In keeping with the theme of power and its modalities, this episode is about identities and how minoritizing and racializing minorities can limit our power in patriarchal power structures, but how that very oppression can be subverted by those identities to reclaim power.

We were joined by Dr Arpita Chakraborty, Zoya Rehman, and Mariya Salim, for the discussion.

Dr Arpita Chakraborty is an Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellow at the Ireland India Institute, Dublin City University. Her areas of interest are masculinity, political violence, and relations between gender relations and religious practices in contemporary India. She holds a Masters in Media and Cultural Studies from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, during which she co-directed ‘Bharatmata Ki Jai’, a national award winning documentary film. She worked as an Editor in Sage Publications India before undertaking her PhD in ‘Violence, Religion, and Masculinism in Contemporary India’ at DCU.

Zoya Rehman is a feminist researcher and organiser based in Islamabad, Pakistan, where she is working as a Special Projects Manager at Media Matters for Democracy, a Pakistan based...
not-for-profit geared towards independent journalism and media and digital rights advocacy. She has been working on gender and legal issues from a multidisciplinary approach through her practice and research. Zoya is a recipient of the Chevening Scholarship Award, and holds MA in Gender Studies and Law at SOAS, University of London.

Mariya Salim is a women’s rights activist, researcher, writer and feminist, based in New Delhi, India. She undertook her second Master’s degree in human rights law from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London as a Felix scholar. With over ten years of experience in the development sector, she has lent herself to many feminist concerns, especially those related to the rights of Muslim women. Mariya writes extensively in various media outlets including Al Jazeera, on issues related to women's human rights as well as themes of Nationalism, Identity Based Violence and Muslim women’s rights. Her work with women survivors of sexual violence in the Muzaffarnagar riots has made substantial contribution to the narrative around women’s access to justice and rights in the context of Communal Polarization.

We think it best for you to learn more about the many issues and topics discusses today, through the words of the guests themselves. Below is a non-exhaustive list of some of their finest and most relevant pieces of writing:

Arpita in RTÉ: ‘Why are 250 million people protesting in India?’ 13 Jan, 2020

https://www.epw.in/journal/2017/20/special-articles/can-postcolonial-feminism-revive-international-relations.html#sthash.YHvmoJy9.dpuf

Arpita’s presentation titled ‘Decolonising European Academia: Race, gender, and the immigrant student embodying the ‘imagined history’:
https://www.academia.edu/37094925/Decolonizing_European_Academia_Race_gender_and_the_immigrant_student_embodying_the_imagined_history_pptx

You can find more of Arpita’s research on https://dcu.academia.edu/ArpitaChakraborty

And look for her on Twitter @DrArpitaC


You can find Zoya on Twitter @pind_wave


For all of Mariya’s writing in Aljazeera: https://www.aljazeera.com/author/mariya_salim_160621151237375

For all of Mariya’s writing in The Wire: https://thewire.in/author/mariya-salim

Find Mariya on Twitter @MariyaS87

Zoya highly recommended that listeners read some excellent pieces that we think will be of interest of to you:


Some other explainers that are useful:

There was mention of India’s ‘Love Jihad Law’. Learn more about it here, in a piece by Michaela Stone Cross in The Juggernaut, 10 Dec, 2020: https://www.thejuggernaut.com/india-love-jihad-law?mc_cid=00ad297f48&mc_eid=b13ea89060

There was also lots of conversation about the ‘Mera Jism Meri Marzi’ (Urdu for ‘My Body My Choice’) slogan that came out of the Aurat March in Pakistan. Read more about that here: https://images.dawn.com/news/1184791

And here: https://design.voxfuse.com/blog/17/aurat-march-why-placards-are-important
Zoya also told us about a placard that said ‘Lo, beth gayi sahi se’ (roughly translated to: ‘There! I’m sitting properly now!’):
To learn more about the Aurat Azadi March, which is the Islamabad chapter of the annual marches and of which Zoya is one of the organisers, visit their facebook page here: https://www.facebook.com/auratazadimarch

And lastly, Mariya mentioned her most recent project called ‘Zariya: Women’s Alliance for Dignity and Equality’ which she co-founded in December, 2020. You can find out more about that here: www.zariyaorg.in and can follow it on Twitter @zariya_2020