

Postmodern Traces and Recent Hindi Novels

SERIES IN LITERARY STUDIES

About the author

Veronica Ghirardi is a research fellow at the University of Turin. She completed her PhD cum laude in Humanities (curriculum Indology) in 2018, at the University of Turin, with a dissertation entitled "Postmodern Traces and Recent Hindi Novels". Her research interests lie in contemporary Hindi prose and its relation to European literatures. She has presented her findings at international conferences and in journals such as *Annali di Ca' Foscari* (Serie orientale) and *Kervan: International Journal of Afro-Asiatic Studies*.

This fascinating book by Veronica Ghirardi is the result of a very original and innovative research on Hindi literature. For this book, Veronica Ghirardi has used as sources an impressive amount of contemporary Hindi novels, which are not renowned for their readability and which remain untranslated for most of them. The question of postmodernism, at the very heart of this book, is a sensitive topic, often misunderstood: either it is overused and turns out to be, in the end, nothing more than a hollow concept, or it is criticized and rejected on the grounds that it does not apply to the South Asian context and only represents a new form of intellectual colonialism. In this case, however, Veronica Ghirardi succeeds perfectly in avoiding both of these pitfalls. She demonstrates the usefulness of exploring this concept, or more precisely its traces, in a literary and cultural context that is still largely unknown to Western readers and even scholars. What is more, she does so in a very clear and convincing manner. This is undoubtedly a seminal book in the field of Indian literary studies.

Dr Nicola Pozza

Faculty of Arts, South Asian Studies
University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Summary

Postmodernism is a notoriously elusive concept and still the object of critical debates among scholars across a range of different disciplines. In literature, in particular, these debates are complicated by "postmodern" styles emanating from outside the concept's Western origins. By analyzing contemporary Hindi novels, and drawing on both Western and Hindi literary criticism, "Postmodern Traces and Recent Hindi Novels" aims to understand some of the manifestations of postmodernism in contemporary Hindi fiction, including ways the latter might challenge the traditional parameters of postmodern literature.

This book is essential reading for scholars and students specializing in South Asian studies and both postcolonial and comparative literature. It will also interest the general reader curious to know more about one of the less explored areas of world literature.



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