

**Toward a Politics of the (Im)Possible**

The Body in Third World Feminisms

Anirban Das

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BISAC code: SOC026000**BIC code:** JF**Extent:** 232 pages**Size:** 229 x 152mm / 9 x 6**Rights Held:** World**Description**

Presents a philosophical discussion on the issues of the body and knowledge from a feminist perspective.

'Anirban Das's work is an important contribution to contemporary discussions on the post-colonial subject. It views some of the vital questions that confront the third world, especially its women, from a wide range of theoretical perspectives deeply analyzed and philosophically nuanced.' —Franson Manjali, Professor, Centre of Linguistics and English, Jawaharlal Nehru University

'This philosophically nuanced work examines discourse on "women's question" with profound theoretical rigour. [...] Scholars interested in gender studies, philosophy, political science, logic, ethics and philosophy will find this theoretically dense book extremely educative in terms of ideological, conceptual and ethical concerns.' —Vibhuti Patel, *Europe solidarare sans frontières*

This volume works at the intersection of two related yet different fields. One is the heterogeneous feminist effort to question universal forms of knowing. The expression 'embodiment of knowledge' deploys the notions of time (as history), space (as location) and politics (as partiality of perspective or standpoint) to interrogate the purported universality of knowing. Embodiment is one important concept through which feminist philosophies try to perceive the attempt of questioning the universal. The second field follows from mind/body dichotomy. Embodiment is traditionally understood to involve an act of simple inversion – valorising the (material) body in place of the mind. However, if meanings are seen to produce the body as 'a system of signification', embodiment gets reduced to another form of the signifiatory mechanism. The book explored the dynamics of the production of the 'body' with a focus on the 'others' (death, sexual and colonial differences) that fracture and define the notion of the body. An ethical responsibility to the 'others' consonant with this ontologically differentiated body distinguishes this notion of embodiment from standard versions of 'third world feminism'. The development of this notion requires an elaboration of the ways in which power and scientific rationality work (epistemically) in a postcolonial setting. Finally, ***Toward a Politics of the (Im)Possible*** presents the notion of embodied knowledges as inseparable from a deconstructive politics of the (im)possible.

Readership: This book will interest students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, researchers, activist groups and individuals working in the field of women's issues.

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About the Author

Anirban Das holds a PhD in Philosophy from Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India. He is currently a Fellow in Cultural Studies at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, India.

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