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SERIES IN CRITICAL MEDIA STUDIES

Edited by Tamanna M. Shah, Sonali Jha

# THE GENDERED SELF

LGBTQ+ Narratives in Global Media  
Volume II



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# The Gendered Self

*LGBTQ+ Narratives in Global Media, Volume II*

SERIES IN CRITICAL MEDIA STUDIES

*These volumes by Tamanna Shah and Sonali Jha bring together scholars from across the world. By including academic research on LGBTQ+ identities from a diverse range of contexts, societies, and cultures, these volumes not only help develop a global perspective on this area of research but also recognize a global community of scholars with important and meaningful academic voices.*

## Jatin Srivastava

Professor and Associate Director of Graduate Studies  
Director, Institute for International Journalism  
E. W. Scripps School of Journalism  
Ohio University

## Summary

'The Gendered Self: Beyond Binaries and Cultural Constructions of LGBTQ+ Identities, Volume II' challenges the restrictive frameworks that have long defined gender and sexuality. Moving beyond simplistic dichotomies, this volume explores how LGBTQ+ identities are shaped, represented, and contested across diverse cultural, historical, and political contexts. Through case studies from Turkey, the United States, China, and India, contributors reveal the lived complexities of queer experience. Chapters trace transgender journeys of identity transformation, dissect the weaponization of queer bodies in moral panics, and analyze the digital self-representations of Chinese gay men. Others investigate how Indian OTT platforms and Malayalam cinema expand space for queer narratives, while historical accounts of activists like Paula Grossman illustrate the fraught relationship between representation, activism, and backlash. Across these explorations, the volume highlights how media, politics, and cultural traditions simultaneously affirm and erase queer lives. It uncovers the deep roots of erasure in mythology and religion, while also showing how digital platforms and popular culture create new opportunities for resistance and recognition. This collection insists that the "gendered self" must be understood as fluid, intersectional, and culturally situated, pushing readers to reimagine identity beyond binaries and toward broader visions of inclusion and justice.

## About the editors

**Tamanna M. Shah** is an Assistant Professor of Instruction in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Ohio University, USA. She is a Curriculum Writing Fellow at Harvard University. She serves as an Experiential Learning Community-of-Practice Fellow and a Global Learning Fellow with the Provost's Office at Ohio University. She is the Book Reviews Editor for Sociological Research Online. She earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Utah and holds a Master's degree in Sociology from Kansas State University and a Bachelor's degree in Economics. She has conducted field research in Kashmir, India, and East Timor. Her interests include comparative political sociology, gender and race, social change, and inequality. She is the author of 'Children and Youth as "Sites of Resistance" in Armed Conflict' Volumes I and II, which are part of the ASA section on Children and Youth. She has authored several other publications, including "Adjustment to Divorce (Spouses)" for the 'Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Family Studies' and "Chaos and Fear: Creativity and Hope in an Uncertain World" in 'International Sociology.' She has collaborated with the Asian Development Bank on water and sanitation policy papers. (ORCID: 0000-0001-9609-0191)

**Sonali Jha** is a Ph.D. Candidate at Ohio University in the School of Media Arts and Studies. She holds a Bachelor's (Banaras Hindu University) and a master's degree (Central University of Jharkhand) in English Literature from India. Her work as a content writer in the marketing industry has equipped her with practical insights into media dynamics. However, her passion for community engagement truly sets her apart. Sonali's research focuses on critically analyzing media and social media usage inequalities. She has published research papers on trafficking and migration and is currently working on her dissertation, which focuses on the role of media and intervention programs in combating human trafficking. Her research interests include, but are not limited to, understanding the significance of comedy in raising social awareness, health communication, framing, agnotology, human trafficking, and community-based and action research. Her research aims to create knowledge in service that effectively initiates social change for justice and equity.

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