

ENGLISH LITERARY ASSOCIATION
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
JESUS AND MARY COLLEGE, DU

TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SEMINAR

GIRL, (UN)INTERRUPTED IDENTITY, EXPERIENCE, AGENCY, AND REPRESENTATION

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



REGISTER

**1ST-2ND
NOVEMBER 2023**



KEY INFORMATION

Conference Dates: 1st - 2nd November 2023

Last Date for Online Registration:
31st October 2023

Register here: bit.ly/GirlUninterrupted

Venue

1st November: Online (Links will be sent via mail after registration)

2nd November: Thevenet Hall, Jesus and Mary College, DU, New Delhi



Concept Note

Girlhood Studies emerged as a distinct field of study in the 1990s, in the Anglophone North, influenced by a growing discourse on gender equality, especially in fields like science, math, and technology. However, its roots can be traced back to the 1970s when second wave feminist scholars began critiquing the disproportionate focus on boyhood in youth research. In the West, Black Girlhood Studies has emerged to address the underrepresentation of Black girls in the field. Similarly, there has been powerful scholarship examining the cross-section of disabilities with Girlhood Studies. Recently, South Asian scholars have made critical interventions in the field by exploring the historical erasure of the experiences of girlhood in the region. They have highlighted how the figure of the girl has been overdetermined by the anxieties about, and for, the woman she would become. Seen always as only “becoming a woman,” and never allowed to be a girl, the South Asian woman, nonetheless, has been treated like a little girl who needs “protection.” Given these paradoxical operations of erasure, hypersexualisation and infantilisation, it is no surprise that girls and “girlhood” are missing from Indian novels. Obviously, “Swami & Friends” did not, indeed, could not have any sisters whose childhood predicaments and perplexities, pranks and play, merited any attention! Pre-colonial, colonial and postcolonial girlhoods are now being investigated from many different perspectives. By using an intersectional approach, for example, Dalit and Adivasi girlhoods have emerged as distinct fields of research.

About the Seminar

This student seminar invites in-depth and extensive exploration of the conceptualization of girlhood in all types of literary (fictional and non-fictional), performative and multimedial narratives. The seminar hopes to arrive at a richer understanding of the multiple experiences and constructions of “girlhood” through time, especially in its complex interplay with traditional or modern hegemonic discursivities, socio-cultural formations and politico-economic imperatives. Also, this student seminar aims to establish Critical Girlhood Studies as a robust academic domain of research amongst young scholars.

Themes may include, but are not limited to the following:

Coming of age and other narratives

Subcultures and fandoms

Social media and girlhood

Intersectionality of race, religion, ethnicity, caste, class, etc.

Beauty standards and body dysmorphia

Disability and girlhood studies

Capitalism, consumerism, and girlhood

Performing girlhood

Menstruation

Queering and transing girlhoods

Media and representation

Violence, risks, and betrayals

Education, health, and rights

Mobility and access

Girl brides

Play and sports

PLEASE NOTE:

This seminar will be held in the hybrid mode. The first day (1st November) will be held online on Zoom. The second day (2nd November) will be an in-person event at Jesus and Mary College, DU.



PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

DAY 1 (Online)

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Welcome: Ms. Purnima Topden, Teacher-In-Charge, Department of English

Principal's Address: Prof. Sandra Joseph, Principal, Jesus and Mary College

Inaugural Lecture: Prof. Ashwini Tambe, Dept. of History & Director of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, George Washington University

Discussant: Dr. Sujatha Subramanian, Lecturer, Dept. of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Ohio State University

10:00 am - 11:30 am - Technical Session 1 : Literary Passages

10:00 am - 11:30 am - Technical Session 2 : Gone Girls

11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Technical Session 3 : The Making of (Menstruous) Monsters

11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Technical Session 4 : Girls in Pixels

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm - Lunch

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm - Technical Session 5 : New Girl Subjects

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm - Technical Session 6 : Girls in Time

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm - Coffee/Tea

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Keynote Lecture: Dr. Aria S. Halliday, Assoc. Professor, Department of Gender and Women's Studies & African American and Africana Studies, University of Kentucky

Discussant: Ms. Rashmi Kumari, Research Scholar, Dept. of Childhood Studies, Rutgers University

5:00 - 6:00 pm

Plenary Lecture: Dr. Anastasia Todd, Asst. Professor, Department of Gender and Women's Studies, University of Kentucky

Discussant: Ms. Reshma Jose, Research Scholar, Dept. of Psychology, DU & Asst. Prof, Dept. of Psychology, JMC

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

DAY 2 (Offline)

COMPETITIONS

10:00 am - 11:30 am

Girlhood in Technicolor: Group Exhibition

Venue: Amphitheatre, JMC

Clueless: A Cinequiz on Girlhood

Venue: Thevenet Hall, JMC

You've Got News: A Mono-Act Competition

Venue: Amphitheatre, JMC

What A Girl Wants: An-Ad Making Competition

Venue: 3rd Flood Hall, JMC

Sweeter than Fiction: Rewriting Fairy Tales in Verse

Venue: Room no. 205, JMC

The Festival of Living Art: Recreating Artworks with Your Own Spin

Venue: Online

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Technical Session 7 : Girlhood Subcultures

Venue: Room no. 203

11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Technical Session 8 : Popular Girls and Girls in Pop Culture

Venue: Room no. 204

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm - Lunch

WORKSHOP

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Workshop on Girlhood Methodologies: Dr. Sujatha Subramanian, Lecturer, Dept. of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Ohio State University

Venue: Thevenet Hall, JMC

3:30 pm - Vote of Thanks

INAUGURAL LECTURE

DR. ASHWINI TAMBE

Director of WGSS; Professor
of WGSS and History
George Washington University



Ashwini Tambe is Director of WGSS and Professor of History and WGSS at George Washington University. Dr. Tambe is a scholar of transnational South Asian history who focuses on the relationship between law, gender, and sexuality. She is also the Editorial Director of *Feminist Studies*, the oldest journal of interdisciplinary feminist scholarship in the United States. Over the past two decades, she has written about how South Asian societies regulate sexual practices. Her 2009 book *Codes of Misconduct: Regulating Prostitution in Late Colonial Bombay* (University of Minnesota Press) traces how law-making and law-enforcement practices shaped the rise of the city's red light district. Her 2019 book *Defining Girlhood in India: A Transnational Approach to Sexual Maturity Laws* (University of Illinois Press) explores how the expectation of sexual innocence is distributed in uneven ways for girls across class and caste groups. Both books examine the direction and flow of transnational influences. Her new book *Transnational Feminist Itineraries* (Duke University Press 2021, co-edited with Millie Thayer), features essays by leading gender studies scholars confronting authoritarianism and religious and economic fundamentalism.

1
NOVEMBER

ZOOM

**9 AM-
10 AM**

REGISTER

KEYNOTE LECTURE

DR. ARIA S.
HALLIDAY

Associate Professor
Department of Gender and Women's
Studies program in African American
and Africana Studies
University of Kentucky



Dr. Aria S. Halliday is an award-winning author who specializes in the cultural constructions of Black girlhood and womanhood in material, visual, and digital culture in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. She engages broad interdisciplinary interests in girlhood, Black feminism, radicalism, consumerism, and performance in Black popular culture in the United States and the Caribbean. Her research is published in *Cultural Studies*, *Departures in Critical Qualitative Research*, *Girlhood Studies*, *Palimpsest*, *SOULS*, and forthcoming in *Women, Gender, and Families of Color* and *The Black Scholar*. She is the author of *Buy Black: How Black Women Transformed US Pop Culture* (University of Illinois Press, 2022) and editor of *The Black Girlhood Studies Collection* (Women's Press, 2019). She was an Institute for Citizens and Scholars Career Enhancement Fellow (2020–2021), a Donald D. Harrington Faculty Fellow at the University of Texas at Austin (2022–2023), and the 2021 Stuart Hall Foundation x Cultural Studies Award winner for her article “Twerk Sumn!: Theorizing Black Girl Epistemology in the Body.” She is currently Associate Professor in the Department of Gender and Women's Studies and program in African American and Africana Studies at the University of Kentucky.

1
NOVEMBER

ZOOM

**4 PM-
5 PM**

REGISTER

PLENARY LECTURE

DR. ANASTASIA TODD

Assistant Professor
Department of Gender and
Women's Studies
University of Kentucky



Anastasia Todd is an Assistant Professor of Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Kentucky. Her work is at the intersection of feminist disability studies and girlhood studies. Her forthcoming book, *Crippling Girlhood* (University of Michigan Press), is the winner of the 2022 Tobin Siebers Prize for Disability Studies in the Humanities. Her work has been published in *Disability Studies Quarterly*, *Girlhood Studies*, *NEOS*, and *Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy*.

1
NOVEMBER

ZOOM

**5 PM-
6 PM**

REGISTER

WORKSHOP

DR. SUJATHA SUBRAMANIAN

Lecturer
Department of Women's,
Gender and Sexuality Studies
Ohio State University



Dr. Sujatha Subramanian is a Research Fellow with the Debrahmanising Gender project of the anti-caste collective, Mavelinadu. She received a PhD in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies from The Ohio State University in 2022. Her research interests include transnational feminist and anti-caste theory, childhood and youth studies, carceral studies, feminist media studies, and feminist geography. Her work has been published in journals such as *Women's Studies in Communication*, *Feminist Media Studies*, *The Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, and *Economic and Political Weekly*. Dr. Subramanian is also a collaborator with Detention Solidarity, an online space to critically engage with the structures and experiences of detention that constitute the carceral state in India.

2
NOVEMBER

JMC

**2 PM -
3:30 PM**

REGISTER

DAY 1 (Online)

10:00 am - 11:30 am

Technical Session 1 - Literary Passages: Girlhood and Coming of Age Narratives

Chair: Dr. Susan George, Asst. Prof., Dept. of English, JMC

1. Between Two Worlds: A Comparative Analysis of Female Bildungsroman in Transnational Nepali Novels, Sanjana Rai, MA, SRM University, Sikkim
2. A Mirage of Imagination: Navigating Girlhood and Claiming Agency in Alice's Dream, Avantika Shukla, MA, Sharda University
3. Exploring Muslim Girlhood in Andaleeb Wajid's coming of age debut novel *Kite Strings*, Noora Fatma, MA, Aligarh Muslim University
4. Bleeding Words: Exploring Menstruation in Girlhood literature, Soumili Sinha Ray, BA, Seth Anandram Jaipuria College, Kolkata
5. Diversity, Doubt, Disorder: Navigating Queer BIPOC Girlhood in *Mariko*, Ritoshree Chatterjee, MA, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Technical Session 2 - Gone Girls: Texts, Absences and Questions of Girlhood

Chair: Ms. Jubi C. John, Research Scholar, Dept. of English, Jamia Millia Islamia

1. Relocating the Voice of Lolita: A Contrapuntal Analysis of the Robbed Girlhood in Nabokov's *Lolita* and Kate Elizabeth Russell's *My Dark Vanessa*, Anwasha Saha, MA, St. Xavier's College Autonomous, Kolkata
2. Navigating the trials of girlhood in Ismat Chughtai's fiction, Samrah Fatima, MA, Aligarh Muslim University
3. Remembrance and Lived Experiences: An Exploration Of Girlhood in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, Shivani Yadav, MA, Delhi University
4. Reading Girls, Performing Boyhood: A Study of Gender Crossings in Select Afghan Fiction, Ilfa Sajjad Sait, BA, All Saints College, Trivandrum
5. Give Me Back My Girlhood, It Was Mine First: Observing the Presence of Ancient Girls in Recorded History, Samriddhi Narayan, BA, Jesus and Mary College, DU

DAY 1 (Online)

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Technical Session 3 - The Making of (Menstruous) Monsters: Investigating Rage, Horror and Monstrosity

Chair: Dr. Sandhya Devesan Nambiar, Asst. Prof., Department of English, JMC

1. "Did the red peony bloom?": Dismantling Menstruation Taboos in/through *Turning Red*, Smridhi, BA, Jesus and Mary College, DU
2. "Small Girls Should Be Seen and Not Heard": Visiting 'Female Rage' Through the Lens of Roald Dahl's *Matilda*, Prashasti Raj, BA, Jesus and Mary College, DU
3. Ain't I a Girl? The Monstrous Girlhood of Jaume Collet-Serra's *Orphan* (2009) and Daphne du Maurier's *Don't Look Now* (1979), Suhana Simran, MA, Jawaharlal Nehru University
4. On the Horrors of Girlhood, Surbhi Mahay, MA, Delhi University
5. The Horror of Girls Growing: Coming of Age into Monsterhood, Deepika Garg, BA, Jesus and Mary College, DU & Aisan Latifi Afshar, BA, University of Tehran

Technical Session 4 - Girls in Pixels: Mapping Girlhood in Digital Spaces

Chair: Ms. Sameera Mehta, Asst. Prof., Department of English, JMC

1. Where are the Desi Sad Girls?: The Politics of Affect in Representations of South Asian Women in Contemporary American Media and Literature, Alokita Raichaudhuri, BA, Jadavpur University
2. The Girls that Get It, Get It and the Girls that Don't, Don't: Analysing popular social media trends on girlhood, Swati Kiran & Nitya Yadav, BA, Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College, DU
3. Influence Beyond Pixels: How Social Media Icons Mould and Transform Girlhood Identity, Aishanya Gautam, BA, Jesus and Mary College, DU
4. "Will I get a death threat for this?": Exploring Young Girls' Negotiations with Identity and Agency on Social Media Platforms, Mohana Bhagat, BA, Jesus and Mary College, DU

DAY 1 (Online)

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Technical Session 5 - New Girl Subjects: Identity, Self and Agency

Chair: Mr. Jobin Thomas, Asst. Prof., Dept. of English, JMC

1. Disabling Girlhood: Problematizing the Narrative of Female Transformation in Susan Coolidge's *What Katy Did*, Sambhavi Mishra, MA, University of Delhi
2. Bending Boundaries, Swimming Seas: Reading the Nation and Diasporic Girlhoods in *Bend It Like Beckham* and *The Swimmers*, Eshan Sharma, Shiv Nadar University
3. Schismatic Identities: Exploring Mexican-American Girlhood in Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*, Sargun Kaur, BA, SGTB Khalsa College, DU
4. The Muslim Girl and The Silver Screen: Understanding the Muslim Girl-child of Popular Hindi Cinema, Sk. Md. Ispihan, BA, Jadavpur University
5. A Hazy Beaten Path, Tragedies and Madness of Manipuri Women: A Study of Ningthouja Lancha's 2008 *Mami Sami*, Cyrus Khumukcham, MA, University of Delhi

Technical Session 6 - Girls in Time: Social and Historical Perspectives on Girlhood

Chair: Dr. Chaandreyi Mukherjee, Asst. Prof., Dept. of English, Vivekananda College, DU

1. Tale of Two Brides: Analysing Bulbul and Kadambari to understand depiction of girlhood of Bengali child bride, Triveni Goswami, BA, Jesus and Mary College, DU
2. Brides of Christ: The formation of Girlhood in missionary schools in Kerala, Aleena Maria Felix, MA, EFL University
3. The contours of harrowing girlhood: A look into the South Asian experience of shame and abuse through the lens of medieval Bengali literary tradition and modern life-writings, Simantini Basu, BA, Jadavpur University
4. Of Four Walls and Balconies: Navigating Girlhood in Colonial Bengal through Ashapura Devi's *Subarnalata*, Shaoni Dutta and Aarushi Singh, BA, Jesus and Mary College, DU
5. For the Sake of the School (Nation)- The English School Girl at Home and in the Colonies, Kamalakshi Singh, BA, Jesus and Mary College, DU

DAY 2 (Jesus and Mary College)

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Technical Session 7 - Girlhood Subcultures: Production and Consumption

Chair: Ms. Grace Mariam Raju, Research Scholar, Dept. of English, Jamia Millia Islamia

1. The Great Derangement: Girl-Blogging as A Space for Feminine (and Feminist) Identity Construction in the 21st Century, Saptaparna Samajdar, BA, Miranda House, DU
2. Lolita in Pop Culture: Literature and Fashion Corrupted and Conflated, Pema Choekyi Thongdok, BA, Ramjas College, DU
3. All girls to the front! - Art as a form of Resistance, Pragya Kothari, BA, Jesus and Mary College, DU
4. Disempowering the Male Gaze: Girl Diaries, their Construction of Selfhood and Why it Matters., Niveditha Ajay, Jesus and Mary College, DU

Technical Session 8 - Popular Girls and Girls in Pop Culture: Media and Representation of Girlhood

Chair: Mr. Steven S. George, Research Scholar, Dept. of English, Jamia Millia Islamia

1. Fairy Tale Motifs in Pop Music: How they shape perceptions of Girlhood, Kasturi K. Deka & Ria Saran, BA, Gargi College, DU
2. Girls Just Want to Have Fun? K-Pop Girl Group Fandoms and the Negotiation of Girlhood in the Digital Age, Nikhat Parveen, Shyama Prasad Mukherji College, DU
3. "Growing up a little at a time, then all at once": The Reclamation of Girlhood in Lorde's Music, Sanjivanie Bhalla, BA, Hansraj College, DU
4. From Austen to Netflix: The Evolution of Girlhood - A Comparative Analysis of *Pride and Prejudice* and *Bridgerton*, Sigy Ghosh, BA, Kirori Mal College, DU

COMPETITIONS

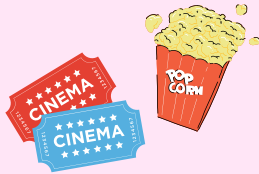


2ND NOVEMBER - 10 AM ONWARDS

Girlhood in Technicolor: Group Exhibition

Venue: Amphitheatre

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/TechnoGirl>



Clueless: A Cinequiz on Girlhood

Venue: Thevenet Hall, JMC

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/CluelessGirl>

You've Got News: A Mono-Act Competition

Venue: Amphitheatre

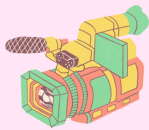
Register Here: <https://bit.ly/NewsGirl>



What A Girl Wants: An-Ad Making Competition

Venue: 3rd floor Hall, JMC

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/AdMaker>



Sweeter than Fiction: Rewriting Fairy Tales in Verse

Venue: Room no. 205, JMC

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/SweetFiction>



The Festival of Living Art: Recreating Artworks with

Your Own Spin

Venue: Online

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/ArtyGirl>



OUTREACH ACTIVITY

IN COLLABORATION WITH JESUS AND MARY COLLEGE
EDUCATION PROGRAMME (JMCEP)

COMIC STRIP MAKING WORKSHOP

ANNA DASGUPTA



Anna Dasgupta is an illustrator, comics creator and a PhD scholar at the School of Letters, Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD). In 2019, she wrote and submitted her Master's dissertation, titled 'Non-Human and Human in Dharamvir Bharati's Andha Yug', in the form of a comic. She has also published comics with Vichar K Achaar (Mahila Zine Issue 5 & 8), Bluejackal (OCTA 2021) and Bakarmax (How I Plan to Die: An Anthology)

1
NOVEMBER

106

**3PM -
4PM**

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Ms. Purnima Topden

Associate Professor
Teacher-In-Charge
Department of English

Dr. Sharon Pillai

Assistant Professor
Consultant-Coordinator
Department of English

Ms. Ishita Singh

Assistant Professor
Convenor
English Literary Association
Department of English

Ms. Kashish Dua

Assistant Professor
Staff Advisor
English Literary Association
Department of English



Register here:
bit.ly/GirlUninterrupted

FOR FURTHER QUERIES, PLEASE CONTACT:
GIRLUNINTERRUPTED2023@GMAIL.COM