, tradition and body politics in the most liberal ways. But when it comes to the rights related to the body there are too many restrictions in our society. For example, during colonial times, laws prohibiting widow immolation had enjoyed more acceptance from society than the issue of widow re-marriage.



In the same way, one of our Supreme Court benches has recently (in 2023) concluded that it is not in their hands to legalize same-sex marriages and shifted the responsibility onto the parliament. This was a kind of backlash to the LGBTQ movement in our nation. But one important point to be noted here is that though our Supreme Court has refused to (of course softly) legalize the issue at hand, the bench at least did not criminalize it.

In this way, our nation is much more democratic than some of our neighbouring countries (for instance, Indonesia), which do not tolerate any claims or self-assertions of non-heterosexual communities. So basically, I do research on these areas and direct my students towards gender sensitization.

I also study political philosophy and its evaluation from ancient times to modern times and thus research on the writings of ancient philosophers like Plato and Aristotle to the writings of the modern philosophers like Fredrich Nietzsche, Michael Foucault and Jacques Derrida.

My research interests are centred around three entities: nation, community and gender and the political confluences that they create or shun creating and the struggles involved in this process. I have written two books (yet to be published) and one of them is on Telugu films and the other is a poetry volume on postcolonial Indian nation.

My book on Telugu films explores the long historical intersections between the entities of community and woman and the study starts from our first Indian films directed by Phalke in 1913 to the current Gen-Z films. In my poetry volume, I have introduced a new genre of writing poetry after the fashion of an academic article.

“ why is it difficult to bring a pro-women/human change in society, and why is there a taboo on female sexuality?”



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