

Azadi (freedom): Feminist reading group

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

Session 1: 30.09.21 (5-6pm)

Led by Dr Geeta Ludhra

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Welcome and House-keeping

1. Welcome from [Professor Maria Tsouroufli](#) – Research Group Lead
2. Welcome and programme overview from [Dr Geeta Ludhra](#) | [Introduction](#) | [Brunel University London](#)
3. House-keeping: mutual respect, sensitivity when speaking and in chat comments, no recordings being made, hands-up, feeling safe to speak.
4. Why are you here today? Briefly introduce yourself in the chat if you wish to and say why.
5. Read more about our research group members and activities on the Interculturality website (access links on 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

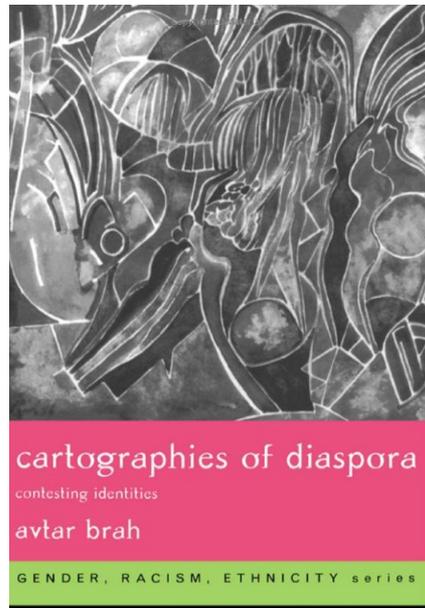
Reflection questions/prompts for the year:

- To what degree do critical feminist writers of colour 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 dominant feminist discourses?
- What emotional tolls do feminist scholars of colour embody as part of their research and writing experiences?
- How can poetry be used to address feminist issues and silences by scholars of colour?

Reading Session 1: Why Avtar Brah and this paper?

12 October 2021

- Paper: The Scent of Memory: Strangers, Our Own, and Others
Author: Avtar Brah
Source: Feminist Review, No. 61, Snakes and Ladders: Reviewing Feminisms at Century's End (Spring, 1999), pp. 4-26 (available to download on the website).
- Why have I chosen Avtar Brah's work for the first session?
- You can read more about her work via the links below:
 - [Avtar Brah – Wikipedia](#)
 - [Spotlight On: Professor Avtar Brah – Sexual Harms and Medical Encounters \(SHaME\) \(bbk.ac.uk\)](#) – a 20 minute interview
 - [Avtar Brah — Birkbeck, University of London \(bbk.ac.uk\)](#)



I began this meditation with an invitation for you to write back.

I hope that you will respond and participate in this discussion.

Reflections, connections and questions raised through this reading

Prompts:

1. How did you feel during and after reading this paper?
 2. How has Avtar Brah drawn on her personal lived experiences within this paper?
 3. How does she discuss intersectionality and power operations across axes of difference and 'othering'?
 4. How did you connect to her use of the Urdu words- '**ajnabi**' and '**ghair**'? Are these words part of your language experience?
- **Share a key take-home message after today's session?**
 - **Has today's session raised a new question or follow-up line of thinking/reading for you?**
 - **Do share in the chat if you feel comfortable to.**

Next session

12 October 2021

Reading Month 2: Thursday 28th October, 2021, 5-6pm.

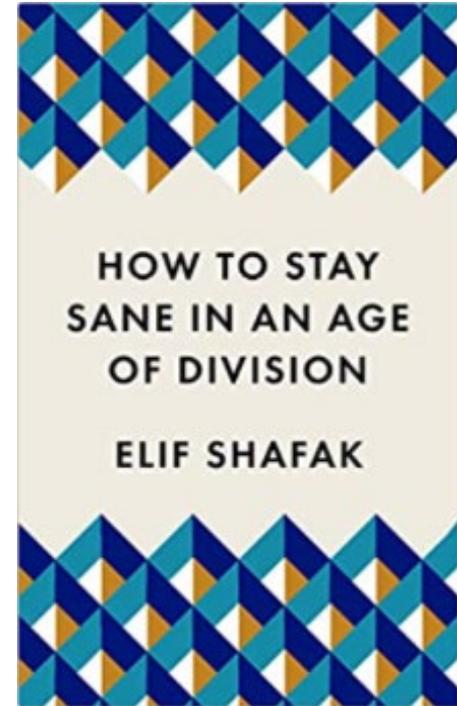
A short pocket-sized book: *How to Stay Sane in an Age of Division* (2020).

Author: Elif Shafak (award winning British-Turkish writer)

Published by: Wellcome collection.

Around £4.50. See [How to Stay Sane in an Age of Division: The powerful, pocket-sized manifesto \(Wellcome collection\): Amazon.co.uk: Shafak, Elif: 9781788165723: Books](https://www.amazon.co.uk/How-to-Stay-Sane-in-an-Age-of-Division-The-powerful-pocket-sized-manifesto-Wellcome-collection/dp/9781788165723)

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Thank you for attending today

12 October 2021

- 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.
- Hope to see you in October and other sessions in this series.

Dr Geeta Ludhra

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