

**Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur  
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**HUM PALS: PEER ACTIVE LEARNING FOR SCHOLARS**

**Report of the session conducted on May 8, 2023**

The twenty-second session of HUM PALS was conducted on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023, from 10:00 AM onwards in VLTC to continue the spirit of self-learning, re-learning, and co-learning that builds the foundation of this noble and novel initiative undertaken under the aegis of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. The session was opened by Student Co-ordinators of HUM PALS who introduced the research scholars with the agenda of the session. The invited resource persons for the session were – Dr. Rimika Singhvi, Professor & Head, Dept. of English, IIS (deemed to be University) and Dr. Gunja Patni, Assistant Professor, Amity School of Languages, Amity University Rajasthan, Jaipur. They will speak about their recent book “Female Subjectivity in Narrating the Body”.



The session aimed to explore the ways in which female subjectivity is expressed through the narration of the body. The authors discussed the concept of the female body as a site of cultural and societal expectations. She argued that women are often judged and evaluated based on their physical appearance, which can lead to a sense of objectification and dehumanization. She then explored how female writers have used their narratives to challenge and subvert these expectations, reclaiming agency over their bodies.

They focused on the intersectionality of female subjectivity and body narratives. She argued that race, class, and other intersecting identities can shape the ways in which women experience their bodies and express their subjectivity. Using examples from her book, she illustrated how these intersecting identities are reflected in the narratives of female writers. They discussed the role of trauma in female body narratives. She argued that many women have experienced trauma related to their bodies, whether through sexual assault, body shaming, or other forms of violence. She explored how female writers have used their narratives to process and heal from these traumas, as well as to empower other women to do the same.



The conclusion of the discussions held at the session can be well described in the following words: The understanding of the body develops in cultural studies through the recognition of the body as a site of meaning

making. The body is not simply there, as a brute fact of nature, but is incorporated into culture. The body is indeed a key site at which culture and cultural identity is expressed and articulated, through clothing, jewellery and other decoration and through the shaping of the body itself (through tattoos, hair styles, body-building and dieting, for example). It is through the body that individuals can conform to or resist the cultural expectations imposed upon them.

Overall, the session provided a thought-provoking exploration of the ways in which female subjectivity is expressed through the narration of the body. The authors' diverse perspectives and insights illustrated the complexity and richness of this topic, and highlighted the importance of amplifying the voices of female writers in discussions of gender, identity, and storytelling.

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