

**Joint Special Issue with the Journal of International Women's Studies and Wagadu: A
Journal of Transnational Women's and Gender Studies**

***Contemporary South Asian Feminist and Youth Activisms: Reading Social Justice
through Queer Optics***

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This joint two-volume special issue of the Journal of International Women's Studies and Wagadu, both online and open access, will appear in two volumes simultaneously on both websites. Feminist and youth activism in South Asia are important domains to be investigated under the ongoing civil unrest in the countries of South Asia building momentum in this century. Challenging/complicating the security lens analytic that drives most "area studies" approaches to knowledge production of South Asia, this special issue seeks to center transnational feminist work that can help us "read" various social justice movements unfolding across Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, through a "queer optic" that aims to decenter and decolonize the normative narratives of nation, gender, class, sexuality, ethnicity and religion. It is well established that during crisis periods, women, minorities, and youth are among the most vulnerable and are almost always at the receiving end of violent suppression. It is important to observe and document how these marginalized segments express their collective and individual agencies during these protests and how they try to negotiate with the seemingly impenetrable state apparatus, heavily guarded by the might of capitalist businesses, the security state, and geopolitics.

Timeline: We seek *abstracts of 300 words or less, by May 31, 2021*, addressing the following topics—but not limited to them, across all of our publication genres: scholarly articles, personal essays, feminist reflections, poetry, fiction, digital art, audio/video.

Authors will be contacted to submit full papers with first drafts (APA) due by September 1, 2021 with accepted final papers due by *March 1, 2022*.

Please submit your abstracts to: Fawzia Afzal-Khan: khanf@montclair.edu and Nilanjana Paul: nilanjana.paul@utrgv.edu

Possible Topics for consideration:

- Ecofeminism: a critical perspective
- Alternative (social) media representations of women and youth activism

- Critical discourse analysis on Development as panacea and social movements as anti-developmental/anti-national activities (urban naxals, parasites etc.)
- Critical perspectives of mainstream media narratives of farmers' protest
- Women and youth/minority protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019 in India
- Women and Dalit contributions to the ongoing Farmer Protests in India, especially in comparative context with similar struggles in other countries of South Asia, including Pakistani Okara Farm Movement of early 21st C highlighting women's leadership in the struggle
- Agency of women and their representation under patriarchy
- Gender based violence and resistance
- Digital technologies and women's resistance
- International Women's Days Marches in Pakistan against Sexual Harassment
- Ecofeminism and pressing climate issues
- Artivism as resistance in beleaguered communities
- Kashmiri feminist artivism against Indian state violence
- Caste and Class issues
- Urban/rural divides and solidarities
- Hindu-Muslim tensions and the youth rejection of this divide; intergenerational and familial conflicts; movement from partition-based nationalist analyses to focus on globalization, Hindutva movements, and neoliberalism.
- Dalit Lives Matter shaped by BLM and challenging Black racism in South Asian communities
- Dalit Panthers as historical archive animating contemporary resistance movements in India
- Transnational linkages of Dalit liberatory politics across South Asia
- South Asian diasporic challenges, liberatory economics, blended identities and identitarian politics.
- Queer politics, visual art and theatre for social awareness in South Asia
- Transgender rights: a comparative study across South Asian nations
- Role of different media in upholding or challenging the status quo
- Women's blogs as political spaces
- Fourth Wave Feminism in South Asia
- Women's activism in religious and secular movements
- South Asian masculinities in flux
- Feminist critiques of micro-finance as capitalist reproduction
- Women's activism and empowerment in the context of Microfinance
- Women's individual and collective activism through Microfinance self-help groups, social capital and collective action
- Women's activism and action through micro entrepreneurship
- Women's awareness, agency and action within and beyond household