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**Name:** Dr. Aparna Mandal

**Qualification:**

MA (Jadavpur University, 2004)

M.Phil ((Jadavpur University, 2007)

Ph D (Department of English, Jadavpur University, 2016)

**Designation:** Assistant Professor, English.

**Date of joining service:** 30.06.2008

**Courses Taught**:

UG Honours:

Old English and Middle English Period: Historical and Socio-cultural Background and Poetry; Shakespeare (*Macbeth)*; Milton (*Paradise Lost I)*; Eighteenth Century Prose Jane Austen (*Pride and Prejudice*)Modern Drama Bernard Shaw *(Major Barbara*)Victorian and Modern Poetry; Indian Writings in English, Literary Terms

UG General:

Victorian and Modern Poetry; Bernard Shaw (*Pygmalion*); Indian English Poetry; Literary

Terms

**Specialization**

Modern European Literature, Women’s Writing, Gender Studies

**Research:**

Ph.D Title: Feminist Re-tellings of Draupadi’s Narrative: Departures from the Epic and Challenges to the Dominant Discourse

Ph.D Abstract:

The present research aims to conduct a study of a list of chosen modern Indian texts with a view to unravel the politics of the re-telling of Draupadi’s narrative as undertaken by the different authors within a comparative frame of reference vis-à-vis the *Mahabharata* and to locate the departures from the epic and the challenges to the dominant discourse which in this case is determined by the upper caste Brahminical, *Kshatriya* and the patriarchal codes. The function performed by these re-tellings is to initiate departures from the parent narrative in their characterisation of Draupadi and the reconfiguration of the important episodes of the ancient story, primarily as they relate to her. Although these texts are generically different and belong to varied linguistic registers (the English translations have been consulted), what unites them for the overarching aim of this research is their preoccupation with the objective of re-telling the epic story from the woman’s point of view i.e. Draupadi’s view which entails the avowal and the incorporation of a distinctively feminist perspective. The objective is to both look for the distinctiveness of each re-telling and to point out the overarching similarities in terms of themes, ideas, dominant concerns, narrative techniques, and stylistic innovations. Questions which are dominant within the epic such as *dharma*, feudal war, kingship, revenge, wifely duty, manhood, Kshatriya duty, caste status, woman’s role etc have been subjected to a significant revision as the focus and the onus of narration shifts to Draupadi. The study reveals the way in which the epic story stands altered, revised and radically transformed when narrated from a perspective that is different from that of the original. The purpose is to point out the shifts in meaning and in the established opinion that is enabled by these re-tellings. The righteousness of the Pandavas, the justness of the war, the divinity of Krishna, the villainy of Karna are all subjected to a radical revision in these re-tellings and what emerges is a parallel narrative of Draupadi’s life that both draws upon and departs from the epic narrative.

**Publications:**

1. “Revisiting the Mahabharata through the eyes of Draupadi-A Study of Dr. Malinee’s *Agony of Draupadi*”, *Wizcraft Journal of Language and Literature*, Vol 2, Issue 2, June 2013. ISSN 2319-4952.
2. “Integrating Nationalism and Feminism: A study of Subramania Bharati’s *Panchali Sabadham (Panchali’s Pledge)*”, Ecriture, Vol 1, 2013. ISSN 2321-9793
3. Chapter titled “The Scientific Discourse on Women in the 19th Century: The Darwinian Paradigm and Beyond” in *The Gendered India: Feminism and the Indian Gender Reality*, ed. Arnab Bhattacharya, Booksway, 2012. ISBN 9381672008 9789381672006
4. Chapter titled “Contemplating the “Queer” at the crossroads of culture, economics and politics: A study of Suparna Bhaskaran’s *Made in India: Decolonisation, Queer Sexualities, Trans/national Projects* in *The Gendered India: Feminism and the Indian Gender* Reality, ed. Arnab Bhattacharya, Booksway, 2012. ISBN 9381672008 9789381672006
5. Chapter titled “The Body in Tishani Doshi’s Poetry: A Phenomenological Study in *Writing the Body: Studies in Self-Images of Women in Indian English Poetry*, ed. Arnab Bhattacharya, Common Ground Publishing, 2014. ISBN 1612293255 9781612293257
6. “The Politics of the Body in Mahasweta Devi’s short story “Draupadi”, The Criterion, Vol 8 Issue IV, August 2017. ISSN 0976-8165
7. “The Battle of Kurukshetra Revisited: Women and War in Amreeta Syam’s *Kurukshetra*”, Critical and Creative Wings, Vol 2 Issue 2, September 2015. ISSN 2348-8026.
8. “Rewriting the story of Draupadi in the *Mahabharata*: A Study of Saoli Mitra’s *Five* *Lords, Yet None a Protector (Nathavati Anathvath)*”, Journal of North-East Region, Vol 2 Issue 6, April 2018. ISSN 2321-0583
9. “The scene of Draupadi’s disrobing: context and meaning”, (International Journal of English Language, Literature in Humanities) Vol. 7, Issue 5, May 2019. ISSN 2321-7065.

**College committees/sub-committees**

Convenor, Career Counselling Cell

Joint Convenor, Examination sub-committee

Joint Convenor, Academic sub-committee

Member, Admission sub-committee

Member, NSS Committee

Member, Finance Committee

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| Member, Internal Complaints Committee |
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