

SCHOOL OF SANSKRIT, PHILOSOPHY AND INDIC STUDIES
GOA UNIVERSITY



invites everyone
for an online talk
on

Freud and Feminism

by



Dr. Palak Mittal

Ph.D. (University of Delhi)

Join us on

Tuesday, 5 December 2023

3 to 5 PM IST

G-meet link:

<https://meet.google.com/ean-inas-zze>

Abstract

The psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud pre-dates all the feminist thinkers in the discourse of sexuality. Freud uncovers the layers of sexual dimensions to show how psycho-sexuality always leads to sexuality. Freud postulates that all human behaviour is driven by desire, more specifically, the desire for pleasure. It is interesting as well as important to read Freud along with the feminist thinkers as the latter takes the nature versus nurture approach to categorise sex and gender, the former disputes this binary classification. Freud is of the opinion that the innate sexual urge in an individual supersedes the emotional and physiological in shaping one's gender identity. Being in such sharp contrast to traditional feminist beliefs, Freud's theories are important in exploring alternate possibilities when it comes to the development of gender and sexual identities. An attempt is being made in this paper to make a comparative analysis of Freud's notion of sexuality with those of feminist thinkers Simone de Beauvoir, Luce Irigaray, and Judith Butler. It is an attempt to understand Freud's conception of sexuality and to see if he has any contribution to make to the feminist theory.

Speaker Bio

Dr. Palak Mittal is a Ph.D. in Philosophy from University of Delhi (2020). In her doctoral thesis "Concept of Sexuality: Feminist Theory and Alternative Perspectives", through a comparison between the feminist thinkers' viewpoints on sexuality and that of Freud, Gandhi and Ivan Illich, she attempts to question how gender differences take shape through an understanding of sexuality. Since 2014, Dr. Mittal has been teaching philosophy as a visiting and guest faculty in various colleges under University of Delhi, like Hindu College, Deshbandhu College, Kamala Nehru College and Ramanujan College. Her research interests include Indian Philosophy, Feminism, Gandhian Philosophy, and Gender theory. She has published and presented on the same in peer reviewed and refereed journals, and national and international seminars.