

**Azadi (freedom):  
Feminist reading group**

Seminar series run as part of the Brunel  
**Education 'Interculturality for diversity and  
global learning'** Research Group

Feminist reading group led by Dr Geeta Ludhra  
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Session 6: 28.04.22 (5-6pm)  
Led by Dr Geeta Ludhra



# Welcome and House-keeping

## 1. Quick reminder from Session 1:

House-keeping: mutual respect, sensitivity and kindness when speaking, and in the chat comments, no recordings made, hands-up, a safe space to reflect and share academic ideas.

Read more about our research group members and activities on the Interculturality website (links on the next slide).

- **Main Research Group Link:**  
[Interculturality for diversity and global learning | Brunel University London](#)
- **Reading Group Link:**
  - **Feminist reading group | Brunel University London**
- **Azadi (freedom): Feminist works by scholars of colour**

This reading group will run on a monthly-basis where sessions will be held on the last Thursday of every month, between 5-6pm to avoid meeting clashes. All sessions will be held over zoom for the first year. Details and updates will be posted on the website.

- **Zoom link:**  
**<https://bruneluniversity.zoom.us/j/97896081315>**  
**Meeting ID: 978 9608 1315; Passcode: 1372024688**

## Reflection questions and prompts for the year:

- To what degree do critical feminist writers of colour and global south feminists working in the North have the ‘freedom’ and ‘safety’ to write about and through their lived ‘truths’?
- What does it mean to write through a critical feminist lens that captures the intersections, nuances and complications of lived experiences?
- How does this month’s writing challenge some of the power dynamics and white mainstream feminist discourses?
- What emotional tolls do feminist scholars of colour and minoritised feminist scholars embody as part of their research and writing experiences?
- How can poetry be used to address feminist issues and silences by scholars of colour and minoritised feminist scholars?

## Dr Royona Mitra



Royona is the author of *Akram Khan: Dancing New Interculturalism* (Palgrave, May 2015). Her book is the winner of 2017 de la Torre Bueno First Book Award awarded by the prestigious Dance Studies Association (DSA) and the runner-up for the 2016 Theatre & Performance Research Association (TaPRA) New Career Research in Theatre/Performance.

### Paper

- Mitra, R. (2022) '[Unmaking Contact: Choreographic Touch at the Intersections of Race, Caste, and Gender](#)'. *Dance Research Journal*, 53 (3). pp. 6 - 24. ISSN: 0149-7677

Link to webpage:

[Dr Royona Mitra | Introduction | Brunel University London](#)

## Reading Session 6: Why Royona?

- Royona works at Brunel
- She is creative
- Her work makes me reflect on and through dance
- She explores considerations of race, caste, and gender
- She is a role model to British South Asian academics like me.

# Reflections, connections and questions raised through this reading

## Prompts:

1. How did you reflect on the way South Asian classical dance is coded and embodied through touch?
  2. This “unmaking of contact” is undertaken by deploying the lenses of race, caste, and gender – how did you make sense of the caste lens – caste politics and untouchability?
  3. What did you take away from the ‘touch tales’?
- **How has today’s session raised new questions or follow-up lines of thinking/reading for you?**

# Thank you for attending today

24 February 2022

- On behalf of the Brunel **Education 'Interculturality for diversity and global learning'** Research Group, we encourage you to visit the website and keep up with our research activities and events.
  
- Full programme on the website: [Feminist reading group | Brunel University London](#)
  
- Hope to see you in May and other sessions in this series.
  
- **May Reading Session: 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 5-6pm**  
Led by: Dr Ourania Filippakou
  
- [Reading by Angela Davis](#)
  
- I would also like to recommend an [interview](#) that A. Davis gave in the New York Times last year.