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Resilience and the Wandering Subject

Supriya Daniel, Anu Kuriakose

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Resilience and the Wandering Subject

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Refreshing perspectives on some fundamental literary and human questions: who are we as individuals, and where can we find ourselves amid disorienting times?

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About the editors

Supriya Daniel obtained her PhD from IIT Bombay, India, and thereafter has held various positions in University and school. Her areas of research include African Literature, postcolonial studies and gender studies. She has presented papers at African Literature Association conferences held at Bayreuth University, Yale University and other international conferences in Cairo, Kolkata and Thiruvananthapuram.

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What are the different contours of defining a subject? How does a subject form in the act of resilience? This multi-author book explores the concept of a wandering subject, especially in the context of resilience. The wandering subject can be understood as an everforming subject through different mobilities. This movement is not just the physical movement compelled by a certain agency but also the various mobilities of the selves of the subject, mobilities through spaces, the interconnections formed with other subjects, and the fluidity between the subject/object/spaces at most times compelled by the spirit of resilience.

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Each chapter of the book delves into the myriad modalities of movement in spaces that are imagined or real. The space is always one of contestation, be it emerging from gender conflict, or that of a nation or a trauma inflicted by war. In this mode of displacement, either physical, emotional or spiritual (and at times, a seepage of all), the subject evolves and defines itself beyond the boundaries of binaries. It questions available definitions of self, subjecthood and identity and prompts one to imagine ways of comprehending and elucidating the concept of subject. In this sense, the book not only illuminates multiple perspectives on the subject but also compels the reader to formulate their own mode of grappling with this complex idea of the subject. It renders itself as an aid to current and future scholars to re-imagine and re-configure the subject.

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