

Azadi (freedom): Feminist reading group

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

Session 2: 26.10.21 (5-6pm)

Led by Dr Geeta Ludhra

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Welcome and House-keeping

1. House-keeping: mutual respect, sensitivity when speaking and sharing comments in the chat, no recordings are made, feeling safe to share.
2. Previous session (Avtar Brah's paper – slides on website)
3. You can 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

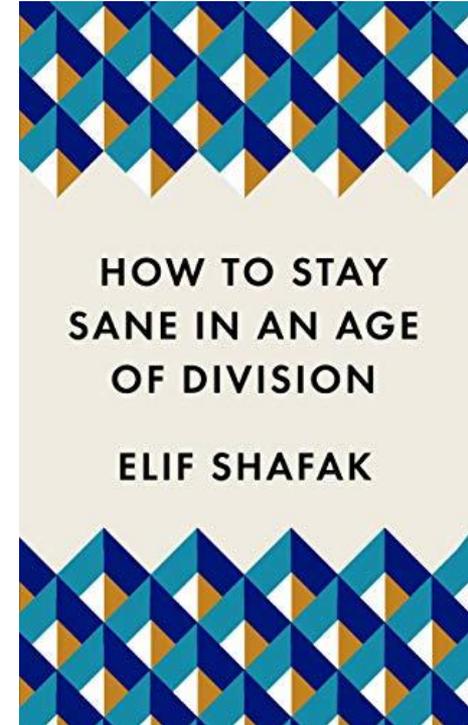
Reflection questions/prompts for the year:

- 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 2:

28 October 2021

- Pocket book: How to Stay Sane in an Age of Division
Author: Elif Shafak
- You can read more via the links below:
 - [Elif Şafak • Biography \(elifsafak.com.tr\)](https://www.elifsafak.com.tr)
 - [How to Stay Sane in an Age of Division by Elif Shafak review – a poignant look back at another age | Society books | The Guardian](#)



I watched her until she turned the corner at the end of the street. I had never before seen a woman so visibly broken, and yet stubbornly carrying on. I felt guilty for not opening the window and talking to her, asking if she was all right. I also felt ashamed because... Yet my timidity as opposed to her boldness... (p.3-4)

The complex role of the observer

Suggested prompts to explore:

How do we simultaneously remain engaged and manage to remain sane?

1. 'I want to be heard' (see pp.5-8)
2. The role of stories and silences in stories: *"In losing our voice something in us dies"* (p.9)
3. Alphabetical outcasts, sounds and silences (p.12)
4. Echo chambers
5. "...but confusion as a way of life" (p.25). Insecurity, fragility, instability, anxiety, justified anger, apathy
6. "Where are you from?" & accents (pp.33-34) and "Who am I?"
7. Grandmother's advice/sacrifice for her daughter story
8. Pandemic 'crises' and state of constant panic and anxiety
9. "Discrimination always starts with words. It starts with language" (p.76)

Information, knowledge, wisdom

“We live in an age where there is too much information, less knowledge and even less wisdom. The ratio needs to be reversed. We definitely need less information, more knowledge, and much more wisdom ” (p.81)

An extract that I resonated with deeply

Final Reflection

- *How has today's session raised new questions, or lines of thinking for you?*

Reading Month 3: 25th November, 2021 (5-6pm)

Paper: Embodying diversity: problems and paradoxes for Black feminists

Author: Sara Ahmed

Journal: Race Ethnicity and Education

Details: Vol. 12, No. 1, March 2009, 41–52

I will also share a book by Sara Ahmed as further reading

Led by: Dr Geeta Ludhra

I will upload the paper to the website

Thank you for attending today

28 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 November, and other sessions in this series.

Dr Geeta Ludhra

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