

New book shares Indo-Caribbean feminist ideas

A new collection of essays on Indo-Caribbean feminist thought is being launched tomorrow (Tuesday, May 16) from 6-8 pm at the Faculty of Law Auditorium and the Institute Greens at UWI, St Augustine. Named **Indo-Caribbean Feminist Thought: Genealogies, Theories, Enactments**, the book seeks to answer the question of how Indo-Caribbean descended women and men are drawing on the negotiations of earlier generations.

The publication brings together explorations of Indo-Caribbean and dougla women's involvement in literature, art, education, biography, Mariamman puja, carnival, baby albums, celebrity, online identities, activism as well as discussions of Indo-Caribbean masculinities and international rapper Nicki Minaj, to show just how this is happening.

The book was edited by Dr Gabrielle Hosein, Head of the Institute of Gender and Development Studies at the University

of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad, and Dr Lisa Outar, an Independent Scholar based in the United States, but originally from Port Mourant, Guyana. It features essays by three generations of scholars and activists working both in the Caribbean and in the Diaspora.

The collection looks at a whole range of thinking about gender and feminism from the time of indentureship to present, and focuses not on relationships to India but rather on the unique versions of Indianness and feminism to be found in the Caribbean. It offers perspectives from Guyana, Trinidad, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Canada, the United States and Mauritius.

This book is the first to trace a genealogy of the contributions Indo-Caribbean women have made to Caribbean feminist epistemology and to post-indentureship feminist thought.

"Through examinations of literature, activism, art, biography, scholarship and public sphere

practices, the collection highlights the complexity and richness of Indo-Caribbean engagements with feminism and social justice," write the publishers, Palgrave Macmillan US, on their website.

With an introduction by UWI feminist lecturer Gabrielle Hosein, 17 writers each have their own chapter. Topics range from highly academic ones to others which may promise a more accessible reading experience for the general public, such as Andil Gossine's section called My Mother's Baby: Wrecking Work After Indentureship.

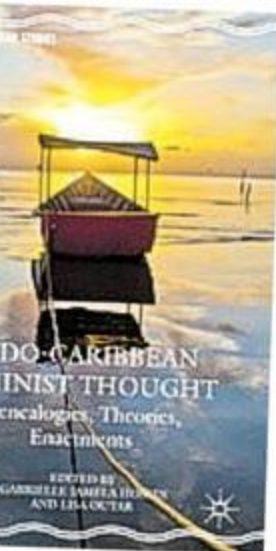
Chapters include: Mini Death, and a Rebirth: Talking the Crossing in Shani Mootoo's Moving Forward Sideways Like a Crab, by Tuli Chatterji; Jahaji-bhain in Carnival by Kavita Singh; Indo-Caribbean masculinities and Indo-Caribbean Feminisms: Where Are We Now? by Rhoda Reddock; Nicki Minaj, Indian In/visibility, and the Paradox of Dougla Feminism by Sue Ann Barratt; and From Stigma to Shakti: The Politics of Indo-Guy-

anese Women's Trance and the Transformative Potentials of Ecstatic Goddess Worship in New York City by Stephanie Jackson.

The book explores how music and literature have presented Indian masculinity and what the legacies of the plantation are for Indian men. With regard to the role of the arts, it looks at how artists use the power of visibility to present their perspectives, how Indo-Caribbean women in the diaspora return to the region for carnival and even how pop icons like Nicki Minaj play with the category of dougla.

"The collection therefore also provides space for the ways that dougla and mixed-Indian women have shaped their own understandings of feminism and Indian identity, and how young Indo-Caribbean women come to understand themselves in relation to the generations that came before them," comments Dr Lisa Outar.

Co-hosting the Trinidad book launch are the West Indiana and Special Collections section of the Alma Jordan Library and the UWI's Institute for Gender and Development Studies. The book will also be launched in Guyana by the University of Guyana's Insti-



Indo-Caribbean Feminist Thought: Genealogies, Theories, Enactments will be launched tomorrow at UWI.

tute of Gender Studies in partnership with the Women and Gender Equality Commission of Guyana, on May 11 at the Turkeyen Campus and on May 12 on the Tain campus. Other launches will take place in Queen's New York in July, and in Toronto later in the year. (Sources: University of Guyana newsletter and University of the West Indies press release)

NOTICE TO MARINERS 07/17

NAVIGATIONAL WARNING 029/17

TRINIDAD - SOUTH EAST COAST

CHART BA 1045

WATER