



**BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**Research Poster Exhibition**

**From Reflection to Reification**

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## INTRODUCTION

Forman Christian College, established in 1864, is one of the oldest institutions of its kind in the subcontinent. During its Lifetime FCC has produced many Luminaries of the subcontinent including politicians, judges, educationists, social workers, and scientists. After going through many phases of change in its long history, FCC was decentralized in 2003 to run as an independent institution. The college received its charter in 2004 to function as a degree-awarding institution-The Forman Christian College University (FCCU). During almost one and a half decades of its existence, the FCCU has undergone phenomenal development in terms of infrastructure, academic programs, and student facilities. It is offering liberal arts education at the BS (Hons) Level in 26 Majors.

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# **Relationship between Parenting Styles and Self-esteem in University Students**

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## **Abstract**

This research aims to understand the relationship between parenting styles and self-esteem among university students. Furthermore, it aims to identify which socio-demographic characteristics are associated with low self-esteem. Literature shows parenting styles are categorized into three main different types- flexible parenting, authoritarian parenting, and permissive parenting. Flexible parenting style is a way of parenthood that combines the setting of limits with warmth and sensitivity. Parents use positive reasoning and reinforcement to counsel children. They avoid settling on punishments and threats. This approach is mostly found in middle class, educated families, and is linked with better outcomes in children's behaviour throughout the world. Children brought up by flexible parents are more likely to become independent, confident, well-behaved, socially accepted, and academically successful. Authoritarian parents, discourage verbal give-and-take, demand obedience and expect their orders to be obeyed without any questions asked. Such parents are also status-oriented, and do not allow their orders and rules to be challenges or questioned. Authoritarian parents' resort to controlling their children through the withdrawal of love, shaming, and other forms of punishment. When parents are harsh with children and attempt to control them, such children are more likely to develop behavioural problems later in the future. Permissive parenting style is described as low in demands and high in responsiveness. Characteristics of this approach are that parents exhibit less control, maturity, and there is a higher level of two-way communication between parents and children. Permissive parenting is associated with high level of fulfilment and self-esteem of children as they feel involved in the relationship and decision-making process within the family. Attachment theory has been used to understand how parenting styles through childhood and adolescence can affect a young adult's self-esteem. A stable bond and attachment with parents from infancy has a positive influence on mental well-being throughout one's life. It is important to understand the role of parenting in self-esteem of university students, which is an indicator of their well-being and future quality of life. The study is quantitative in design and convenience sampling has been used to collect data from 128 students of public and private universities of Lahore. SPSS has been used to analyze the data. Descriptive statistics have been used to present

frequencies and percentages. Reliability tests have been used to check the reliability of the study scales. To identify the relationship between the study variables (Authoritarian Parenting, Flexible Parenting, Permissive Parenting, and Self-esteem), Pearson correlation and multiple linear regression has been used. Independent sample T-tests have been used to identify which socio-demographic characteristics are associated with low self-esteem. Pearson correlation and regression results confirm that permissive parenting and flexible parenting lead to high self-esteem, whereas authoritarian parenting leads to low self-esteem. In addition, the female gender, belonging to Christian faith, having fathers who work in unskilled jobs, and having 4 or more siblings, show association with low-self-esteem. This study implies need for parental-level literacy interventions to support self-esteem in the youth of Pakistan. Furthermore, there is need for family-level, community-level, and organization-level interventions for improving self-esteem in different youth groups, such as females, Christian minorities, those from low wealth backgrounds and large families.

# Effects of Online Learning on the Performance of Students during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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## ABSTRACT

In this study, the effects of online learning on the performance of students during the COVID-19 pandemic were assessed. Literature shows that when students are more satisfied with their online classes then their academic performance is positively affected. Self-efficacy theory was applied to observe how online classes affect students, whether it is positively or negative. The research was a cross-sectional quantitative study. For the collection of data convenient sampling was used. A total of 125 students from FCCU were sampled. Sampled students were of different age groups. The questionnaire was sent through online platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram. For the analysis of data, SPSS was used. To show the validity of the scales, factor analysis was used, and to assess consistency, reliability analyses were conducted. Next, to present the study variables, frequency and percentages were used, and to present the relationship between study variables, multilinear regression was used. The only significant variable in the model was satisfaction with online classes. Results showed that one unit increase in satisfaction with online classes resulted in 0.440 units increase in academic performance. No significant mean differences in the GPA of students were observed for online, hybrid, and in-person modes of classes.

**Keywords:** Online Learning; Student's Performance; Satisfaction; Covid-19



# Effect of Discrimination on the Self-Esteem and Self-Efficacy of Pushtoons

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## Abstract

There is evidence that Pashtoons are marginalized, perceived differently and discriminated in mainland Pakistan. Within the context of higher education, this study aims to see that whether they face discrimination in Lahore and have an effect on their psyche and by psyche this research means self-esteem and self-efficacy. A descriptive research design was made for this study. The approach used was survey based. The target population of this study were all Pushtoon students who were studying at FCCU. The total Pushtoon population of FCCU at the time of sampling was 60. Out of the whole population, three students were females. This study excluded the female population from sampling process. Punjabi students (control group) were sampled by convenient sampling method. For data analysis, SPSS software was used. Sociodemographic variables of participants, validity and reliability, descriptive statistics, correlations between discrimination, self-esteem, self-efficacy and linear regression analysis were done. Pearson's correlational coefficients showed significant linear correlation between perceived ethnic discrimination, self-esteem, state self-esteem and self-efficacy. Linear regression analysis showed that ethnic discrimination self-esteem  $R^2 = .055$ ,  $B = -.234$ ,  $p = .012$ . Ethnic Discrimination predicted self-efficacy significantly  $R^2 = .034$ ,  $B = -.185$ ,  $p = .049$ . Ethnic Discrimination predicted state-self-esteem significantly  $R^2 = .137$ ,  $B = -.161$ ,  $p = .000$ . The coefficients indicate that, self-esteem and self-efficacy have a significant negative relationship. With every 1 unit increase in discrimination self-esteem decreases by .185 points. With every 1 unit increase in discrimination self-efficacy decreases by .161 points. Based upon the findings of this research, self-esteem and self-efficacy are negatively related to ethnic discrimination. It is recommended that enough public policy making by governments and by educational institutes should be done in order to reduce ethnic discrimination. Moreover, research gap must be filled by future researchers as identified in this research to fill this gap. The future research can find the mediating variables which cause the discrimination to affect the self-esteem and self-efficacy. Future research can also look at the affects of group cohesion of ethnic group, which is discriminated, on their self-esteem and self-efficacy.

# **The Relationship Between Social Anxiety and Online Communication Using social media**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The main aim of this study was to assess the relationship between social anxiety and online communication which occurs through various social media platforms and over the internet. This research proposed the idea that different means of online communication may prove to be an effective alternative for communicating, for those who experience social anxiety. The hypotheses of this study were based on the Self-presentation theory of social anxiety. This was quantitative research where responses were collected and analyzed from 100 university students, aged between 18-26 years. The results showed that there indeed existed a strong and positive correlation between the two variables. Moreover, it was also found that the independent variable (social anxiety) proved to be an accurate predictor for the dependent variable (online communication). Lastly, the results showed that there existed significant mean differences in values of both test variables across the categories of gender, where female respondents showed greater levels of both variables than male respondents. With reference to past studies, this study also highlights the fact that despite being effective means of communicating for those who experience social anxiety, the prolonged usage of online means of communication is not deemed to be an effective solution for overcoming these anxieties and may over time cause them to grow and can even cause the development of social anxiety in the first place.

**Keywords:** Social anxiety, negative evaluation, self-presentation, online communication, social media, anonymity

# **Determinants of Academic Dishonesty among students at Forman Christian College and University (FCCU)**

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## **Abstract**

This research aims at understanding the determinants of academic dishonesty using Ajzen's modified theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB). Previous studies have shown that engagement in academic dishonesty takes place as a planned behavior and is influenced by four factors including subjective norms, attitude towards academic dishonesty, their sense of moral obligation, and perceived behavior control which impact one's intention to engage in a behavior (Whitley, 1998; Whitley & Keith-Spiegel, 2002). This study employs these four variables of TPB in our research in the context of a Mid-level university in Pakistan. This is a quantitative, cross-sectional survey-based study that uses convenience-based sampling, and the data collected is analyzed using SPSS. The sample includes undergraduate students from the program majors including Natural Sciences, Social Science, Management, Education, Public policy and Governance, Humanities, Computer, and Mathematical Sciences at Forman Christian College and University (FCCU) in Lahore. This study helps to understand how these students portray the relationship between these constructs of TPB and their influence on students' intention to engage in academic dishonesty. Results of this research show that from the constructs of TPB, subjective norms, moral obligation, and attitude towards academic dishonesty along with intention have a significant impact on students' engagement in academic dishonesty while perceived behavior control does not show a significant impact. Among the socio-demographic variables age, gender, CGPA, current semester and program major of students only gender has a significant impact, with males showing a higher chance to involve in academic dishonesty. TPB suggests that academic dishonesty can be understood as a belief-based behavior. It emphasizes that inculcating a culture of honesty can help deal with the problem of academic dishonesty.

# **The Relationship between Attitudes towards Gender Roles and Life Satisfaction in Faculty Members in Punjab**

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## **Abstract**

Gender role attitude is the perception individuals have regarding the roles that society imposes upon men and women. Gender roles are a determining factor that affects a person's subjective well-being and hence is associated with life satisfaction. This research studies the relationship between gender role attitudes and life satisfaction in the university faculty of Punjab. The aim of this study is to: (i) identify the socio-demographic variables which have an association with attitudes toward egalitarian versus traditional gender roles, and (ii) identify which gender roles have an association with greater life satisfaction. This study is cross-sectional quantitative research adopting convenience sampling. A total of 173 male and female faculty members from both schools and universities of Punjab were part of the study. The study finds that when traditional gender roles are high, life satisfaction is low ( $p < 0.01$ ). Additionally, the study finds that the following groups have lower attitudes towards traditional gender roles and higher positive attitudes toward egalitarian gender roles: married people, people living in nuclear family structures, male respondents, those earning above PKR 150,000, and urban areas. The study implies the need for social literacy interventions to improve positive attitudes toward egalitarian gender roles in Pakistani society, especially in the context to females, rural populations, and those belonging to lower wealth classes.

# **Relationship of Westernization and Local Cultural Identity in University Students of Lahore**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The aim of this research was to understand the relationship between westernization and local cultural identity in undergraduate students at Forman Christian College, Lahore. For this study, a quantitative research design was used, and a questionnaire was used to collect data using online and offline respondents. For the data analysis of this study, SPSS was used. Factor analysis was done to assess the reliability of the scales. The findings from this research had shown that the mean difference was insignificant and there was no major relation between westernization and local cultural identity. The correlation between westernization and local culture was insignificant. It was concluded that a new hybrid culture was being observed by the undergraduate students of FCCU, Lahore. The results showed that the respondents neither fully associated with western culture nor did they fully associate with their own local culture, instead both cultures are moving parallel to each other resulting in a hybridized cultural identity.

**Keywords:** Westernization; Local Cultural Identity; Culture; Globalization

# Gender Differences in Work-Life Balance of University Teachers

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## Abstract

This research tried to find if different gender roles also result in gender-based differences in work-life balance of university teachers. Previous studies have discussed overall work-life conflict and its various possible reasons, including gender differences in the work-environment and how it impacts the growth of employees, but this research specifically tried to find if women have lower work-life balance than men through a cross-sectional quantitative study. 106 faculty from public and private universities filled the surveys. The data were analysed through SPSS and frequencies and independent sample t-test was conducted. Results showed that female teachers (42.4%) have lower work-life balance than male teachers (36.4%), while males (27.3%) have higher work-life balance than females (16.9%). This study will allow us to talk more about the differences and its impacts on smaller-to-larger scales.

**Keywords:** Gender Differences, Work-Life Balance, Work-Life Conflict, University Teachers

# **Observing levels of empowerment in context to household decision making in working women from debt burden households.**

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## **Abstract**

This study is initiated to focus on the current socio-economic conditions of working women belonging to economically disadvantaged families in the community of Lahore. The main question this study proposes is, are women able to gain economic empowerment from earning? And if they gain any, are they able to translate this earning power into social, relational, and personal levels of empowerment in the context to households' decision-making? The findings of this are based on a qualitative study that used the three-dimensional approach (Empowerment at micro, meso and macro level) by (Huis, M. A., Hansen, N., Otten, S., & Lensink, R. (2017) to observe the levels of empowerment on a personal, social and economic level. Three focus group discussions were held with 15 participants in a village near Lahore, to reveal how their experiences of wage earning contribute to their empowerment on each level. The study focused on their perception of empowerment more to observe what empowerment is for them and how do they perceive it on personal, social and economic level. The data was analysed through thematic analyses into three major themes which further extended to subthemes. My research findings demonstrate in all cases women translated their experiences in reference to their children and especially their daughters, they were able to recognize certain acts, attitudes, and actions as empowering. Support and respect were recognized as motivation to keep going. Varied work experiences due to nature of job. Additionally, their empowerment on social or relational was enhanced compared to their past as they built some autonomy regarding the future of kids, family decisions, improved confidence, and ability to pave their road for future. However, Due to disempowering factors like interest rates of debt and inflation, their empowerment on macro level ceased. They did acknowledge that their earning did make a difference, but they do not feel a significant or pleasant outcome due to rising inflation. This study aims to be significant contribution to academic research as it suggests researching more on impacts of inflation in reference to women's empowerment.

**Keywords:** Women's empowerment, debt-burdened, inflation, working women.

# **Mental Illness and Stigma: A Perceptual Analysis of Prevalence and Determinants of Mental Illness in Undergraduate Students in Lahore**

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## **Abstract**

Current literature on student mental health offers ample evidence of a worldwide increase in the prevalence of mental health issues among university students. There is, however, a dearth of social constructionist literature in Pakistan that explores how students perceive mental illness, the stigma associated with it, strategies for reducing stigma, and obstacles to getting care. The findings of this study are based on a descriptive qualitative study that used the social constructionist paradigm to examine how stigma associated with mental illness is perceived in a fluid, non-canonical way. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 9 students from Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), to reveal the perception and experiences of mental illness, mental illness related stigma, coping strategies and barriers to help seeking among undergraduate students in Lahore. In light of the students' perceptions, intersectional characteristics of gender, class, and educational attainment were thoroughly investigated. The Data for this study was analysed through reflexive thematic analysis. The research's findings demonstrate that mental illness was viewed in connection to daily functionality in both academic and non-academic settings. Prior mental diseases, exposure to stigma and its prevalence, and a lack of faith in qualified healthcare practitioners were identified as significant risk factors for mental illness among university students. The research also demonstrates that both positive and negative coping mechanisms were used by university students as a result of their perceptions and experiences of mental illness stigma. Engaging in student activism, speaking with friends and classmates, getting professional aid, and practicing mindfulness were all shown to be effective coping mechanisms. Smoking and drug (ab)use were determined to be negative coping mechanisms. This study aims to be a significant contribution to academic research on mental health and illness among young people in higher education institutions in Pakistan, where mental illness is both common and heavily stigmatized.



Keywords: mental illness, university students, social construction, stigma management strategies.

## **Assessing the Effect of Work-Study Conflict on Academic Stress and Wellbeing in University Students**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This research assessed the effect of work-study conflict and academic performance on academic stress and wellbeing of university students. Some of the prior studies show that those students who have higher work-study conflict have higher stress and lower wellbeing. This quantitative research was administered by 140 survey-based questions to students studying at FCCU Lahore. Spill-over theory was used to frame hypotheses for this study. Data were analyzed using SPSS (v.22). Descriptive statistics were generated depending on the nature of a variable. Factor analysis was conducted to assess the construct validity of scales (work-study conflict, academic stress scale, wellbeing scale) followed by reliability analyses using Cronbach's Alpha to assess internal consistency. Results of multivariate regression analyses showed that higher work-study conflict significantly predicted higher academic stress and lower wellbeing. Likewise, higher academic stress significantly predicted lower wellbeing. Another interesting finding of the study was that students working within FCCU had higher wellbeing than those who were working outside FCCU. The findings of this research can help in devising interventions and policies to mitigate the negative consequences of work-study conflict.

**Keywords:** Work-study conflict; Part-time employment; Academic Stress; Wellbeing

## **Exploring Reasons and Risks of Body Modifications in University Students**

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### **Abstract**

The trend of body modification has increased in Pakistan, specifically body piercing and permanent tattoos. However, there is very little academic scholarship in this area. The aim of this research was to try and understand: (i) the reasons for engaging in body piercing and permanent tattoos, and (ii) any perceived risks or difficulties experienced by people who have had body piercing and permanent tattoos. The research design is qualitative in nature, using a semi-structured questionnaire to conduct in-depth interviews. The selection criterion was FCCU university students who have engaged in body piercing and permanent tattoos using snowball sampling. Ten themes were found through thematic analysis under the two study areas. 1. Reason for body modifications: (i) Depression, anxiety and stress – tattoos as a coping strategy or way to take control of body; (ii) Using tattoos as a form of rebellion against society; (iii) Influence of Western rock music; (iv) Impulsive Decision; (v) Fascination from young age due to social media; and (vi) Peer pressure. 2. Perceived risks or difficulties after body modifications: (i) Hiding tattoos from family – shame and passing; (ii) Society's stance that it is not allowed in Islam; (iii) Regret for permanent tattoos; and (iv) Engagement in other risky behaviour. Based on the study findings salient recommendations to support university students are discussed, including family sessions for counselling and social support can be provided, and education about risks of body modification.

**Keywords:** Reasons and risks; Body modification; University students; tattoos and piercings

# **Exam Stress and its Impact on Academic Performance.**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Exam stress can lead to both academic failure and mental health problems for students. This paper attempted to find the relation between exam stress and its impacts on academic performance. The sample for this research was 150 male and female students, conveniently approached through an online Google survey through class WhatsApp groups and emails of students. Nist and Diehl's test anxiety questionnaire was used to measure exam anxiety, and a set of questions were added to measure academic performance, after collecting the data it was run through SPSS for further procedures. The Pearson correlation and ANOVA proves the hypothesis of significant correlation between test anxiety and academic performance. Findings also show a significant relationship between gender and academic performance. Females had more test anxiety which affected their academic performance. It can be concluded that academic performance of university students will improve if students are supported with relevant coping mechanisms to deal with test anxiety. Furthermore, educational institutions also need to alter their system of testing in order to control students' anxiety.

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## **Distortion of Eurocentric Stereotypes: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Netflix Series *Bridgerton***

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### **ABSTRACT**

The role of genders and their social identities are often considered to be fixed and these fixed roles are interpreted according to social fabrications such as Eurocentric stereotypes. The Eurocentric stereotypes refers to the ideologies that assess and categorize social phenomenon as European ideals, which are regarded as the most important (Tolay, 2021). The representation of these roles can be seen in media discourse in almost every TV series. These series are a major source of inspiration for their consumers. There are some TV series which are continuously working to break these stereotypes and reconstruct the ideologies of the society. The current study aims to investigate the distortion of Eurocentric stereotypes related to genders and social identities in Netflix series *Bridgerton*. Moreover, the research also aims to analyse the reconstruction of ideologies related to gender and their social roles by using discourse. The research is based on multimodal Critical Discourse Analysis of the TV series. The Fairclough's Three-Dimensional Model (Fairclough, 2013) has been used for analysing the dialogues whereas the social semiotic perspective has been used to analyse signs and symbols that convey specific ideologies. The results show that the discourse of this series is distorting the Eurocentric stereotypes, through the dissemination and distribution of symbols and by using multicultural feminism perspective, women of the regency era are portrayed as empowered selves dominating the males around them. The social roles and identities have been challenged by portraying the female characters as strong political figures. The research may be significant as it highlights the importance of ideologies and their role in the construction and deconstruction of societal narratives.

**Keywords:** Eurocentric Stereotypes, Ideologies, Gender Representation, Netflix Series, Critical Discourse Analysis

## **Surrealist Focalization as a Narrative Strategy in Marquez *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (1970)**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The Surrealist Focalization of events in *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (1990), renders the narrative of the novel unusual. It does so, by making time appear still and manifesting absurd and psychosexual images. The following analysis of the text purports to look at the surreal effect the author creates by defamiliarizing the narrative of the novel. This research, hence, attempts to explain the temporal discrepancies, modes of existence, narrative focalization, improbable occurrences, and fetishism the novel incorporates. The objective of this study is to view Gerard Genette's Narratological terminologies in relation to Andre Breton's Theory of Surrealism and to explain the focalization of the novel along with its manifestations. It argues that the handling of time related concepts, use of anachronism, and the characters repeating the traits and passions of the previous characters they are named after, makes use of the idea of time that is present in our unconscious. It further attempts to show that the role of Melquiades as the narrator reflects the peculiarity of the simultaneous use of internal, external and zero focalization. Additionally, it briefly describes the events that express the repressed obsessions through automatism and thus epitomize the idea of convulsive beauty. This research concludes that the entangled narrative of the text, its uncanny sensations, fascinating events, and psychosexual images are a manifestation of surrealist focalization.

**Keywords:** Analeptic prolepsis, Convulsive beauty, Fetishism, Manifestations of automatism, Narrative discrepancies

## **Re-Contextualizing Normality in Cultural Narratives of South Asia: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Sorraya Khan's *Noor* (2003) and Bapsi Sadhwa's *Ice Candy Man* (1988)**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Disability is a politicized identity. It has a social, cultural, and political construct rather than as an individual, pathological or medical problem. Therefore, disability is fluid and contextual rather than biological. This research tries to redefine the notion of normality by analyzing the narratives of *Noor* and *Ice Candy Man*, which highlight how physical impairment adds to Noor and Lenny's marginalization and stigmatization. The main concern of this paper is to analyze the portrayal of disability in local cultural narratives of South Asia. Moreover, it endeavors to investigate the spaces of resistance that are created by physically impaired bodies against the dominant construction of ability and normality. In addition to this, it will evaluate the cultural, political, and social factors that frame the disability experience. This research examines the language used to "otherise" the differently abled girls (Noor in *Noor* by Sorayya Khan and Lenny in *Ice Candy Man*) as a disenfranchised individual who cannot be included in the normal social zone. Hence it will evaluate, how they are received and treated by people around them. Furthermore, this research has been designed on the concepts of Dan Goodley. To analyze the portrayal of physically disabled characters and their marginalization, I shall explore *Noor* and *Ice Candy Man* employing critical discourse analysis as a research method.

**Keywords:** Normality, Stigmatization, Devaluing, Othering, South Asian Narratives

# **Political Consciousness, Jingoism and Post War Trauma in Tim O'Brien's *The Things they Carried* (1990)**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*The Things They Carried* (1990) has been authored by Tim O'Brien who presents a real account of the Vietnam War and the associated war stories. The narrator has portrayed war as the opposite of what they stand for i.e., nationalism, patriotism, glory and so forth. Wars are barbaric, brutal, guilt-ridden, and jingoistic. This research will focus on the different aspects of war that resulted in trauma, guilt, and fear that became a part of their identities and impacted their remaining lives. The various people who were a part of the war could not adapt to their post-war lives. Moreover, the book will be analyzed from a perspective of trauma that was embedded in their lives. The various characters who were a part of the war had their own lives as well, their previous lives had different emotional baggage and they had to carry that baggage along with the added burden of guilt-ridden consciousness. All these factors amalgamated and impacted the lives of the troops engaged in the war and their lives after the war. The book when analyzed can be seen negating the meta-narratives that are glorifying the act of killing without any cogent purpose or reason.

**Keywords:** Trauma, Fear, Guilt, War, Consciousness, Amalgamation.



# **A Comparative analysis of Manto and Sade: Libertinism and Violence in Times of Rebellion, War and Political Conflict**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Libertinism is, or rather it was, a movement that presented a lifestyle devoid of any ethical or religious bounds. The term itself was coined, and used in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and has since been used to define events that are either leading to a revolt, or are happening within one. Marquis de Sade used the term not just as the major theme of his works that were writing near, or during the time of the French Revolution, but also mentioned, and experimented with the philosophy as well. Meanwhile, even though Saadat Hasan Manto never actively used the term on his works or practiced the philosophy in real life, yet his works and his approach towards the events of partition show the libertine ways of the people involved in the violence that took place during the partition of India. This paper not only highlights the theme of Libertinism in the works of Sade and Manto, but also indicates how violence, especially gendered violence prevails under the shadow of those who believe themselves to be above any mortal or divine law. The methodology used to conduct this research is primarily qualitative since the works of both authors are to be analyzed and taken into view to deducting the necessary conclusions. The reason why this research is being done is that in times of sociopolitical conflict even in today's era, the society tends to dismiss and overlook all laws of civility and it leads to events that are traumatic by all means. Hence, this paper will not only highlight the libertine themes in the works of Sade and Manto, but will also highlight the generational trauma as well as PTSD which these inhumane acts cause for generations to come from the perspective of a post-modern standpoint.

**Keywords:** Gendered Violence, Libertinism, Partition, PTSD, Revolution,

Trauma.

## **Shakesperean Dramaturgy in *Desire Under the Elms* (1924) By Eugene O'Neill**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This research aims to shed light on the Shakespearean elements in *Desire Under the Elms* (1924) by Eugene O'Neill. The previously existing studies on *Desire Under the Elms* (1924) focus on the presence of the elements of Greek tragedy in the text. Not many studies have been conducted which suggest that there are also elements of Shakespearean tragedy in the play. This study strives to prove that *Desire Under the Elms* (1924) has not only been inspired by Greek tragedy but also has taken its inspiration from Shakespearean tragedy. There are many elements of Shakespearean tragedy within the play. There is a presence of an absent hero within both *Hamlet* (1601) and *Desire Under the Elms* (1924). There are supernatural elements and ghosts in all three plays: *Hamlet*, *Macbeth* (1603) and *Desire Under the Elms* (1924). Both *Macbeth* (1603) and *Desire Under the Elms* (1924) contain gothic imagery. The characters of Macbeth and Eben have a similar tragic flaw which is indecisiveness and there is a huge role of fate that none of the fictional characters can escape in all three plays. All in all, the play *Desire Under the Elms* (1924) contains elements of Greek tragedy as well as Shakespearean tragedy.

**Keywords:** American drama, Greek Tragedy, Shakespearean Tragedy, Supernatural,

Ghosts

# **“A Prince in Fetters”: Reading Navtej Sarna’s *The Exile* (2010) as a Slave Narrative**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The various Slave Narratives that went on to define African American and American Literature were themselves defined by the occurrence of a number of established tropes or conventions. The paper in question utilizes James Olney’s panoptic outline—evidenced in his essay “I Was Born”: Slave Narratives, Their Status as Autobiography and as Literature—of the said tropes to position Navtej Sarna’s *The Exile*, a novelistic biography of Maharaja Duleep Singh of the Punjab, as a slave narrative. In order to achieve this end, the researcher has first located the textual instances that echo the stereotypical conventions in the novel and then explained how they are redolent of or in tune with a slave narration—using Frederick Douglass’ narrative as a crutch at several points. The researcher’s analysis—conducted using textual analysis—has led her to conclude that Sarna’s novel does in fact bear a striking resemblance to slave narratives because of the presence of certain quintessential tropes or conventions that pervade the landmark slave narratives as well. This research has, therefore, displayed how tropes can be carried over from one genre to another, and the multifarious similarities between brown and black people’s incarceration and subjugation at the hands of white supremacists.

**Keywords:** Slave narratives; Maharaja Duleep Singh; Tropes, Blackness, Stereotypes.

# **Imitative Desire: Tracing A Mimetic Representation of Death in Edward Albee's Play, *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?* (2002)**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research intends to investigate how innocent can be victimized due to passionate desires in Edward Albee's play *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?* The main argument of this study is to analyze the conflict that is caused by mimetic desire. Human life faces great issues such as imitative desires "interindividual" (Girard15) that are related to human life. When a human lacks individuality, he shows violent behavior which results in conflict. This study investigates how an innocent goat has been victimized by Martin's love and Stevie's murderous revenge through the lens of Girard's Mimetic Theory of Desire and Scapegoat Mechanism. The play begins with a planned interview of Ross with Martin due to his achievements. Martin is obsessed with the love of the goat, so he is unable to focus on the interview and reveals the secret to his childhood friend, Ross. For Stevie, Martin's affection towards an animal is disgusting which leads to marital confrontation (11) "You have brought me down, and Christ! I'll bring you down with me! (Albee 89). This research follows the qualitative research paradigm and analyzes the text of Edward Albee's play *The Goat or Who is Sylvia?* This study focuses on an interdisciplinary approach and draws insight from Girard's Mimetic Theory. This research also aims to explore how an innocent becomes a victim of our own desire, resentment, and hatred.

**Keywords:** Mimetic Desire, Victimization, Scapegoat mechanism, Resentment, Hatred.

# **Trauma and Fear: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Fractured Narrative of Soraya Khan's *Noor* (2003)**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*Noor* (2003) by Soraya Khan narrates the tale of the partition of East and West Pakistan. The event of partition did take place in reality and it has been reported by various historians in varying manners. However, the account of the civil war or liberation war has been presented in a very different manner. The atrocities of war and the traumatic experiences have been narrated through the different characters who either faced those atrocities or committed them. This study considers the ideological divide that was created before the war and the power politics that led to the catastrophic event that tore Pakistan apart into two pieces. In addition to that, the study concerns itself with the fear that was incorporated into the minds of the people who witnessed and faced these atrocities first-hand. It also explores, how fear that had become a part of their identity surfaced now and then. The fear that was internalized has now become external, the characters go through their past experiences to deal with the guilt, and trauma whose existence was ignored. Primarily, the concern is trauma, fear, and guilt enrooted in the minds of the characters and secondarily the identity, gender, and power politics.

**Keywords:** Trauma, Fear, Guilt, Gender, Identity, Ideology.

# **Food Deciphers Mikhail Bakhtin's Carnavalesque Conviction in Dario Fo's *Can't Pay Won't Pay* (1974)**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research investigates into Mikhail Bakhtin's Carnavalesque Theory and its incorporation with Roland Barthes' Food Theory in Dario Fo's play *Can't Pay Won't Pay*. Roland Barthes assertion that “food is a language itself which can be decoded through the principles of linguistics” (Barthes 12) and Fo used this language to decode the psychological and sociological fiasco of characters' lives. Food for characters becomes a medium of conveying the complexities of their reality, such as “super meat”, “millets” and “frozen Rabbit Heads” which depict the dehumanized living condition of the working class. This research also interrogates the characters who show resilience by challenging the social hierarchies through their eccentric behavior of stashing groceries and striking. The characters in the play are celebrating their attempt at freedom and equality with their rebellious strike. As Antonia says, “By now everyone chanting ‘can’t pay, won’t pay’... Everyone’s still chanting ‘Can’t pay, won’t pay! All up and down the street. It was like a carnival” (Fo 4). The metaphors of food, through their cultural significance decipher the eccentric behavior, chaos, and humor present in the play.

**Keywords:** Food, Eccentric behavior, Food as a metaphor, Psychological and Sociological fiasco, Carnavalesque, Dehumanization.

# Fantasy, Mimesis and Narratology in South Asian Folklore

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## ABSTRACT

This Research incorporates mainly a content based qualitative analysis of Usman T Malik's *The Pauper Prince and the Eucalyptus Jinn* (2015) as the primary texts. The main plot of the book is centered around a semi-magical and semi mystical 'Lahori' grandfather shrouded in interwoven ideas of "convincing truths within lies and lies within truths". The "Eucalyptus Jinn" is a central silent character of the book which is built by the narrative as well as builds the narrative itself. The book not only follows a fantastical journey but also a theoretical exploration into the phenomenon of Jinns and Jinn Lore. His stories revolve around the indigenous expressions and metaphors that seem to mostly take inspiration from south Asian mythology and folklore. This metaphorical study can be further traced back to Arabic and Persian cultures of the Middle and Central East Asia. Katheryn Humes defines all literature as a combination of Fantasy and Mimesis (Traill, 147). The aim of this thesis is to trace out an evolutionary journey in South Asian fantasy fiction through frameworks proposed by narratological studies. This thesis attempts to find those components of connection and diversification that indigenous South Asian narratives in literature in English that are moving away from the Western Canon of fantasy and Science Fiction. Monika Fludernik's *An Introduction to Narratology* (Translated by Patricia Häusler-Greenfield and Monika Fludernik) will be consulted as a theoretical reference for this research project to discover the underlying principle of narrative transaction between a South Asian contemporary narrator and their cultural heritage.

**Keywords:** Fantasy, Evolution, Narratology, Indigenous expression, Cultural Heritage

# **Reinterpreting the Psychological Dynamics of Complex Human Relationships in Sally Rooney's *Normal People* (2018)**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research aims at exploring the psychological attachment in relationships; the causes and effects of attachments on the romantic relationships, the impact of anxieties and high intellect in the failure of maintaining a healthy relationship with reference to the *Normal People* (2018) in the light of Attachment Theory of John Bowlby. The protagonists of the storyline include a bewildered young couple that is always unsure about each other but cannot move on either because of their complex working minds. The goal of this research is to bring to light the immense attachment that exists between two opposite attachment styles. Through Leary's and Kowalski's, the Self-Presentation Theory of Social Anxiety, the research analyzes the anxieties experienced by the male protagonist in the novel. This research also explains the incomprehensible working of highly intelligent brains. It attempts to highlight the miseries and difficulties faced by individuals with an extraordinary intellect level. This study sheds light on the major issues faced in romantic relationships by the Millennials these days. Moreover, it serves as a pathway to understand why individuals behave the way they do in relationships.

**Keywords:** Psychological Dynamics, Social Anxiety, Romantic Relationship, Complexity of Expression.



# **Comparison of the Representation of Transgender Community in Subcontinent: A Comparative Analysis of Movie *Joyland* (2022) and Arundhati Roy's *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* (2017)**

Wajeeha Jameel

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## **ABSTRACT**

This Research touches the theme of patriarchy, desire, and trans-phobia, which are particularly the main themes of the above chosen mediums. *The Ministry of the Utmost Happiness* by Arundhati Roy discusses and analyzes the real world which we as human abandon and then look for the fetishes that surround writings of fiction. The text also surrounds itself with numerous characters including a Trans which leads to powerful interludes. Whereas, in *Joyland* an interesting aspect proceeds that the characters are devoid of the one thing which is very prevalent in the title. Both the book and the movie showcase miseries and discrimination towards transgender community and presents a rare side of the subcontinent, thus making it more interesting. The liberation and self-expression associated with the gender is an integral and important side of the movie and book. The recurring images of lost and recovered children, individual sacrifice and self-denial, and its depiction of the constant battle toward self-assertion in a society still held in thrall to the taxonomy of caste and class, make for a disturbing return to the land of where they were when born seen as humans and now not even existence.

**Keywords:** Miseries, Transgender, powerful interludes, Individuality, Liberation.

