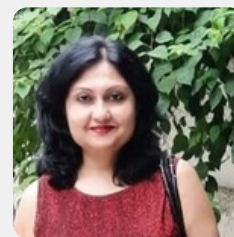


# Embodiment and Gender in Literature and Culture



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If human embodiment within contemporary neoliberal consumerist cultures is fraught with several complexities and vulnerabilities, it is also rife with possibilities and promises. Chatterjee’s research currently focuses on discourses surrounding human embodiment, viewing it through the lens of feminist theory, body image, gender studies, masculinity studies, vulnerability studies, and more. She views embodiment as a complex phenomenon wherein while the female body is susceptible to gendered violence, gendered marginalization, beauty norms, ideals of sanctity and sacrifice, and body shaming; the male body is expected to remain macho, professionally successful, is meant to sport indefatigable muscularity, and exude emotional resilience.

The queer body is susceptible to social othering and stigma, compelling it to often remain closeted despite legal norms accommodating alternate sexual identities, and the trans body suffers multiple marginalities, despite global and vocal voices insisting on inclusivity.

The list goes on with the impoverished body remaining underfed and unsheltered while the child’s body being open to harm and danger from all possible channels. And finally, bodies defined by their so-called inferior caste and race have historically been vulnerable to forces of oppression from those in positions of power owing to their so-called superior race and caste.

Human embodiment in our times is therefore precarious; being human means being vulnerable. And not just in the body but also in the mind and emotions.

It is with such discourses in mind that Chatterjee has been working on books such as *Female Body Image and Beauty Politics in Contemporary Indian Literature and Culture*; *Gendered Violence in Public Spaces: Women’s Narratives of Travel in Neoliberal India*; and *Body Image in Contemporary American Young Adult Literature*.



**Female Body Image and Beauty Politics in Contemporary Indian Literature and Culture**

EDITED BY SRIRUPA CHATTERJEE AND SHWETA RAO GARG



**GENDERED VIOLENCE IN PUBLIC SPACES**

WOMEN’S NARRATIVES OF TRAVEL IN NEOLIBERAL INDIA

EDITED BY SWATHI KRISHNA S. AND SRIRUPA CHATTERJEE  
FOREWORD BY SHILPA PHADKE



The aging body, likewise, gets shamed for the decay and degeneration it purportedly represents while the maternal body is either glorified or stigmatized for the natural and biological changes it undergoes.

The disabled body, of course, lies at the intersections of several marginalities, stigma and pity, negotiating often with mere tokens of inclusivity.

She has also been engaging with grants obtained from the Indian Council of Social Science Research for projects like “Body Image and Female Identity: Popular Perceptions, Theoretical Interventions and Possible Implications” and conferences such as “Vulnerable Bodies in Literature and Culture.” Her research, likewise, focuses on many of these concerns with the help of literary and cultural texts and contexts.

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