

Trapped in Hegemonic Binaries: Performing the Body

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Abstract : This paper attempts to understand the constructs of binaries while taking into account the politics of the body. It delves into how these constructs get fashioned and recreated while performing the same across normative and non-normative discourses. While it may be almost mundane and commonplace to see the performance of body within binary constructs across the normative discourses, this is to a great extent also true for those queer discourses that have challenged the conventional/normative. With a queer feminist perspective, the paper challenges this performativity while simultaneously engaging with the subtle nuances of blurring the borders of gender markers. The problem with this polarization within binary constructs is that there remains a tendency to reinstate patriarchy within queerness. To substantiate this argument further, the paper will draw from narratives and accounts of identities with alternate sexualities and genders. The paper concludes with problematising this hegemony within queer discourses locating the question of acceptance and visibility of fluidities.

Keywords : binary, body, gender, identity, performativity, queer

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