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# Nationalist Ethos and its Female Heralds in Indian Films 

Karthika V.K.


#### Abstract

Massacre, macabre rapes, communal riots and all forms of brutal violence were involved in the struggle for Indian independence. That struggle was no lesser than a war and the post-war conditions or rather predicament of the society wasalso applicable to the post-independent Indian society. Such stains have their imprints on the literature and other cultural products such as media and movies of the time.

In this paper I would like to describe how the nationalist sentiment became the undertone of popular cinema and how female characters were epitomized as the embodiment of national and cultural sensitivity. Virginity, chastity, motherhood and sacrifice were ideas associated with females and when female characters depicted the nationalist sentiments in films, the equation was of the Bharat and Bharat Nari. In this


paper, I would like to analyse how the post-independent Indian films attempted to project nationality and nationalist sentiments through equating the land with the female body and cultural assumptions based on female body. I argued in this paper that the representation of females as heralds of nationalist sentiments was a conscious effort by the film makers to project an ideology which equated the female with the land. This association assisted them to portray the story of colonization camouflaged as the male characters protecting the females as India was protected from the usurpers by the Indian patriots.

## Keywords

Nationalism, culture, myths, females, patriotism

# Antiquity and Continuity in Australian Aboriginal Oral Literature/ History 

## Sheena George


#### Abstract

The Australian Aboriginal peoples' 50,000 years old history of their continent and life on it is embedded in the Literature of the people. Earlier it took many forms, from performance traditions of the corroborees, cave, bark and body paintings, drawings and song cycles to storytelling in its numerous languages. The oral culture predominated. Each feature of the land with its associated legends and geographical mapping may be found inscribed into aboriginal stories, song cycles and paintings so much so that navigation is made possible depending on these. They affirm that Australia was not a trackless wilderness - a Terra Nullis. Aboriginal spirituality, indications of climatic changes through the ages, preinvasion way of life, resistance against invaders, process of colonisation, illegal dispossession are all encoded and the colonial administration often satirised in the literature of the period. These traditions continue in contemporary aboriginal writing in English in various forms and in sync with the change in times.


## Key words

Australian Aboriginal Literature, Aboriginal History, oral culture, Aboriginal writing in English

# Interpreting the Ambiguous Reality: Revisiting the Biopolitics of Agamben 

Sreelakshmi M.


#### Abstract

This paper aims to bring out the biopolitics of Agamben which further investigates the biopolitics of Foucault. The study also focuses on how literature has contributed to break down the subjectification of individuals by exploring the basic element which makes individuals as the subjects i.e., gender, and how it was deconstructed by Donna Haraway by bringing forth the idea of "cyborg" (Haraway 291); How the theory of biopolitics is still employed in the contemporary society. Walter Benjamin described about the "state of exception" (Agamben 2), where the authority has the right to suspend the laws during the 'state of emergency'. The "homo sacer" (2) of Agamben is a being of this state of exception, a subject, a victim of power, a being whose rights as a citizen had been stripped off. Benjamin said that "the ideal state for politics is the state of exception and those who are in power would ensure to continue this state of exception" (Agamben 2). So, are there any homo sacers in our society? Yes, but not exactly as Agamben posited as an individual who lives in a realm where the laws, regulations and rights are of no significance, which means that a homosacer has no rights and can be killed by anyone (73). This paper examines the incident of the murder of Madhu and the 'honour' killing of Kevin that happened in Kerala. In a way, Madhu and Kevin are the proof that there are homo sacers in our society. Madhu was killed by a group of people just because he was stealing food to survive. Though societies are 'progressing', still there are some groups of people that have not got any recognition. Individuals are always seen as subjects especially Madhu. In a way, we live in a society where the reality has been hidden by the power structures and individual bodies always have been the subjects for the exertion of power and thus, making them passive, docile and inert.


## Keywords

Biopolitics, homosacer, state of exception, subjectivity, interpellation, cyborg Interpreting the Ambiguous Reality: Revisiting the Biopolitics of Agamben

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