Cultures of CARE
Imagining Care through Design

OPEN ELECTIVE | DEC 9-20, 2024

Subcultures of Care

Aparna Nandakumar

englishandforeignlanguagesuniversity.academia.edu/AparnaNandakumar

ABOUT

Aparna Nandakumar teaches at the Dept of English, Providence Women's College, Kozhikode. She has a PhD in Cultural Studies from EFLU, Hyderabad, and her dissertation is titled "Rebels for Every Cause: Youth as a Political Signifier in Contemporary India". She has published articles in national and international journals in the overlapping areas of youth culture, gender studies and popular culture. She has also published stories and poems in online and print journals and is currently working on her first novel.

OVERVIEW

This course aims to reimagine care as a lens through which we can re-view our understanding of and expectations towards the conceptual category of "youth". As the cultural discourses around "youth" have evolved from "masculine" ones like delinquency and rebellion towards more "feminine" ones like vulnerability and precarity, we can increasingly imagine "youth" both as a category requiring care and as one capable of it. Amid unprecedented anxieties and insecurities fostered by the demands of the neoliberal economy, how can we visualise a world designed to promote mutual care? This is the central question this course attempts to examine.

METHODOLOGY

This course rethinks youth and subcultures through the lens of mutual care rather than aggression or rebellion. It revisits key concepts like "subcultures," "fashion," and "fandom" in terms of care, while exploring new youth activities centered on emotional sustenance, from student suicides to activism and digital cultures like K-pop fandom. Teaching includes lectures, screenings, readings, and discussions on popular texts such as films and music videos. Mornings focus on conceptual discussions, and afternoons involve activities. Evaluation is based on daily activities and a final group project—a graphic narrative to be completed by the course's end.

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN
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KEYWORDS

Youth, Subcultures, Subjectivity, Precarity.

LOCATION

Ahmedabad

MAXIMUM PARTICIPANTS

15