

# AFFIRMATIONS OF FEMALE STRENGTH IN SELECTED LITERARY WORKS FROM POST-COLONIAL INDIA, AFRICA (NIGERIA) AND AUSTRALIA

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## Overview

Women's experience, women's voices, women's literary and textual strategies in the literary artefacts they produce, in short, women's contribution to the national narratives of their varied cultures have now begun to filter through into the discerning reader's consciousness. These have widely expanded awareness and understanding of the socio-cultural issues and themes which underpin all literary works and which constitute their importance in fostering understanding of the global experience of humanity. **History** itself is no longer interpreted as being only male history; *herstory* is also recognised as part of the national and human narrative.

This course does not limit itself only to female writers but also explores how occasionally, male writers have also registered this awareness of the primacy of issues related to women in selected works. A mode of reading against the grain, of exploring the interstices of the text – resistant readings – will show how often women are represented as marginalised beings, deprived of both voice and agency in the societies in which they live. Paradoxically, even while the surface of the text may appear indifferent to, or unaware of its presence – the resonances of female strength refuse to be submerged. There is a need to expand awareness amongst readers everywhere, of the social and the political dynamics operative within the cultures from which a work emerges. It is also important to acquire awareness of the key theoretical and critical concepts related to postcolonial writing as well as to feminist studies from different regions of the world.

<b>Modules</b>	<b>Module 1: India and Africa: September 18 – 23, 2017</b> <b>Module 2: Australia : September 25 – 29, 2017</b> <b>Number of participants for the course will be limited to fifty.</b>
<b>Who Can Attend</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Academicians and Writers interested in Postcolonial and Women's Studies</li><li>• Students at levels of M.A / M.Phil. / PhD</li><li>• Researchers from the Humanities and Social Sciences</li><li>• Faculty from academic institutions.</li><li>• Freelancing scholars with an active interest in Marginality Studies</li></ul>

<b>Fees</b>	<p>The participation fees for taking the course is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Postgraduate Students of Mangalore University: Rs.1000/-</li> <li>• Research Scholars) : Rs.1500/-</li> <li>• Faculty/ Freelancer Scholars : Rs.2000/-</li> <li>• International Participants: 250/- USD</li> </ul> <p>The participants will be provided with accommodation on payment basis.</p>
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**Foreign Faculty: Dr Cynthia vanden Driesen**



Dr.Cynthia vanden Driesen was born in Sri Lanka and completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Ceylon. Her Master's and Doctoral Studies were completed at the University of Western Australia and a Diploma in Education at Murdoch University WA. She has taught at Universities in Sri Lanka, Nigeria and S.Korea and in Australia, taught at Edith Cowan University for a period of twenty -two years.

She was a founder-member of ASAA (Assn. for the Study of Australasia in Asia) established in 1994, served as its Australian President till 2015; and is currently on its advisory board. She is a Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia. Research Interests: post-colonial literatures in English – particularly Indian, African Australian; postcolonial theory; Women’s Writing.

Phone: +61893867654

E-mail: [cynthia.v@westnet.co.au](mailto:cynthia.v@westnet.co.au);

**Host Faculty: Prof Parinitha**



Dr. Parinitha is Professor of English and is currently head of the Department of English at Mangalore University. Her Research interests are 'Gender Studies' and Missionary Studies.

Phone: 9164226647

E-mail: [parinith007@yahoo.com](mailto:parinith007@yahoo.com)